



The Newsletter of Vulpine Reach

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

Tourney Celebrates Two Explorers

On Saturday, August 23, the Shire of Vulpine Reach held its annual Tourney of the Foxes, this time in celebration of two Spanish explorers, Trascero Cabeza and Bevisto. These two Old World "explorers" paid a visit to the New World (in the process, nearly wrecking it and saving the English the trouble a few years later) whereupon they partook of the hospitality of the friendly (at first) natives. During their thankfully short sojourn in the natives' home, they managed to free alligators, insult their hosts, frighten young attractive maidens, experience "television" (of a sort) more than 300 years before its invention, and generally tick off more people in a few short days than had ever been ticked off in history to that point.

To commemorate the incredible chaos and destruction these two wrought, Tourney of the Foxes held its traditional six-man *æm* melee. The winners were members of the team, "Odin's Toe", and were awarded the wonderful handcrafted pewter medallions of Lady Diana Fiona O'Shera's skill (which are rumored to be made directly from Bevisto's pewter tankard, reported stolen by the Lion's Inn two years prior to their journey).

In an attempt to recreate the skill with which these two *bercheads* imaginative surveyors managed to find themselves once more in the company of their companions, the Provost of the Range held a Royal Round archery tournament, as well as a clout fun-shoot and a Great Purple Dragon shoot (Barney the Dinosaursm). The tournament was won by Lord Eckhart von Eschenbach and the "dragon shoot" was won by all who actually hit the target - no prizes were given for the dragon shoot, but the archers experienced great amounts of

tension relief and emotional satisfaction. Once again, the winner of the archery tournament carried home a wonderful handcrafted pewter medallion.

Additionally, there was a contest for best herbal item (which I didn't hear the winner of), the winner of which received, yep, you guessed it.

Having given out all of the pewter, the Shire's Seneschal awarded wonderful handcrafted glass beads of Lady Kate the Green's skill to this year's recipients of the Companion of the Fox - Vulpine Reach's award "for service above and beyond."

Appropriately, all these goodies were passed out during the time when we were partaking other goodies: the fabulous Old World meets New World Feast prepared by the fabulously talented THL Julia of the Flowers. This feast was held in relief of the two explorers' departure of the new lands and included a chronicle of their "adventures" listing the celebratory foods they were served prior to being kicked out of where ever they happened to find themselves and included "the dog that does not bark," roasted nubbins and venison, turkey mole, and other New World delicacies.

As if this weren't enough, the Not-Ready-For-Peerage presented the "very bawdy" stage show, "A Mid-summer Pennsic's Romance." This show was sooo bawdy that it produced a power outage in the immediate neighborhood of the camp. Almost wish I'd seen it now....

Of special note for this event was the participation of our most recent shire members, who worked hard and deserve every bit of recognition we can give them; for many of this stalwart band, this was *their first event* and they really put their backs into their efforts! Great job, friends!

CALENDAR

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

SEPTEMBER

- 8 "Last Chances" Biz. Mtg. for Coronation
/Fox Tales Dist.
- 13 **Full Coronation - Vulpine Reach & Glaedenfeld at Camp Kiwanis**
- 15 Optional "Casual" meeting **Fox Tales** deadline.
- 20 Harvest Moon - Thorngill
Tavern Brawl - Rising Stone
St. Basil's - Ardenroe
- 21 ** **Autumnal Equinox (observed) ****
- 22 "Last Chance" Biz Mtg. for Ren Faire
- 24 Kraft Madness Nite at Kate's
- 27-28 **Signal Mt. Ren Faire (10-5 Sat, 1-5 Sun)**
- Diamond Wars - Small Grey Bear
Army of Darkness - Sol Haven
Triad - Burning Stone
Baronial Yeoman - Axemoor
- 29 Birthday Party/Meeting

October

- 4 **Beau Fort Rocks the Boat - Beau Fort Viking Raids - Nant-Y-Derwyddon Blackmoor Defender - Blackmoor Keep**
- 6 Local Biz Mtg./Fox Tales dist.

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:

9-13 **Full Coronation**, Camp Kiwanis, Apison, TN (18 mi.). Prices: Weekend \$25, members deduct \$5. Come see the Crowning of the new King! We're scheduled to assist Glaedenfeld in the hosting of Coronation (besides, there aren't any other events scheduled this weekend...). Beds for 120, unlimited tenting, feast limited to first 200, else enjoy the delicious stew and bread. Special children's German feast featuring

"Hamburg sandwiches" and "Frankfurt sausages." Queen's Yeoman archery tournament.

9-27 & 28 Mountain Arts Guild Ren Faire, Signal Mountain Amphitheater, Signal Mt. TN (10 mi.). This is our annual community demo that we cohost with the Mountain Arts Guild. Hopefully, this year we won't need rowboats. On Sat, we'll be going from 10-5 and 1-5 on Sun. Wear your nice garb and bring your toys: armor, weapons, musical instruments.

REGNUM

Seneschal, Constable - Laird Davoc Walkere

Randy Walker (423) 875 - 5417

liddavoc@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 - 5152

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

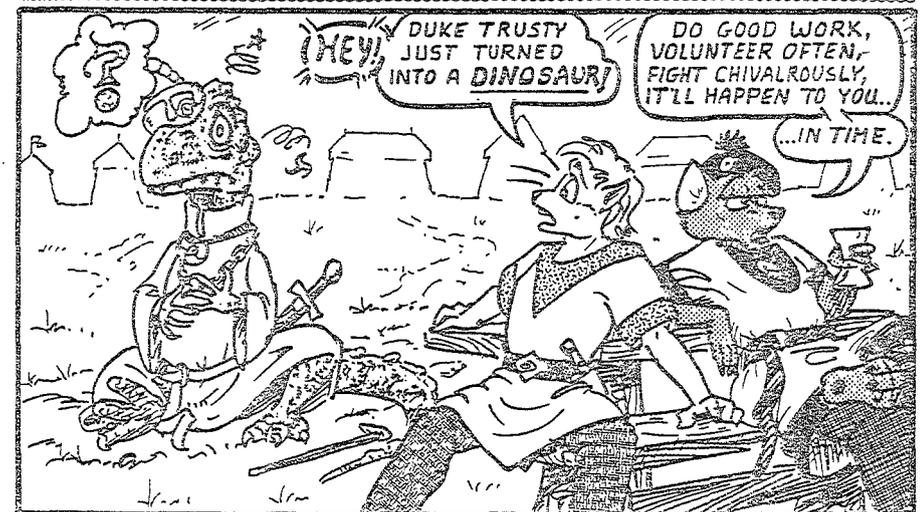
Royal University Provost - Lady Rachelle du Pied-Leger

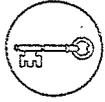
Rachel Lightfoot (706) 965 - 7947

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Warthaven™





From the Seneschal

Unto the excellent gentles of the Shire of Vulpine Reach does your seneschal send monthly greetings.

My lords and ladies, I humbly thank all of you for your efforts at Tourney of the Foxes. Thanks to each and all of you we had a wonderful event without any major problems that I know of. Everyone worked hard, and it showed. Thank you especially to our newcomers, who worked as hard or harder than many who have been around for years, even though for some of you this was your first event. Let me encourage you to also go to other groups' events, where you can sit back and enjoy the event more. Now we get to reload, reset, and co-host an even larger event! We will need to do much of the early site preparation, since we will be the first ones on site for Coronation. Fortunately, we have given ourselves a bit of a headstart with our thorough cleanup after Foxes. There will be plenty to do, so don't be shy about pitching in wherever help is needed.

Don't forget that we also have the Renaissance Fair at the end of this month. We will need to be available to help out in many ways for that as well. It will almost be like putting on yet another event, without a feast or breakfast. Yet even with all the work involved, we should still contrive to have fun. After all, this is all a game, and is therefore supposed to be fun. I'm not worried, because I know that the people of Vulpine Reach are more than equal to the task.

Congratulations to the newest Companions of the Fox, each of you well-earned our thanks.

In service to Their Majesties, Meridies, and Vulpine Reach.

-Davoc

Travels: Border Raids

Hello, all you happy readers of this column! Yes, that means you, great or small, near or far away, you, the faithful, the few, the informed on the special zanity that is Kate! (Yes, I'm like this all the time, don't be afraid. No, drugs don't help.)

Today I will tell you my very own "No #*@ there I was . . ." story. You may have

caught the prequel to the story, otherwise known as "Kate Becomes Legally Able to Hit People Upside the Head With a Stick," so of course there has to be a followup. I was wondering what would be my first event as a re-authorized fighter, after a lapse of ten years. Most events are a standard tourney, and the most I could expect to fight would be two fights, and then I would be out. Easier than fighter practice, by far. No problem.

But then the wheels of the universe had other things in mind. Many months ago, Sir Griffin had invited me to Border Raids. I knew that Malcolm and the Auk household would not be going, and being a War, it would be difficult to do alone, so I had not planned on going. This invitation made me think about it again, since his household would be going. I said I'd see, but maybe not fight. Border Raids last year was too hot and the terrain was conducive to turned ankles in my opinion, so fighting seemed like a silly idea. I also said that I would not fight in the rain. So, many weeks later, and with much fixing of the schedule at work, I went off to Nashville the Thursday evening to caravan up Friday morning. As Sir Griffin's house was responsible for the setup of the Royal encampment, we needed to get there before the site officially opened.

And it was a good thing we did. We quickly moved the pre-chosen site for the Royals to an area with actual trees and actual electric and water sources, and away from the sun-drenched area that was "close to the fighting field" (its only advantage). Hey, we can drive there. Conveniently located but roasty-toasty was not a good mix.

Fighting began an hour late, but that is normal for a War, from what I understand. Sir Griffin's squires all got to fight on the King's team, and got to wear the Kingdom tabards, which are heraldically proper interpretations of a neon sign saying "I know what I am doing, so there!" Let's face it. If the King asks you to fight on His side, you must be good, because He wouldn't pick just anybody to keep Him alive and make Him look good when he does die. So then they ask me if I want a tabard. Hello! First event as an authorized fighter! Remember? I'd be silly to wear one. So of course I said yes,

and was proud to have Her Majesty place it on me.

The first battle? Well, there's not much to tell. The Meridian shield wall quickly disintegrated into the Meridian Fighting Amoeba, dispersing to surround and eat our enemy. I lasted maybe 45 seconds. No kills. No nothing. And it rained as soon as it started. Remember how I said that I wouldn't fight in the rain?

Now, the second battle was another matter. The Amoeba occurred again, but I managed to get a spearman to stick with me on my right, and while he engaged a swordman, I stepped to the side and took out his arm. Why not his head, you might say? That was actually considered, but I was told that the Midrcalmers call their shots very hard, and I did not think that I would have the force necessary to get him to call a head shot. And knowing that minimum arm protection covers the elbow only, there's lots of nice juicy, unprotected upper arm hanging out that I know I have the force to take. It worked. I saw the look in his eyes. He decided to call it a death because it would have been too hard to remove his shield and switch sword arms. (I know this because I talked to him later) Yea! Success! Then I got gacked, not sure how. But I came off the field with a big smile and said to Sir Griffin "I like it!" and he was pleased.

There were two champion's battles, and then lunch, so I had a nice long break to take my armor off, socialize, prop my feet up, etc. Most of the guys spent the entire day in their armor because it was too hard to put back on, so they got really hot. My armor is specifically designed to be easy to put on, flexible, and lightweight, so I had no problem. Thanks, Malcolm, on the armor advice!

Then it came time for the bridge battles. These are very compact and the chance of being trompled is very high. For reference purposes, I am about 5' 4" and maybe 140 pounds. The average fighter in the SCA appears to be at least 6 feet tall and at least 210-400 pounds. You do the math. I had also only planned on fighting in two battles. Plus, it was very hot by this time. Remember I said that I wouldn't fight in the heat? So of course I would be silly to fight

in the bridge battles. So of course I did.

The first one was rather compacted and boring, as there is not much to do except wait until people die and go fill in as a shield person. I noticed that there was an opening, and that His Highness was unprotected, so I did my best to protect him with my shield and not get in his way. This is very difficult as he moves very quickly and is very tall. My little kite shield was not quite up to it, but it was fun. After he died, a legless spearman in the front called for a shieldman to come up. Silly me. I need to remember to protect myself getting into position. I got gacked while stepping up to defend him, and all I have to say is that I am very glad that I put in the extra part of my special girl armor.

The last battle of the day was another matter. I decided it was very boring to wait for all the action, so I got right up front and stood in the shield wall. His Majesty noticed this and got my sword arm into a better defensive position and carefully instructed me in the fine art of warfare. He said "Don't die!" I think this is very useful advice, and I was very appreciative that little me got personal advice from the King. (I am actually being serious here, even though I may sound flip.)

On to some tactics. Now, you might think that one would only want the big guys up front to hold off a charge. However, it turns out there is an advantage to being a short shieldbearer. It makes it easier for the spearman to work. Plus, if there is another small person standing there, the other side may see it as a weak spot and charge that area. Your side can use that to the advantage. Just such a thing happened, and it also marked my favorite part of the fighting. The Midrealm side charged, 3000-plus pounds of man-eating flesh roaring at me, and I did not budge. Brother Michael-Lazarus, standing nearby, reported to me that he saw men twice my size retreating at the charge, but that he noticed I stood my ground. (I think I got bonus points from him for this) I didn't stay out of fear or indecision. I stayed because it seemed the thing to do. It was my job to hold the line, so hold the line I would. Now, I will happily report that it was due to the kind consideration and mass of my fellow fighters

that I was not knocked to the ground and trampled on like a mouse in an elephant stampede. They kindly stepped up and made up for the mass which I do not have, and for that I am very grateful. I am also very happy that I was mercifully not crushed in that mosh pit, or stepped on. I got no kills, but I helped stop their line. It was a good day.

I am also reminded of the vast amount of help that I have gotten from everyone that made it easier for me to be there. I hope that as I progress, I can remember all the people who stood behind me, on and off the field, to give me strength. I also hope that I can help others as well to have a good time getting beaten up. No, I mean beating other people up. Hmmm, it sounds strange however you put it. But hopefully you know what I mean.

And, in parting, some comments about being a Lady Fighter:

- No, there are no weight classes. Get used to it.
- The guys think it's a cool idea. They'll still hit as hard, but they like the idea.
- The opportunities for "Wet armor contest" comments are rampant.
- If you date a fighter, you can work out your tiffs in armor.
- And, my favorite, - no waiting at the showers after the fighting.

- Kate

Stars Above The Fox

The Tourny of the Foxes has ended, the nights are getting longer and we are all looking for much-earned rest. Let me be the first to invite all of the inhabitants of Vulpine Reach out into the night skies.

September brings many wonders into the sky and I will help with a short tour of the night sky. With the cooler nights, the sky will be much clearer and the stars will seem brighter and sharper. The Milky Way will be prominent even around the more populated manors and country inns. If you will, take leave of the local mead and step into the night with me around Ten of the clock early in the month and face south.

The bright, almost orange, object is Jupiter, Ruler of the Roman gods, and the

largest planet. Watch each night as the moon approaches Jupiter until the 13th when it reaches its closest point. The rest of the month it will move further away.

In the same direction, only higher in the sky, is Vega, the brightest star in the night sky, and a member of the constellation of Lyra. In a dark sky you will notice that Vega sits just on the edge of the great river in the night sky, the Milky Way. Many old civilizations, including the Egyptians, saw the Milky Way as a river to the gods.

In the middle of the river there is a bright cross of stars. The Cross is Cygnus, the Goose, and just below Cygnus is Vulpecula, the Fox. The Fox rose in June and was high above to oversee the Tourny of the Foxes and will continue with its presence at Coronation. It now begins its decent into the western sky. Vulpecula is a small and very faint set of three stars, that is regrettably hard to find.

Before my quill dries and the papyrus runs out lets look to the east where another long lost but spectacular friend is rising this month. The bright yellow object just above the horizon at mid month is Saturn. Saturn is the second largest planet, and probably the most memorable. If you know a Renaissance man or woman who owns a telescope, talk them into showing you Saturn. It is a sight you will never forget.

Now, on a more serious note, the conjunction of the Moon with Jupiter will occur on the night of the thirteenth, or during Coronation. Alone, this conjunction is spectacular and possibly foreboding. However, combined with the rise of Saturn to the east, I am very fearful of the worst. I fear someone must consult Their Majesties' Royal Astrologer, as I am only an Astronomer, an observer of the events, and not one free to interpret. Add to these facts that the Fox is watching over both events and I feel a responsibility to report my fears.

Hopefully I have given you something to look for, and even a reason to look. I am sure, if you find yourself out some night soon, you will find yourself looking to the sky.

Always looking up, your servant, the self-appointed Astronomer of Vulpine Reach.

- Anthony Basham

Life in the SCA: "Bruise Juice"

Being an herbal Cure for Contusions, Spraynes, and all such Bruises as might befall ye Fyghting Gentles and Other Worthys:

This recipe have I of the goode wytche Mariyn Alm, who resideth in Axemoor, and am knowynge that it be most efficacious through mine own use and witness of others. This wytche is of goode character and wyde renowne, being in sooth a true Doctor of Herbal Medicine, recognized so by the mundane Crowne of Great Britain.

Takeh:

- ♦ 2 partes of Chamomile Flowers
- ♦ 2 partes of Whole Rosemary
- ♦ 2 partes of Hyssop
- ♦ 2 partes of Comfrey Leafes
- ♦ 1.4 parte of Golden Seal

Grinde and stir these herbas together and place in a good jar of at least a quart.

Add into the jar 2 cups of Russian potato spirits of the kynde called vodka (the cheape kynde) and let soake for a day in a darke place.

Add then enough pure corn spirits to fill the jar. Seal and let stand in a coole and darke place for a fortnight, shaking the wole daily.

Decant the fluid into a new jar, straying through a cheesecloth folded triple. Squeeze the remaynes of the herbes to get all the goode juices.

Apply the fluid with a cloth to all bruises and contusions, being carefull not to get in open woundes.

- Ian Macineirie of Iveraray, called Donovan

Oyez! Oyez! Oyez!

Be it known this day that the gentle known as Aidan Stonepillar has removed himself from his previously listed home and now resides at:

114 W. Gordon St.
Dalton, GA 30720
(706) 217 - 1917

Be it known this day that Connie Price (formerly known as Lady Rowena) has a good old HEAVY Singer sewing machine in a solid mahogany cabinet, with all the attachments for your purchase. For further

information, please contact Mistress Lijsbeth at 886 - 6256.

Film Review: "Hercules"

Good greetings to the populace of Vulpine Reach, and a special thank you for allowing me to review the new Disney movie, *Hercules*.

I can remember a time long, long ago when my Grandpa would read to me by the fireplace before bedtime. The stories of Robin Hood and his Merry Men, of King Arthur and his Knights of the Round Table. Most of all, I remember the stories of what I now call Greek history: the stories of Jason and the Argonauts, Perseus, Theseus, the inhabitants of Olympus, and of course, Heracles, son of Zeus.

I feel I must say now before going any further that the new movie is a great family movie. After taking my family, my nine-year-old girl Beth said, "It's the best movie since Aladdin!" and my two-year-old son Raymond spent the rest of the day running around the house with his sword proclaiming himself to be "Turkules"...hey, give 'im a break - he's two.

Now, if you're one of those die-hard it-must-be-by-the-book people that *know* Hera wasn't the mother of Herc, one who *remembers* that Herc had a twin brother named Iphicles and could *never forget* the twelve labors of Hercules, one who can still get a mental picture of Heracles, son of Zeus in *Omphale's dress* as he spun wool into thread, then this movie is not for you.

Don't get me wrong. It's a great story. Terrific Disney animation. Catchy toe-tapping songs and even a few laughs for kids and adults alike. Herc is *still* the son of Zeus, *still* the strongest mortal on the planet, and even *still* fights some of the famous monsters from the myths - but mostly out of context from the known story.

I'm not going to give you a frame-by-frame breakdown of the storyline. Instead, I'm going to encourage you all to take your kids, borrow some if you have to (hint, hint: my two would love to see it again) and go to the theater. Buy a big ol' Coke, a big ol' tub o' popcorn, sit back and enjoy the look on the faces of the kids as they're taken into the rich world of Greek Mythology via the wonderful work of the Disney Studios.

Then afterwards, sit down with them and read to them the "real" stories of Heracles. Let them be awed by the strength of the hero. Inspire them with Herc's tales of ridding the Kingdom of Lydia of robbers and brigands. But most of all, spend time with them.

In service to my Fellow Foxes and the great Kingdom of Meridies. I take my leave.

- David Walker

Research: Islamic Cheese Dip

Greetings, all!

Since several folks expressed pleasure in the food Lady Rachelle and I fixed for the Royal lunch at Foxes, I thought I'd give you the recipe for one of them and an idea of how I arrived at it. This is the only one that we did entirely on our own--the recipes for other items came from other people; Mistress Eleanor of Ashley and the recipe collection called "The Miscellany", compiled by Duke Cariadoc of the Bow and his lady wife Elizabeth. This last can be found on the internet, by the way, at: <http://www.pbm.com/~lindahl/cariadoc/miscellany.html>, or you can order it in hard copy form from His Grace (see me for the address).

The recipes found therein list first the original recipe (or the translated-into-English version), and then their redaction (where they take the non-specific directions common to period recipes and test different versions until they find one they like) of it. I'm going to follow that format as well, since it gives you a chance to come up with your own versions--that will be just as "authentic" as mine!--if my version doesn't quite suit you. As a side note, be wary of any "period" cookbooks that don't do this. If all they give is their version, you have no way of knowing if they have made a false assumption or strange substitution along the way.

SHIRAZ BI-BUQUL (trans.--"Dry curds with vegetables") from "A Baghdad Cookery Book" (c. 1226 AD)

"This is an excellent relish which both awakens and stimulates the appetite. Take mint, celery, and vegetable leek: strip the leaves of the celery and mint, chop all fine

with a knife, then pound in a mortar. Mix well with dried curds, and sprinkle with salt to taste and fine-ground mustard. Garnish with course-chopped walnuts and serve. If dried curds are not available, use instead coagulated milk from which the water has been strained, mixed with a little sour milk."

My first attempt at this wasn't great--too much mustard, which pretty well obscured the other flavors. Also, I used cottage cheese, thinking that at least the "curd" part would be right. But the favor was pretty bland, even under all the mustard, so I decided to use the only easily-obtainable Middle Eastern cheese, feta. But it is much too salty to use alone, so I mixed it with ricotta, which is bland but has a similar texture. I don't often keep celery at home, so I had planned to use lovage leaves instead, on the theory that lovage, which is a close relative to celery and tastes like very strong celery leaves, would be closer to period celery than our bland modern hybrids. But we decided to serve the dip with celery sticks, so I chose a head with lots of leaves and used those after all. I used onion instead of the leek, since I needed too little to justify purchasing a bunch of leeks.

I can't give you exact measurements on the herbs that I used--I am what I have heard described as a "chaos cook", I just throw in whatever amount looks right and taste-test to check the flavor. But I can give approximations, which will let you season things to your own taste. Do remember that the flavor after the mix has sat in the refrigerator a few hours will be considerably stronger than when it is first made. Anyway this is about what I came up with:

16 oz ricotta cheese
8 oz feta cheese, drained
1/4 medium onion, finely chopped
1 "handful" fresh mint leaves, about 1-2 tablespoons finely chopped
1 "handful" fresh celery leaves, ditto
approx. 1 teaspoon ground dry mustard

Mix everything together well and put it in a tightly covered bowl and refrigerator overnight or at least several hours. Taste, and adjust the seasonings then if desired.

You may, if you wish actually pound the herbs in a mortar and pestle. I chose not to since I was short on time and liked the look of the chopped herbs, but if you ground them well enough the cheese might turn a light green, which could be an interesting contrast with other dishes you were serving.

Have fun experimenting!

- Lady Diana Fiona O'Shera

Travels:

"So You Want to be a Peer?"

[Ari!!! I said e-mail it! E-MAIL it!! Do you have any idea how difficult it is to READ your handwriting? Not to mention the time and trouble it takes to "keyboard" the mess into the computer with my typing skills?? Then correct the sentence structure and punctuation and grammar and spelling errors - hey, when are you going to show me how to use the 'spellcheck' on this danged thing, anyway? Look, when I was in the military, I was in the technical field - NOT cryptography!! I didn't decode secret messages, I didn't encode secret messages, I didn't even have a decoder ring when I was a kid!! Gimme a break, okay?? Ari, if you e-mail your articles, all I have to do is transfer them to the word processor from my download folder, then do the proofing stuff I already do. No muss, no fuss, no bother, and a lot fewer typos. It saves time. It keeps things more neat and organized. I don't lose pages. It makes my life as editor-in-chief of this major publication less stressful and I don't have to stay up til four a.m. trying to type on coffee and Little Debbie Swiss Rolls. I'm healthier. I'm happier. I'm easier to get along with. Ari, am I getting through to you?]

Sure, Tox. Sooo, do you want my article tonight - since it's deadline - or should I e-mail it to you later this week?

[Sigh] I'll take it now, Ari.]

Cool, Tox. Here ya go - all five pages.

[Thanks, Ari. Lady Caoifionn, lei's go get a couple boxes of Swiss Rolls. You know, one o' these days I'm gonna have to have a loooong talk with that boy...]

Greetings fellow Vulpines! Well, it's another report from the road. It begins

as my usual trips to events do begin: in Pop. Chiv. As I was perusing through the list of events, I noticed this one entitled, "So You Want to be a Peer?" That looks cool - and it gets even better: it's FREE! Real Cool. And even better still, the FEAST IS FREE!! Real, Real Cool. And Free sleeping quarters! Waaay Cool! And the site's main hall is AIR CONDITIONED!! ALL RIGHT!!! You can't beat that!! So, that's the one to go to this weekend, as far as I'm concerned.

I contacted Pearl and we got set to go. We headed out dark and early Saturday morning, but not as early as planned (MY fault, for once...), but we had an uneventful trip and arrived on-site still fairly early.

The first class hadn't started yet and people were also coming in behind us. I checked out the classes offered...pretty nifty. Now, to clarify this to you, the reader: the premise of this event hosted by our friends in Glaedenfeld was to educate people about the long road one has to take to become a Peer - Laurel, Pelican, or Knight. You know, all about gettin' that BELT.

Now, don't start denying it - I don't care what anyone says, everyone would like to wear a technicolor belt and for those actually interested in pursuing this path, the event was a great one. Peers from all over the Kingdom were there and they were answering questions about, and teaching classes on, the duties that a Peer is responsible for and what the wannabe-a-peer-seeker would have to do to get on the right path.

Great time! Great idea! Laird Davoc and Lady Diana were doing the Laurel thing, THL Alexander took on both Laurel and Pelican classes, and I went to the night classes, er, knight classes (sorry, I get it confused with college...). This was GREAT! Not only did the Knights teach about the Order of Chivalry, and not only did they answer any question you could think to ask, they even took us out to the field of honor, donned armor, and beat the stuffin' out of us - FOR FREE!! Yes, we learned 'bout bein' KNIGHTS!

Oh, yeah, Pearl worked in the Galley and worked HARD! She was even recognized by the feastrat in front of everyone at the feast (sounds like a Pelican in the making to

me...). We had a truly good time. Glaedenfeld really does put on a classy event and I recommend you attend any event they do!

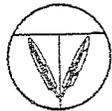
Oooops! Almost forgot about Court! Court was fun! Court was entertaining! Court was SHORT!! And...our own Lady Francesca received a Meridian Cross! So be sure to congratulate her!

After an excellent feast, there was a general "hanging out" and classes on Middle Eastern dance. We all got to bed late - or early, depending on how you looked at it.

Well, who knows. Maybe one day we'll all have a colored belt - hey, we might even have earned them!! Til next month, have fun, stay cool, and let's all be gettin' ourselves measured for the belt!

- Ari

Hey, Tox. Next month, I promise to e-mail EVERYTHING to you. Really I will! [If you don't, Ari, you're paying for the Swiss Rolls next month...I can't afford them anymore.]



From the Chronicler

My lords and my ladies: M greetings unto you from your head scribbler and friend and editor. As you can see from the exchange between Lord Ari and I in the previous article (which was staged, by the way - he actually wrote it and I "embellished" my part), I am attempting to bring Fox Tales forward into at least the 18th Century! I got e-mail! I am still discovering just how great this is for an editor and publisher! If when you *do* write an article, you either save it on floppy disk (my system takes either the 5 1/4" or the 3 1/2" - I tried to mount the old Tandy 8", but Caoilfionn says nobody uses those any more...what am I going to do with all those floppies??) or you can e-mail it directly to me at jamestox@juno.com.

Since I've moved into the old family place, I'm spending two hours a day literally on the road between work and home. Getting the submissions to me in either electronic media helps more than you can possibly imagine and cuts down on the amount of time I have to slave over a hot keyboard to get the newsletter published. That's time that is no longer mine.

Next, I want to thank all the new members of the shire who went the extra distance in working Toumey of the Foxes and making it the grand success it was. You indeed are the future of the shire and I can see Vulpine Reach will be in good hands!

It doesn't matter how long you've been with us, gentles. If you want to share your knowledge of a topic (like astronomy or Greek Mythology) and it's relationship to the medieval world, or you want to tell everybody just how cool that event was last weekend, or you'd like to say a word about something you've just discovered in the library, don't be afraid. I don't bite. If you want to write something, I'll help. And you'll be a published author! Contribute to *your* newsletter today.

- James Toxophilus

Attention: Fighter News!!

Listen up, stick jocks! In keeping with the SCA standards for protecting our fighters and preventing injury, it has been decided that ALL fighters must wear full combat armor at all times, whether you're on the combat field or even *in mundane life!*

When questioned on this ruling, the council member said, "Hey, it's dangerous out there! We don't wanna get sued!"

Unfortunately, this ruling comes too late to help out our own rising fighter Lady Kate. But maybe next time... - Ari

"You Know You're in the SCA When..."

...your pet understands "HOLD!!"

...the bank cashes checks for your persona.

...your only reason for having a sport-utility vehicle is going to SCA events.

...your idea of "going camping" involves said vehicle and a U-Haul trailer.

Acknowledgments

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

Lord Ursus Grim Aidan Stonepillar

Lady Diana Fiona O'Shera

Baron William Blackfox David Walker

Laird Davoc Walkere

Lady Kate the Green Anthony Basham

Ian MacInerie of Inveraray ("Donovan")

Mistress Lijsbeth Tijz van Brugge

Lord Ari Wilhelmsen

Lady Caoilfionn Caomhanach

& Little Debbie (where ever she may be...)

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

Melissande 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"

Lord Dorin Schwartzmitt (David Holmes, 706 - 675 - 7410) Blacksmithing, "hot iron"

work, Wood working, Fencing

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 Fixel (Steve Parker, 478 - 3129) Fighting, SCA weapons making

Lord Ljwelyn 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

THE QUEER

The Newsletter of the Shrine of Valpine Katch
of Jim Long HCR 65 Box 35, Dunlap TN 37327

