



JULY / AUGUST 1999

"ALL THE NEWS THAT'S
FIT TO ENGRAVE"

SHIRE WINS AWARDS IN ARTS AND SCIENCE

The Shire of Vulpine Reach has always been full of talent in both the Arts and Science. It has also been the place to find excellent fighters and fencers. As a result of that, we have had many of our people rewarded for their talents at recent events. Since this *is* the Shire's newsletter, it is only fitting that the front page of this issue be dedicated to acknowledging our members for their recent accomplishments.

Our noble Knight Marshall, THL Richard Fenwick, took first place in the archery competition at this year's Black Axe, hosted by Iron Mountain. Also, at this event, our Mofit, THL Llywelyn ap Alawn won the Queen's Rapier Tourney. At Kingdom A & S, held in South Downs, the talented Lady Francesca d'Angelo was awarded a Meridian Majesty, (CMM) for the Italian renaissance gown she made and gave to her Majesty,

Queen Katrina, as a gift from our Shire. THL Llywelyn received a superior rating for his A & S entry on Ale an dBarey wine.

At this year's Border Raids, in Rising Stone, THL Llywelyn ap Alawn, was awarded an Argent Rapier. THL Alexander Ravenscroft was heralding for court at Border Raids and was stunned when *he* was called before the court and inducted into the Order of the Velvet Owl (CVO).

Meridian tournaments are not just showy displays. They are competitions which require a great deal of skill and ability. The Kingdom awards that are handed out lightly. The recipient has to not only be worthy of the award; that worth has to be proven and tested. The Chronicler's quill is tipped to our outstanding shire members. Thanks for making our shire look so good!

CALENDER

JULY

- 3 All Things Middle Eastern - Phoenix River
- 4 **Independence Day**
- 5 No meeting - holiday
- 10 Dance! Dance! Dance! - Crimson River
- 11 Lugh - Grey Niche
- 12 Business Meeting
- 13 Scroll painting - Nikolai & Tamara's
- 17 RUM - Bryn Madoc
- 19 Shire's Rummage Sale
- 20 Scroll painting - Mikolai & Tmara's
- 24 Pax Ax - Axemoor
- 26 Birthday Meeting, Dance and Illumination Class

AUGUST

- 2 Business Meeting
- 7 Gleann Abhann Fall Coronet Investiture - Grey Niche
- 9 Building a Better T-Tunic - Lady Francesca d'Angelo
- 10 Scroll painting - Nikolai & Tamara's
- 16 Flag Printing Class
- 17 Scroll painting - Nikolai & Tamara's
- 21 Midnight in the Garden of Good and Medieval - Forth Castle
- 23 Pre-event Meeting
- 24 Scroll painting - Nikolai & Tamara's
- 27 Tourny of the Foxes - Vulpine Reach
- 30 Post Mordum Meeting

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 Theatre Center, near the Walnut Street Bridge on Sunday afternoons at 2:30 p.m. Period Fencing practice is also held at the Theater Center, beginning at 1:30 pm. Contact Lord JamesToxophilus949 - 4394 for information on Archery Practices.

REGNUM

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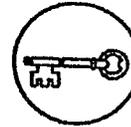
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From the Seneschal

There is no Seneschal's report this issue.

Davoc



From the Marshal

There is no Knight Marshal's report this newsletter. However, it has been mentioned at previous meetings that fighter practice is also a good time to do "mini - demos." Ladies, if your lords will be at fighter practice, why not join them? We can use fighter practice to help publicize Vulpine Reach. It can also be a good morale booster to our fighters. Isn't it to better to fight for an audience? For more information on fighter practice, see either THL Richard Fenwick, or THL Llywelyn ap Alawn.



From The Chronicler

I would like to take this opportunity to say a heart-felt "thank you" to the members of Vulpine Reach for all their support and articles! Lord James Toxophilus has left some really big shoes to fill. I am not ashamed to say that the task to keep this newsletter at it's current level of excellence is a daunting one. But it is a challenge I am truly enjoying. We have a very talented group (as our front page reflects!!) So, please, remember...the

knowledge you have is only useful if you share it with others...so, keep those articles coming! It makes Foxtales more interesting

Rachel of Torpen How

Going's on:

The biggest up coming event is Tourny of Foxes, August 27th & 28th. Volunteers are not only requested, they are a necessity. This is a very popular event and will require a lot work to come off successfully. The pre-event meeting will be held August 23rd. All shire member are urged to attend.

To help get ready for Tourny of Foxes, the August 16th meeting will be dedicated to painting flags for the event. (Here's a good example of that "volunteer" thing I was harping about in the previous listing)

On, September 29th & 30th there will be an SCA demonstration at the Hamilton County Fair.

There will be a SCA fighter demonstration on October 18th & 19th at Coolidge Park

Look for more detailed information on the demos in the next issue of Foxtales, or contact Mistress Lijsbeth.

There will be a rummage sale July 19th. Bring items you wish to sell or trade.

Strong Ale & Barley Wine

A Beer by THL Llywelyn ap Alawn

The ale that I have made could go by many different names. I am using the term Strong Ale because Barley Wine, which became popular in the late 1800's and early 1900's, is a recent term and therefore not considered period for this discussion. October Ale, Old Ale, and Scotch Ale are just a few names used for this style of beer. Even though these styles may be totally different today, they all started at basically the same place.

Beer was brewed for domestic consumption for centuries. In a time without sewage systems and where the easiest way to get rid of garbage was to dump it in the rivers and streams, drinking water was to temp fate. I wasn't until the late 1500's and 1600's that a lot of written records become available and a lot of these are inventory records of the commercial brewhouses. Therefore, before commercial brewhouses kept good records, numerous names and references have to be shuffled through to find the same styles of brews. Different regions and families used the same generic terms as names for their brews, even though they appear to be different styles. Confusion abounds in this area, even between early references of Ale and Beer.

Strong Ale was intended to be kept for a long period of time, at least a year before drinking. Some recipes from the 1600's and 1700's comment that the ale will last 3 to 10 years and sometimes longer. It is always highly hopped and requires a lot of malt, usually twice the amount for a normal ale. Strong Ale

can run anywhere from 7% to 15% alcohol and can be pale to dark in color. One recipe by Penelope Bradshaw called for 13 bushels of malt and eight pounds of hops to the hogshead, or well over eight and a half bushels of malt to a barrel.

It was the practice for most brewsters to use the same charge of malt (mash) for two or three worts or draws of water. In this way, the first draw through the mash got most of the fermentable sugars and malt flavors, thus becoming stronger and darker. The second and/or third draw using the same mash became table beer and/or table beer because it was lighter in color and alcohol and took less time to ferment. Small beer was then used as the everyday drink of most people. The Strong Ale was then put in casks or bottled and put in the cellar to age. It was then brought out for special occasions or when the supply of small beer grew low.

The following is the recipe, brewing dates and procedures used. Basically.

Four weeks before Easter 1998:

Started by bringing 1 lbs of Carapils Malt & 1 lbs Crystal Malt (cracked grains) to a boil in 2 ½ gallons of water, then remove the grains from the brew pot. Added 12 lbs of Light Dry Malt Extract and brought wort back to a boil. Added 3.5 oz of Bullion Hops for bittering and waited 30 minutes. Added Irish moss and waited about 20-30 minutes. Added 1 oz of Fuggle Hops for aroma. Transferred to primary fermenter with about 3 gallons of cool water. Allowed to cool then pitched yeast.

Three weeks before Easter 1998

Primary fermentation lasted five days waited one day to insure fermentation had slowed. Transferred to secondary fermenter. Secondary fermentation lasted three weeks.

Easter weekend 1998

Transferred from secondary fermenter to clean container. Boiled a couple of cups of water with ½ cup of priming sugar and added to container. Bottled and waited.

*Notes -

This brew took about 5 months to become drinkable. It was good at Silver Hammer and even better at Christmas. I have not tried any since early February and, at best guess, it was about 10% then. Maybe more.

Enjoy. - THL Llywelyn

-Editor's note:

This is part of THL Llywelyn's A&S entry, on which he earned a superior rating.

Recipes From Constantinople

If you remember, in last Foxtales you were promised that recipes used for our feast at Sionnach would follow in future articles. Well, here they are. These recipes were submitted by Aidian Stonepillar, who feasted at the event; and those who were at feast know these recipes are every bit as good as they sound!

Marinated Mushrooms ala Vladimir

2 lbs firm fresh mushrooms. (Whole if small; quartered or thickly sliced if large.)

1 can (14.5 oz) of chicken or

vegetable stock (can substitute 2 cups of homemade stock)
1 cup kvas or dry white wine
½ cup of salad oil
¼ cup lemon juice
9 springs of fresh parsley, tied
¾ teaspoons dried thyme
15 whole peppercorns, cracked
1 ½ teaspoons of salt (to taste)
¼ cup chopped fresh parsley
1 lemon, thinly sliced.

MARINADE: Combine stock, kvas (or wine), oil, lemon juice parsley sprigs, garlic, thyme, peppercorns, and salt in a 6 quart non-reactive pot with a tight fitting lid. Bring mixture to a boil, then reduce heat, partially cover and simmer for 45 minutes, undisturbed.

Drop in the mushrooms and return to a boil. Reduce heat, tightly cover and simmer for 4 minutes. *Mushrooms must not over-cook and must remain almost as firm as they were raw.

Pour entire contents of the pot into a shallow non-reactive dish or wide mouth gallon glass jar. Taste and salt if needed. Refrigerate to cool quickly, then tightly cover with plastic wrap. Marinate in refrigerator over night or 8 hours (minimum).

(Next day you may put mushrooms and marinade into quart jars, tightly covered for storage up to five days. In this case, remove bundle of parsley sprigs before putting into quart jars.)

TO SERVE: Remove parsley spring bundle. Using a slotted spoon, remove the mushrooms from the marinade. Arrange mushrooms on a chilled plate or in a chilled bowl. Moisten them with a little marinade, sprinkle with the chopped parsley and garmish with

lemon slices.

Makes 16 1/4 cup servings

(*note - the marinade may be reserved and used as a soup stock or may be frozen for storage up to 6 months.)

Apple-Horseradish Sauce

1 quart apple sauce
2 cups freshly grated horseradish or
1/2 medium horseradish root,
grated.
2 tablespoons lemon juice

Use blender or food processor to grate horseradish root. *Avoid breathing the vapors as it *distresses* some people. Mix well with apple sauce and lemon juice. Put in jars and refrigerate until ready to serve.

*Served on the side as a condiment to be added at the taste of the diner

Makes 16 1/4 cup servings

These recipes were submitted by Aidan Stonepillar for all to enjoy. If you have a period recipe you would like to share, please submit them. "Foxtales" will be glad to feature your recipe. Of course, first the staff will need to sample the dishes to ...um... insure their quality.

From the Dance Mistress

Greetings from Cassandra the squeaky, forgetful, one of four, starter of general mayhem and all that stuff, do I bid you a good day ... thought I'd never get to it, huh?! I have really good news concerning our dance project for Foxes...it's working well!! I can't wait til we have it polished up and ready for FOXES!! This past weekend at Lady Caoilfionn's house, we had all our

dancers working fast and furiously, and we got lots done! Many thanks to Lady Caoilfionn for the use of her house ... we need to do this again! Also thanks go to my dancers for working so hard! Ya'll, this is going to be GREAT! Thanks to Lady Diana for feeding us breakfast and dinner on Saturday.

Quick note, more meeting times will be discussed at the July 6th dance practice. The next meeting after the 6th will be dance practice/garb. In August, we will be concentrating more on the dance and having dress rehearsals. If we have time at Foxes (doubt it, but if there's a chance), I'd like to get us together for a final dance rehearsal. *Grin* I really can't wait for this!!

Another quick note, I have put Lord Sam of Thor's Mountain on alert and given him our schedule of meeting times and places, so far. I'll be showing them the little tricks and things we're going over, and they'll be "just-in-case" couples, or stand-ins should anything come up. (but we know it won't, right?!)

This is gonna look so GREAT!!

Cassandra Maguire
Dance Mistress, Vulpine Reach

P.S.

Cassandra's Misadventures in Meridies hasn't ended, but is just postponed for the time being. I'm still going to events, but remembering them is another story... :) Stay tuned!

What Makes a Good Demo?

My Lords and Ladies:

I wanted to let you all know how I go about arranging for demos. There has been some confusion lately about how, where and why we do demos.

SCHOOL DEMOS

I arrange for School demos given adequate notice (usually one month, but that can be negotiable depending on availability of volunteers). Periodically I will ask who is usually available during school hours to do teaching demos. Tell me if your schedule has changed or if you want to participate. We usually have volunteers available for no more than two school demos per month.

Generally we try to do demos in a format where children will actually learn something. This means two things: no more than 75 kids in a room at a time (less is preferable), and always separate k-2 grades from upper grades. Why? When we have done demos for school assemblies, they have turned into entertainment venues, and no kid learns much of anything. Usually, they can't even hear us. When we can talk to them more individually, asking open-ended questions to encourage learning, they get something from the demo. Younger kids (grades k-2) don't have a fully developed sense of time and must be taught differently than older kids. First graders still want you to know they have a puppy (or some other piece of off-subject information). They love hands-on activities, but no single activity can last too long. Also they can't sit still too long, so they need to do games or dancing or trying on costumes. When we have to talk over their heads to older children, they get bored and antsy. When we have to talk on the first grade level to sixth graders, we lose them completely.

Another requirement that I have for school demos is that the kids actually be studying the Middle Ages, and know

we're coming. It's terrible to speak before an audience who doesn't know why you're there or what you're talking about. We also use our old videotape, because it explains who the SCA is, shows fighting, and we don't have to waste precious class time explaining it all. I try to work with the teacher to determine what we can do that will go along with her curriculum. We get calls from all kinds of classes and teachers - English, library, art, gifted, etc. I never ask for a donation, unless we have to stay most of the day. That's when I ask for lunch for our crew.

RECRUITING DEMOS

A recruiting demo is one done in a non-school setting (ex: the Renaissance Arts Festival, the County Fair) and the focus is on education and adding new members. These usually last one full day or more and require involvement of most of the group to be successful. Because of the amount of work required to do a recruiting demo, I advise the group to choose these carefully.

I turn down any demo where we are treated strictly as a performing group. We have to be able to talk to people about the SCA and the Middle Ages, and to give out our flyers. Next, I want a vote at a business meeting on any demo that lasts a whole day or more and requires substantial amounts of time and effort from us. This is to ensure that the demo has the backing of at least half the group. Also, if there are not enough of us to run the demo, we shouldn't do it. I am no longer willing to do a crowded full-day demo in hot sun by myself or with only two other people. I'll bet you aren't willing to do

that either. This may sound like sour grapes, but if we burn out our people doing demos we shouldn't have committed to in the first place, we won't have the people to do our group projects or events, and we'll lose good members.

I try to recommend recruiting demos that have a chance of being effective - actually getting us new members. I consider the groups involved (charity groups do look good on our group's resume!), the kind of people who will be present (college students and childless young adults have been very good target groups for us), and how much time and effort it will actually take for us to do the event. Some events, no matter how good the charity involved, just require more than we can give at the time. Some appeal to people who are very unlikely to join the SCA. Some are scheduled opposite major kingdom events. The list goes on.

This year, your officers have recommended doing two major demos. The first will be the County Fair on the last weekend of September. This event attracts thousands of people and always features other reenactment and recreation groups. It could be very worthwhile. The other big demo in the works is the opening of Coolidge Park in mid-October. Since we want to move our outdoor fighter practices to this site, a demo for the park could be very good for us. The area attracts "our kind" of people, and is safe and convenient. What is a reasonable expectation for a recruiting demo? I believe that if we get 2-4 people to a meeting after a big demo, we have done spectacularly well. If we manage to keep one member per big demo, we have done much better

than average. These figures come from discussions with seneschals of other Tennessee SCA groups. Don't think we have failed just because the first meeting after a big demo is empty of newcomers. Some people take 3-4 contacts before they even come to a meeting.

I'll be talking to you soon about changing our school demos. We need to add some new activities. All ideas will be considered! And remember, you probably know more about the subject being discussed than they do. If you don't, then learn from them, and invite them to a meeting!
Thank you all for your continued hard work on demos.

In service,
Mistress Lijsbeth Tijz. van Brugge
Media Steward.

Getting Down to Business

(Notes from business meeting 6/7/99)

OFFICER'S REPORTS:

Knight Marshal's report: Fighter practice - Sunday 2:30 at Theatre Center area

Fence Marshal then advised fencing starts at 1:30 on Sunday

Archery Marshal reported that all range marshals must be warranted effective June. Group Peers, Tamara and Lijsbeth advised they will send letter to make sure Tox is taken care of by Foxes.

Media Steward made nice color posters. Please take if you know of specific places to put them (not cheap). Also, the County is sending us the application for the Faire coming up.

Web Master - Leaving CDC, hence we have to move pages (he found a free site). Will still not be "official" at present.

Herald's report: One submission, no returns or rejects (no news - good news)

Reeve advised everyone who needs to, to give her receipts. Our bank chanked names, will probably do so again so no new form to be completed at present.

Chronicler gave new e-mail address Zootdays@hotmail.com. Needs submissions by 3rd Saturday of the Month. Now able to scan art work!

Provost - interested in deputy. Let Rachele know if interested.

A&S - Francesca got a Meidian Majesty for a FANTASTIC dress for Her Majesty (gift from the group).

A&S report for April/May/June passed around. Include anything done or taught since Sionnach.

Hospitaller reported a good group at the birthday picnic. Need to work on projects such as cover for the pavillion. Johanna offered her place since she is free most days during summer.

Francesca advised scrolls are ready for painting. Bi-weekly workshops will still be held at Tamara's 2nd & 4th Tuesdays. Call first to make sure she will be there. Decided to add scroll painting to the last meeting of the month for those who don't want to dance. Julia is in charge of the Scrolls.

We then discussed the gown for her Majesty. \$101.57 paid for materials. Not allowed to go through shire checking account, but can individuals can make donations to cover cost. She is donating her time. Francesca also purchased material for OVO pouches, group can pay for those out of our budget.

At Foxes, will have Medieval Jeopardy to go with word search during the day. Need alternate prize to medallions. Will have open A&S competition, English vs French.

Next costuming class will be on Houppelandes. Will also try to add in a good t-tunic class.

FOXES DISCUSSION:

Leonore de Citeux - Final flyer 6-25
Ellisande - advised we need to be ready for 200, however, looks like there may be competition from a nearby event. Davoc will check with the Kingdom Chronicler on that. We will possibly have an OVO meeting at Foxes as well.

Leonore advised she is making archery targets using her son as a template. We will have a walk through of the site soon. Needs to call Matt to schedule for a Saturday, preferably after 2:30.

Jeremy is available for sound - let him know if needed.

Dance Mistress meeting with Dancers for Ball at Foxes.

DISCUSSION OF SIONNACH 2000:

David will Co-crat. Francesca volunteered to help (guidance-backup)

Aidan will cook.

Booker T Washington is our standby sight. Small, but reserved. Small hall, will need an alternae fite for fighting in event of rain/snow. Possibly H S Gymnasium?

Tox advised need to consider city/county merger. May have changed estimates for using facilities. May want to consider local churches as well. Need to do walk-through of that site as well. Tables still bolted down in pavillion?

Tox will inquire about local lodges, if affiliation needed to use their sites. As long as any other site can be found at least 6 months prior to the event, that should suffice for planning.

OLD BUSINESS:

T-shirts still available \$5.00 each. Money to the general fund.

2nd Pres. Church chairs - our offer of \$1.00 a piece will be discussed at their next business meeting. 127 chairs in total

Kathy then advised she is missing a director's chair (light green canvas). A lost- & found section in Foxtales was suggested.

Alex picked up Mega Muffin tins for \$5.00 each. Can purchase more if desired. Motion passed and carried to purchase up to 10 at \$5.00 each. Will authorize Alex to purchase.

Ari advies found a pair of multi-channel walki-talkies at Big Lots for \$78.00. Need to make sure Radio Shack Compatible. Will compare prices also. Will table discussion shop & vote next week. Tox make a request to check on warranty if re-manufactured.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Mae's fabric store - final closing date 7/26.

Items for sale - pavillios, lamps, rugs,

etc. After discussion, decision was made to not hold Biz meeting in July until 7/12. On 7/17, will hold a swap-n-shop for everyone to bring stuff and money. Come prepared to shop!

Leather Factory having good sale.

Southdowns Baronial Investiture
11/20.

Tai Chi Coupons for 3 free lessons
(monthly fee thereafter). See Llewelyn.

Ari's DoughKnüt Shop

Alex: ARI! ARI!

> Ari: Yes Alex?

> Alex: Ari, what is going on? These two kingdoms are still not under my control yet.

> Ari: Alex, just slow down. I've told you that this is gonna have to take a while. If we move too fast then we're gonna get CAUGHT! and I don't want that to happen.

> Alex: Look Ari, I require Speed AND Excellence from you. I must control the SCA as quickly as possible or all this work is for naught. So.....Hop To It!

> Ari: Listen Alex, Three kingdoms over two continents in the last four months should be enough for you right now. Just calm down. You'll own it all eventually.

> Alex: ARI....This is URGENT! Get me those Kingdoms.....NOW!

> Ari: Alex what's the big rush? For that matter, why are you in such a snit to control the SCA anyhow? that's gonna be a LOT of work.

> Alex: Ari there are things too deep for you to fathom. Just trust me.

> Ari: Trust you.....Alex, what do you want with all this beauracatic monstrosity?

> Alex: Well if you must know....

> Ari: I must!

> Alex: Because if I control the SCA, I will have the best GARB available!

> Ari: What?!?!?!? That's what we're

doing all this for?

> Alex: Yes.....What's the problem?

> Ari: Well the prob is that I am risking a severe pummeling from certain knights who I know if they find out! THAT'S the problem.

> Alex: Ari, you're the one who is going for global domination.....as well as trying to attain various brunette....."Consorts". If I were you, I'd be more worried about certain agencies like the CIA, FBI, KGB, and of course the British Secret Service.....not to mention all those little brunettes when they find out what you're doing...

> Ari: Listen Alex, those various government agencies are no problem, And the Brunettes I can deal with, you don't know my plan there anyway. But certain knights in this kingdom are more frightening than meeting Bigfoot in a tutu in a back alley on a bad hair day.....Not to mention the fact that I've been having to play the part of a mentally unbalanced smart-a.....aleck to drive Tox up the wall and distract him. If he ever finds out that I'm using FoxTails to send secret coded messages to our operatives throughout the known world....He'll blow his lid and....

> TOX:: OH HO! Caught ya! Both of ya! Trying to control the SCA as well as the World are ya? Well this is gonna STOP right here! I knew there was something up with you Ari, All those really nice movie reviews you were turning in to me. I knew that was too good to be true. You two have had it now....

> Ari: Tox ole buddy.....what are you talking about?

> Tox: Don't "Ole Buddy" me. I've got you both Dead to Rights. Didn't see me standing around the corner there did you....I heard every word you

two said.

> Alex: Really? Did you like it? Tell us the truth Tox. We want you ASTUTE judgement here. What did you think of it?

> Tox: What did I think of it????? Well I think that...

> Alex: Yes did it sound funny? Convincing? Lighthearted or too serious?

> Tox: Did it sound...?????

> Ari: Yes Tox did you like it?

> Tox: Did I "Like" it? ??????....Huh?

> Alex: Ari and I have been working on this new camadia for a while now and we'd like your opinion of what we've got so far....

> Tox: Camadia?!?!? Wait a minute... if you expect me to fall for THAT. you've got another--

> Ari: TOX....look what I've got here Tox....look...

> Tox: Now wait a minute Ari I've had just abo.....A Little Debbie Swiss Cake Roll.....

> Ari: That's right Tox....A LDSCR.....Look at it....smell the chocolate....Come on Tox....go get the Little Debbie....Come on...Here it goes...(Fling)

> Tox: GET.... LITTLE... DEBBIE... MUST.... GET....

> Alex: Good job Ari, quick thinking. Good throw too. That thing is still airborne.

> Ari: So is Tox.....man, he's running so fast that his feet aren't even touching the ground.

> Alex: Okay we've distracted him....but he'll be back....then we'll have to deal with him.....in a more..."Appropriate" way....I trust that you are up to it?

> Ari: Don't worry Alex....I've got Tox wrapped around my little finger....So just go on and get yourself measured for new garb....Gesh I can't believe

this....all this risk just so Alex can be Stylin' & Profilin'

"Queen Margot"

speAking of "sTylin' & profilin'".....This nExt movie..."queeN margoT" is full of some of the fanclest cLOthes that you've ever seeN. "queen margot" is an "imported" film. that means that it "ain't umerkan!",well, "queen maRgot" is.....a grEA movie. it's Beautiful, it's UniquE. it'S morE than A movie Darnnet. it's a piece of art in the league ofwell.....some great piece of arT. name your favorite piece of art and put "queen margot" in it's place.

tHe producers and the director of this film crafted, no more like sculpted a masterpiece. the sets are great. you go from the bEAutiful casTles and living plAcEs of the rich, to the scummy, muddy streets that the Poor people lived in. The costumEs are perfect. thiS movie should hAve won an awaRd for it's sEtS and costumging. in fAct in won about 7 awaRds overseas. The acting is wondErful. the actors Do very good here. they play the roles of the people they portray with belief and conviction. they make them believable. It's a wonderful, movie. All you artSey people out thEre should love it.....I hated it. I founD it boring.....it moveD slow.....the movie is also foreign.....so.....iT's sub-titled. Now i can read, but it takes a bit to read and try and get wHat's going on in this moviE. The fact that it's foriegn would also exPlain why It moves so slow. Now I expeCt it to be differenT than a hollywood flick. bUt this thing Really movEs

sssssllllloooooowwwwwwww. now of courSe the movie "heaven and earth" had all these sAme elements in it. and these same elements that made me hate "queen maRgot"; slow moving

dDevelopment, subtitles, the emphAsis on other aspects than the usual hollywood elements.....and I loved "Heaven and Earth". So I can't fiGure out why I hated "queen maRgot". like i said....it's vERy good, i just didn't likE it. uh....a geNeral outline of the movie is thiS.....margot is a princEss of france and she is to be iN an arrangeD marriage to a prince of spain (you know, one of those things they used to do to try and Make peace, sieze pOwer, and otheR political moves thEy made back then). and she doesn't love him and he doesn't love her. he iS in love with a Common soldier, a man of honoR. But of courSe her family is a bunch of murderous, scheming, manipulative bunch of (plurel tense expenitive). it's overaLl a bad situation. There is alsO a lot of sectarian violence (boy There's a high brow term), you have a very graphic Scene of a street full of murdered people (men, woMen & children) who just happened to be part of One sect. there aRe the other usual power plays going on. Margot's strugglE to overcome pain and grief and find true love....uh....it was boring to me. there is one sex scene.....but it's kinda dull too. now people, don't get me wrong, i am not telling you not to rent this movie. like i said, it is very good. I am sure that most of you will like it. but i didn't. sorry. francesca, please forgive me.

Till later,
In Your Viewing Service,
Ari

> Alex: Now just make sure that these knights here enter the crown lists in these Kingdoms and that these photos are taken to the appropriate....
> Ari: SHHHHH...here comes Tox
> Tox: Okay there you two, I'm

back....Now we have to settle some business here. I know you two are up to no good....

> Ari: You're right Tox, I don't know WHAT made me think that I could pull one over on you.

> Alex: ARI!

> Tox: You should have known better than that Ari!

> Ari: Yes I know, Tox, You've got me Dead to Rights. I'll come clean.

> Alex: ARI!

> Tox: It always is better on you when You're honest Ari.

> Ari: I know Tox. Here, Take the whole box.....

> Tox: Huh?

> Alex: Huh?

> Ari: The whole box of Little Debbie Swiss Cake Rolls. I shouldn't have tried to get away with only giving you one package of them. I thought I could get that by you but....

> Tox: And Right you are....You should have KNOWN that I KNEW there were 5 more packages in that box!

> Ari: Yes Tox, Ole' Buddy, You're right! Here, Take the box.

> Alex: (Oh thank GOD)

> Tox: Right! Now maybe that'll teach ya to try and pull a fast one on me!

> Ari: You're right Tox. I should have known better.

> Alex: (Thank You God! THANK YOU GOD!)

> Tox: Yes you should have....Well, gotta run and print Foxtales. Thanks for your new review Ari. I wouldn't want to miss printing this one.

> Ari: Neither would I Tox.....Neither would I.....

*Editor's note - If you are wondering if Ari's grammar skills have gone hay wire when it comes to his capitalizing

letters...take a closer look. Just between you and me, he is sending out a coded message! Pretend this is the back of a cereal box and see if you can figure out what the secret message!!!

Verbal Graffiti

"If you think I'm doing *that* in a kilt - your crazy!" - Lord Davoc

"You can nominate me all you want, I'm not gonna do it." - THL Llywelyn

"...put down their musical weapons of choice..." - Cassandra

"Tidy bowl blue is actually a very period [color] - Lady Julia "Sorry, I didn't realize I needed your permission to hand out my Kleenex" - Lady Caoiflionn

"I vote we buy 9 of those pans!" - THL Rochelle.

"I vote we buy 10 pans...we are going...to lose one!" - Lady Francesca.

"Fighter practice is like sex...it's more fun if more than 1 person shows up." - Fenwick

"I don't remeber his name...it was something French" - Tox

"I have some ideas if anyone has any propositions!" - Francesca

"The Byzantine Empire had no navy. For a sea side kingdom, that was an error." - Alexander

Announcements

The rummage sale on July 19th is bound to have treasure galore including the following from Don Nikolai and his lady wife Mistress Tamara:

- * 14 ft octagonal medieval period pavilion with all poles, ropes, stakes, etc.
- * leather... various colors (2 shades

of blue, black, natural) and thickness

- * leather dyes (red, yellow, black, green) leather tools, rivets, buckles
- * books... general history and crafts
- * swords.... court rapier, short sword, saber
- * breakdown 4x8 wood table
- * Assorted fabric
- * rush torches (Tiki style) with holders
- * misc extras.....

You may notice that the talent directory is missing. It has been taken down to be updated and will return next issue.

And finally, my lord husband, Lord Ari and I would like to say "thank you" to all our friends in Vulpine Reach. Both for the shower you gave us and for coming to our wedding. I would like to say special "thank yous" to Lady Caoiflionn who kept a pulse on things and helped me where and when I needed it. Also, thanks to Lord Davoc and Lady Diana, who took pictures and video for us. Thanks to Tox and Seumas who ushered and served as "honor guards." And last, but certainly not least, Cassandra, who not only dj'ed for us, but saved the day by picking me up, taking me to the hair dressers, and then to the church (after I discovered I had left my keys at work!!!) She also managed to keep me calm through the whole ordeal. And everyone else who stepped in to help where help was needed, without being asked. It honestly meant the world to both of us to have you all there. We met each other through the SCA, so Vulpine Reach and it's members are very, very special to us. Thank you so much!!!

FOX TALES

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