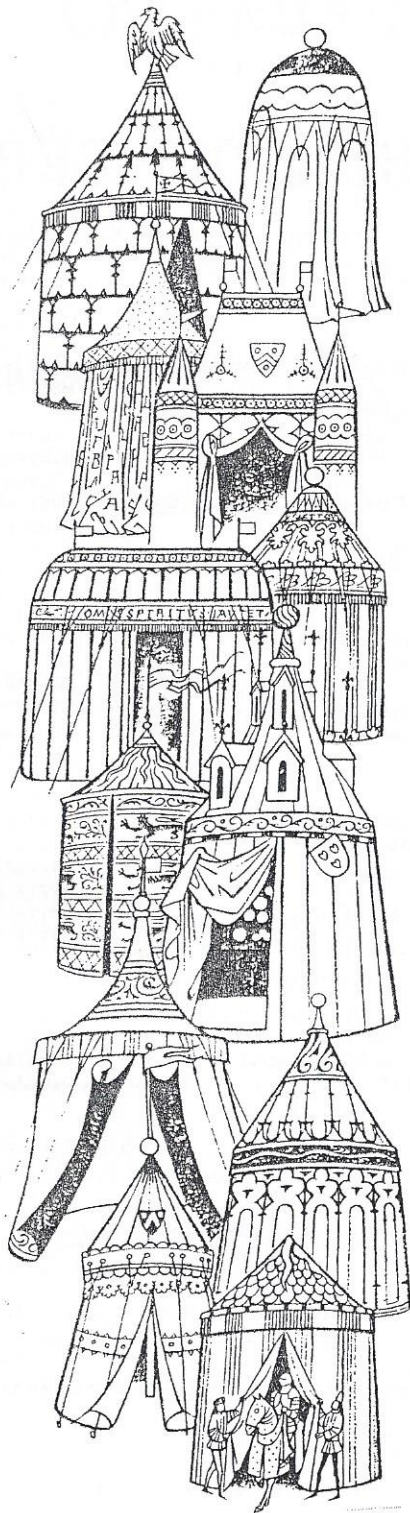


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This is the *Windswept*, a publication of the Shire of Windkeep, of the Kingdom of the Outlands, of the Society for Creative Anachronism Inc. (SCA). *Windswept* is available from Pat Hansen, 10205 Powderhouse Road, Cheyenne, Wyoming 82009-9689. It is not a corporate publication of the Society for Creative Anachronism, Inc., and does not delineate SCA policy.

Subscription Rates are \$1.50 for two issues September to December.
Submission and event announcements for next issue are due by August 24th.

CREDITS

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Movie Review: by Da'ud Bob ibn Briggs
Armour 1066-1199: from Glasgow Museum Leaflet Armour 1
Border Designs: Various Clip Art Pattern Books and Chronicler's File

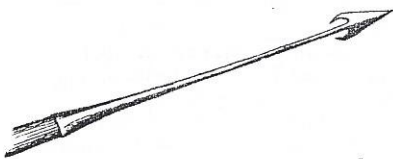
CALENDAR

JULY

Tuesday	2	Calligraphy Class	7PM	6521 Evers Boulevard
Thursday	4	ARD TIR Defender and Demo	10:00AM	Washington Park LARAMIE
Monday	8	Unser Hafen Dance Practice	7-9PM	Call 635-1320 for ride
Tuesday	9	Research at the Library	7PM	Laramie County Library
Thursday	11	Fighters Practice Holliday Park	5:45PM	19th & Morrie
Friday	12,	OUTLANDS CROWN TOURNAMENT	12Noon	Hynds Lodge / Camp Jack
Saturday	13,	and	4:00 PM	Aldyth (307)-632-1133
Sunday	14			
Tuesday	16	All Guild's Night	7PM	6521 Evers Boulevard
Thursday	18	Fighters Practice Holliday Park	5:45PM	19th & Morrie
Friday	19	UNSER HAFEN Defender	3:PM	Centennial Wildlife Reserve Orchard CO
Saturday	20,	and, -		
Sunday	21			
Monday	22	Unser Hafen Dance Practice	7-9PM	Call 635-1320 for ride
Tuesday	23	Taster's Revel	7PM	Lions Park Community Center
Thursday	25	Fighters Practice Holliday Park	5:45PM	19th & Morrie
Thursday	25	POPULACE MEETING	7PM	Holliday Park
Friday	26,	FEATHERS IN THE WIND III	5:00 PM	Hynds Lodge / Camp Jack
Saturday	27, and		Isabeau	(307)-634-3500
Sunday	28			

AUGUST

Thursday	1	Fighters Practice Holliday Park	5:45PM	19th & Morrie
Saturday	3	UNSER HAFEN Rapier Collegium	9:30AM	Nunn Community Center
Tuesday	6	Calligraphy Class	7PM	6521 Evers Boulevard
Thursday	8	Fighters Practice Holliday Park	5:45PM	19th & Morrie
Friday	9-	PENNSIC (East Kingdom)		
thru Sunday	18			
Saturday -	10	THREE HAWKS Championship	9:00AM	Black Forest / Monument CO
and Sunday	11		Tambriel	(303)-288-3828
Monday	12	Unser Hafen Dance Practice	7-9PM	Call 635-1320 for ride
Tuesday	13	Research at the Library	7PM	Laramie County Library
Thursday	15	Fighters Practice <i>Outdoors</i>	5:45PM	Holiday Park
Saturday	17	WINDKEEP Defender	10:AM	Lions Park Community Center
Tuesday	20	All Guild's Night	7PM	6521 Evers Boulevard
Thursday	22	Fighters Practice <i>Outdoors</i>	5:45PM	Holiday Park
Thursday	22	POPULACE MEETING	7PM	Holliday Park
Monday	26	Unser Hafen Dance Practice	7-9PM	Call 635-1320 for ride
Tuesday	27	Taster's Revel	7PM	Lions Park Community Center
Thursday	29	Fighters Practice <i>Outdoors</i>	5:45PM	Holiday Park
Friday	30-	FIELD OF GOLD TOURNEY	2:00PM	Pawnee National Grasslands
thru Monday	September 2		Caelainn	(303)-287-6963



Angon: an early type of throwing spear, used by the Franks, with a barbed head and slender iron neck, the whole being about six feet long. One of its most effective methods of use was to hurtle it against an enemy and pierce his shield, dragging it down by the weight of the long shaft. The Frank could then rush in, tread on the down-slanting angon and jerk the shield from the bearer's hand, leaving him defenceless.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Fighter Practice is outside at Holliday Park at the corner of 19th street and Morrie. For information call Lord Duncan MacAllister at 637-5293. Contact Lord Mavrikkii Andronikov at 778-8536 for information and availability of a ride to neighboring fighter practices.

Archery is weather dependent therefore call Lord Yanthlos the Quiet at 634-3500 for times, location, and if in fact it will happen.

Armouring is by contact at Lord Mavrikkii Andronikov's at 778-8536.

Calligraphers is the first Tuesday evening of each month at 6521 Evers Blvd. Contact Lady Isabeau d'Andrea at 634-3500

Research at the Library is the second Tuesday evening of each month at the Laramie County Library. Contact Sir Mark von dem Falken Fenn at 634-7151.

Bowyer's Class on the third Tuesday of each month at 6521 Evers Blvd has become All guild's Night for information call 634-3500.

Tasters's Revel is the fourth Tuesday evening of each month at Lion's Park Community Center from 7 PM to 10PM. Feast by Reservation only. There's a donation of \$5.00 per person. Contact Lady Aldyth Trefaldwyn at 632-1133 for times available and other information

Populace Meeting is the fourth Thursday evening of each month now after Fighters at Holliday Park.

Signet Ring Workshop will have a second class if sufficient interest. For information call MLODN at 635-1320.

First detailed illustration of wine-making ■ The dawn of the 16th century sees the publication of many beautiful illustrations on viticulture and wine-making. Among the most detailed of these is a vintage scene from a Flemish Book of Hours of the Blessed Virgin c. 1500. In the background, grapes are being picked from vines trained up trees. There are then being carried in panniers on men's backs down to a courtyard where they are crushed in a screw press. The must is being poured carefully into wooden barrels for fermentation. Some of the new wine is then being sampled and offered by the owner to a friend or potential buyer.

Best-known wine varieties ■ By the end of the 15th century, certain regions of Europe had become known for their production of wine from specific varieties of vine. Pinot Noir was already known as the great grape of Burgundy in the 14th century, but by around 1500 the Chenin Blanc, known locally as the Pineau de la Loire, came to be the preferred variety around Anjou; the Cabernet France, also known as the Breton, was the most popular variety from Tours and Orleans; and the Muscat began to be particularly popular in Alsace. In Italy, the 16th century saw vine growers concentrating on the grape varieties of trebbiano in Tuscany and the Marche, the vernaccia in Liguria, and the Schiava in the Po valley.

WINDKEEP DEFENDER TOURNEY

August 17, Windkeep

Come one, come all fighters and artisans, to contend for prizes and, if you happen to be a resident of Windkeep, the highly prestigious title of Windkeep Defender of Arts and Sciences Champion!

For this year's Documentable Heavy Weapons List, any weapon/style is allowed as long as you can provide one piece of primary documentation (a written mention or picture, produced before 1600 C.E.) showing the weapon/style was in use in Western Europe. STONE'S GLOSSARY and other modern sources with pictures of extant weapons said by the modern author, without period evidence, to be period are not acceptable. The overall winner of the list will receive a marvelous piece of jewelry made by Master Mark von dem Falkensfenn. The highest place Windkeep resident will win the Big 3 Privileges: Defending the shire, preserving the regalia of the office and running next year's event. Questions regarding the list should be address to Lord Duncan MacAlister at (307) 637-5293 or varju@aol.com.

The Arts and Sciences Championship will be open to all. It will consist of three divisions and twelve categories. Division I is for items which the artisan has learned to make within the last three to five months; Division II is to demonstrate the artisan's ability to recreate a medieval item; Division III is for items which demonstrate the artisan's ability to apply medieval techniques and/or designs to an original item. In all divisions documentation is strongly recommended. The categories for the competition are: Armor; Archery Equipment; Banners and Favors; Brewing and Vinting; Calligraphy and Illumination; Costuming; Edibles, Herbs and Herbal Preparations; Fiber Arts (spinning, weaving, embroidery, cross stitch, etc.); Jewelry; Leather Goods; Performing Arts; and the ever popular Open Category.

Prizes will be awarded within each division and category. In addition there will be a Peoples Choice Award based upon the votes of those attending the event and a Champion's Choice Award chosen by our current A&S Champion, Lady Isabeau d'Andrea. Those competing for Windkeep A&S Champion must be members of the SCA and live within the Shire of Windkeep, and must enter an item in each division. The champion will be chosen based upon an average of the three scores. Anyone wishing to help with judging, at the registration table or by donating a prize please contact Lady Fekete Noemi (Rebecca Skoetach) at (307) 637-5293 or varju@aol.com

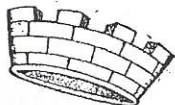
General Information:

The site will be the Community House and adjacent lawn in Lionís Park, Cheyenne, Wyoming. Take I-25 to the Central Avenue exit, turn east and follow the SCA signs. The site will be open from 10:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m. There will be a picnic feast of hot dogs and hamburgers at no additional charge except that all wishing to partake should bring a side dish to serve six (A-H desserts, I-P salads, Q-Z open). Site fee is \$4.00 per person, children under 12 \$2.00

Autocrat: Lady Isabeau d'Andrea (Tari O. Stewart) 6521 Evers Blvd., Cheyenne WY 82009, (307) 634-3500



Outlands Summer Crown Tourney
Windkeep
Cheyenne Wyoming July 12-14, 1996



The Shire of Windkeep invites all who read these letters to join them in the selection of the Heir to the Outlands Crown. The site will be the Hynds Lodge/ Camp Jack area of the Medicine Bow National Forest located 26 miles west of Cheyenne, Wy. and 26 miles east of Laramie, Wy. Site amenities include well water, pit toilets, and nature trails. All fire is to be contained. Fire extinguishers in each camp please. (no tiki torches). The Park Ranger is allowing the feast site to be discreetly wet, and the camping area VERY discreetly wet. There are also wild deer and a live stream with trout, and a beaver pond on site. All pets are to be leashed and under control at all times. Pets chasing wildlife risk being shot by Park Rangers. Site opens 12 noon on July 12 and closes at 4pm July 14.

The Saturday evening feast will be handled in a most medieval manner. One Hundred gentles will be seated in the hall and will be served first. Additional gentles will be seated on the veranda, and will receive that which is left from each course, and whatever else the cooks provide, buffet-style. Windkeep will also provide breakfast on Saturday and Sunday, for all who wish to partake. Your feast coordinators are Lady Noemi, Lady Sara, Lady Eilonwy, and Lord Bjarki.

The tentative schedule of events is as follows:

Prerusal of entrants and consorts by the Crown: 9-10 on Saturday. Opening Court 11AM. List opens after Court. Tourney starts 11:30 AM. Installation Court of their Highnesses 6PM with feast immediately after. Circles held Sunday morning after breakfast. Closing court 12 noon Sunday.

Fees for the event are as follows:

Single day site fee, non-camping: \$5
Camping, site, no meals payable day of event: \$10
Non-camping, indoor feast and site: \$15
Non-camping, outdoor feast and site: \$10
Camping, site, and indoor feast, and breakfasts: \$20
Camping, site, and outdoor feast, and breakfasts: \$15

For all above fees: Children 6-12 half, and under 6 free.

Families of 4 or more contact the autocrat for fee discount information

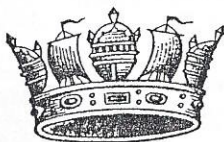
DIRECTIONS TO THE SITE:

Take I-25 to exit 10B (Happy Jack Road) in Cheyenne, Wy. Proceed west on Happy Jack Road 26 miles to the Curt Gowdy State Park Ranger Station/Hynds Lodge area. Continue 200 yards beyond the Hynds Lodge turnoff to the Camp Jack entrance. Turn right, and follow the signs to the camping area, parking area, and troll.

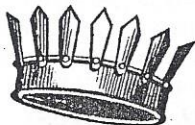
The indoor fighting site in case of inclement weather is the Cheyenne Equestrian Center 2098 County Road 220. Take I-25 North thru Cheyenne to exit 21. (Ridley Road) Turn west on Ridley Road (becomes Rd 220) and proceed 1.7 miles. The Equestrian Center is on the right.

Send reservations to the autocrat, with checks payable to SCA-Windkeep. All reservations requesting feast space MUST be received by the autocrat by July 6, 1996.

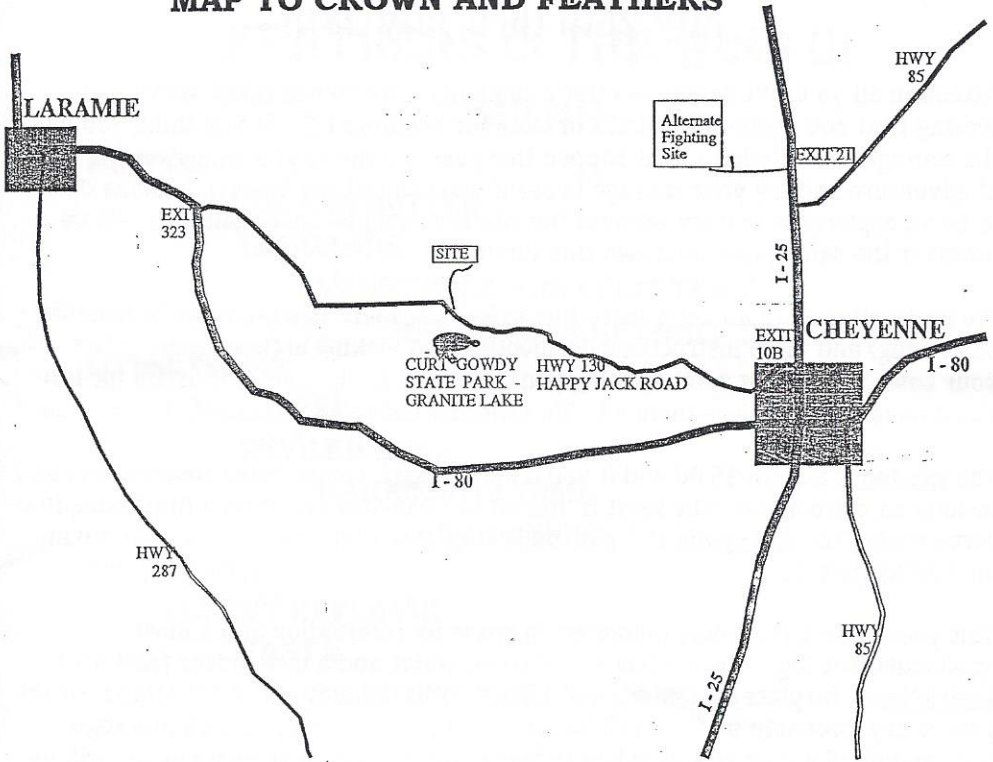
Autocrat: THL Aldyth Trefaldwyn 10700 Ranch Rd, Cheyenne, Wy. 82009
(307) 632-1133 email-Aldyth@aol.com



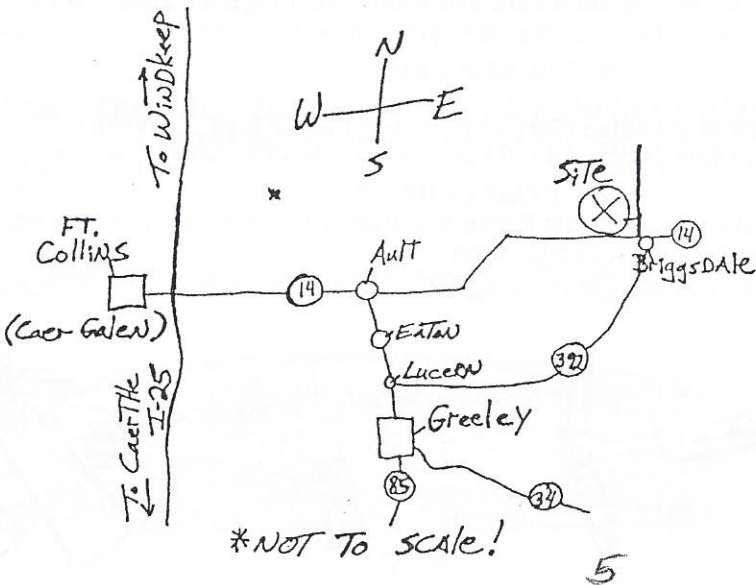
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MAP TO CROWN AND FEATHERS



MAP TO FIELD OF GOLD



Feathers in the Wind III July 26th thru July 28th

Attention all ye brave souls, we offer a challenge. We've had flood, we've had searing heat and pestifence, what's in store for Feathers III? If you think you have the courage to face what might happen this year, we invite you to answer the call of adventure and try your courage to see if you can last the weekend. Some desire to be an explorer necessary because the site has changed once again. (It will be however the same place as Crown this summer.)

We again offer more archery, more fine prizes (Sir Mark has promised to donate something) and more instructions on shooting and making archery gear. Bring your bows, bring your arrows, bring you questions, bring your enthusiam for fun. You'll have a place to use them all. We welcome heavy weapons and fencers also.

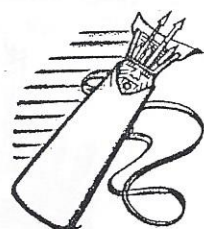
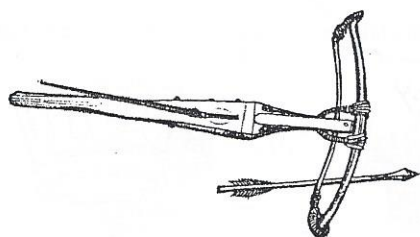
The site fee is a mere \$5.00 and if you'd like to feast, please make reservations and include an extra \$5.00. The feast is limited to 50 people and is on a first come, first serve basis. The site opens at 5 p.m. on Friday, July 26th, and will close at 4 p.m. on Sunday, July 28th.

This year's site offers some indoor crash space by reservation and a most spectacular setting. The site has lots of trees, water and a nice indoor feast area. Restrictions: No glass containers. All animals must be leashed at all times. If the year is dry, probably no fires will be allowed, including torches. This is a state park and all violators will be asked to leave. No one under 18 years of age will be allowed on site without a parent or legal guardian.

Directions: North or South to Cheyenne take interstate 25 to the Happy Jack exit and then west on Happy Jack Rd. (The area is about 26 miles west of Cheyenne. It is part of the Curt Gowdy State Park and behind the ranger's station.) Follow the signs. If you are coming from the East, go North on I-25 and then follow the above directions.

Autocrat: Isabeau d'Andrea (Tari Stewart) 6521 Evers Blvd., Cheyenne, WY 82009-3211, (307)634-3500.

Feast Coordinator: Lady Renate Koven (Pat Hansen), 10205 Powderhouse Rd., Cheyenne, WY 82009, (307) 635-1320



FEATHERS IN THE WIND III
MENU

FIRST REMOVE

BREADS AND BUTTER

LEMONADE

VEGETABLE AND FRUIT TRAY

BEEF AND VEGETABLE BROTH SOUP

SECOND REMOVE

ROAST BEEF

DEVILED EGGS

BAKED POTATOES

BAKED ONIONS

THIRD REMOVE

TURKEY KEFLAVÍK

PASTA

SEASONED GREEN BEANS

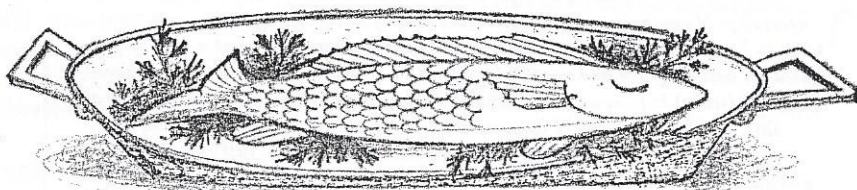
DESSERT REMOVE

BAKLAVA

CARROTCAKE

SAUCE OF THE HUNT

FEAST RESERVATIONS ARE DUE BY JULY 22ND.
THE ONLY RESERVATION IS A PAID RESERVATION!
AFTER JULY 22ND CHECK WITH THE FEAST-O-CRAT FOR
AVAILABILITY.



TECHNICALITIES OF CARVING

THE ELABORATE RITUALS OF FEASTS OF THE NOBILITY, LIKE THOSE OF HUNTING, HAD A SPECIAL LANGUAGE

The termes of a Kerver be as here followeth:

*Breke that dere – lesche that branne
 – rere that goose – lyste that swanne
 – sauce that capon – spoyle that hen
 – frusché that checkyn – unbrace
 that mallarde [duck] – unlace that
 conye [rabbit] – dismembre that
 heron – display that crayn –
 disfigure that pecocke – unjoynt that
 bytture [bittern] – untache that
 curlewe – alaye that fesande
 [pheasant] – wyng that partyche
 [partridge] – wyng that quayle –
 myne that plover – thye that pygion
 – border that pastry – thye that
 woodcock – thye all smale byrdes –
 tymbre that fyere – tyere that egge –
 chynne that samon – strynge that
 lamprye – splat that pyke – sauce
 that plaice – sauce that tenche –
 splaye that breme – syde that haddok
 – tuske that barbell – culpon that
 trout – syne that cheven [chub] –
 trassene that ele – trance that
 sturgion – under trance that porpose
 – tayme that crabbe – barbe that
 lopster. Here endeth the goodly
 termes of Kervinge.*

*(From Booke of Kerving, published
 by Wynken de Worde in London in
 1508.)*

— MOST — SURPRISING PIE

TO MAKE PIES THAT THE BIRDS MAY BE ALIVE IN THEM AND FLY OUT WHEN IT IS CUT UP

Make the coffin [piecrust] of a great pie or pasty. In the bottom thereof you make a hole as big as your fist, or bigger if you will. Let the sides of the coffin be somewhat higher than ordinary pies. Which done, put it full of flour and bake it, and being baked, open the hole in the bottom and take out the flour. Then, having a pie of the bigness of the hole in the bottom of the coffin aforesaid, you shall put it into the coffin [to stop up the hole], withal put into the said coffin round about the aforesaid pie as many small live birds as the empty coffin will hold, besides the [small] pie aforesaid. And this is to be done at such time as you send the pie to the table, and set before the guests: where, uncovering or cutting up the great lid of the pie, all the birds will fly out, which is to delight and pleasure show to the company. And that they be not altogether mocked, you shall cut open the small pie.

THE IMPORTANCE OF SALT

Salts, in general, not only stimulate the taste buds but are a biological necessity. Human perspiration involves loss of natural body salts, and these have to be replaced from food. Raw meat is the best provider, but a diet largely based on cooked grain and vegetables (the diet of most of humanity throughout most of history) is seriously deficient and requires supplementing with mineral salt. Salt's fundamental importance is reflected in most of the world's languages. The word 'salary' is derived from the Roman 'salt rations'. In Russia, the word for hospitality (khleb-sol') literally means 'bread-salt'. To the Arabs, eating a man's salt creates a sacred bond. The salt of the earth, being true to one's salt, if the salt hath lost its savour . . .

DRAGON'S QUEST V

August 23-25, Hinterlands

Once again, the Populace of Hinterland bids you greetings and invites you to Dragon's Quest V. The theme is being withheld until the August *Outlandish Herald*, but you can try to guess!

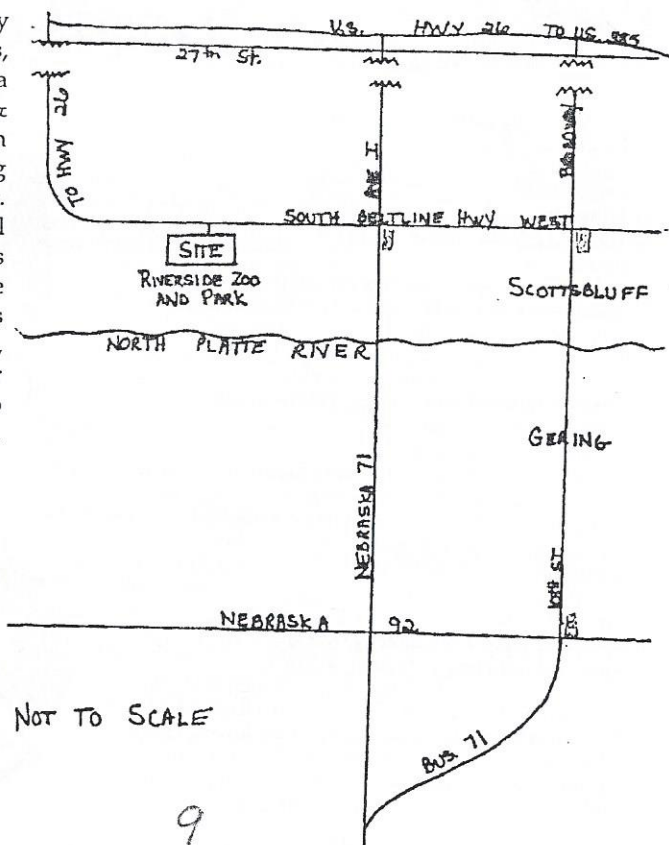
SITE: Camp Kiwanis in Riverside Park/Zoo, 1600 S. Beltline Highway West, Scottsbluff, Nebraska--the same site as last year (there will be signs). This is a camping event! Site opens Friday at 4:00 p.m. and closes Sunday at 4:00 p.m. The site has showers, flush toilets, running water, electricity, shade, very sparsely furnished cabins with several bunk beds in each (you must call the autocrat to reserve these at \$2/person...please indicate if you are willing to share, and with whom). Fires in containers only (if you bring tiki torches, please also bring a fire extinguisher). Leashed beasts are allowed; The site is discreetly wet. Be aware there is some poison ivy and buzzing wildlife (bees) on site.

FEEES: (smalls 5-11 half; under 5 free) \$5.00 site fee—\$5.00 feast fee (limited to the first 100) \$15.00 weekend food package includes: Saturday breakfast, lunch & feast and Sunday breakfast and lunch. Reservations for feast and food package are required. Prepayment will be appreciated! All monies should be sent to the Autocrat (see below), check payable to: SCA—Hinterlands.

ACTIVITIES: Heavy Weapons, Light Weapons, Archery, a Quest with a period theme, Arts & Sciences: Competition on Saturday—Bring anything made within the last year. A display only table will also be provided Children's Activities, Court: At the discretion of Their Majesties (if in attendance), Dancing, Bardic Fire (bring your best stories & songs to share), Codpiece Contest, and much more!

BREWING & VINTING COMPETITION: All entries must be amateur home-made beverages (NO commercial entries). Entries will be grouped into three categories:

- 1) brewed grain beverages,
- 2) non-sparkling wines (including meal)
- 3) sparkling wines.

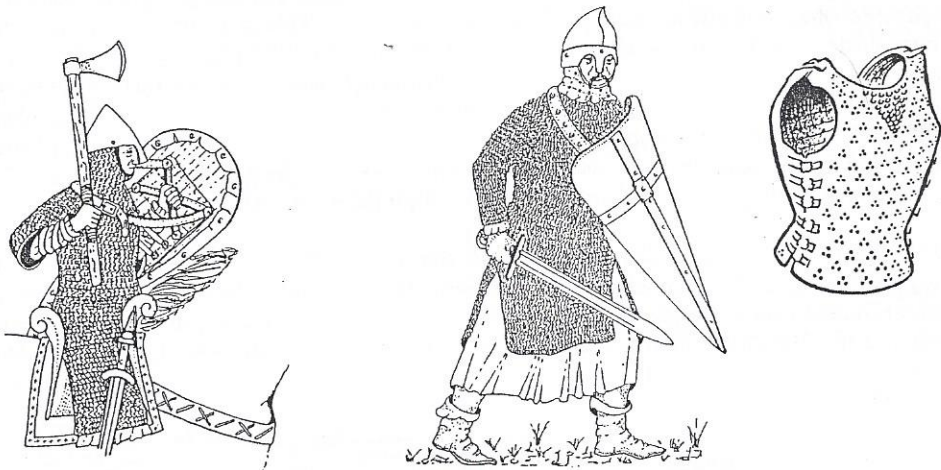


ARMOUR

1066-1199

Information Leaflet in multipart. Source: Glasgow Museum Leaflet Armour 1.
Will cover "Hard Armour", "Soft Armour", "Under, Overgarments and Footwear",
"Helmets", "Shields", and "Horse Armour and Equipment".

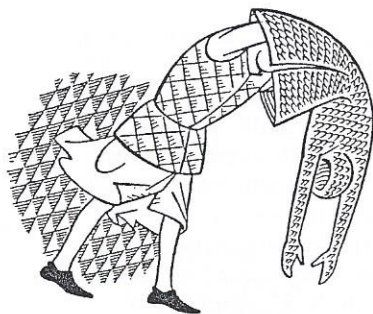
Part II "Hard Armour continued". to be continued!!



They became common in 1150-70 having been in use for almost 100 years.

The mail hood – *coif de maille* – was usually an extension of the hauberk, but could be separate. Sometimes only leather hoods were worn (see SOFT ARMOUR). When not in use the coif could be thrown back.

From 1096 padded arming caps or quilted fabric hoods were definitely worn under the coif. This was to stop the mail from tangling with the hair and chafing the skin. During the reign of William I the hair at the back of the head was trimmed and what was left was combed forward into a fringe. This hair style may have been a whim of fashion or it may actually have kept the head cool during the heat of battle, but from the end of William's reign (1087) until 1210 hair was grown to a moderate length, as were beards. Although in many contemporary illustrations up to the 13th century no garment under the mail headpiece is shown, common sense would demand that something like a padded liner be worn, just as it was under the hauberk (see SOFT ARMOUR). From 1150 it is apparent that some hauberks were worn directly over shirts, so perhaps they had soft linings of rabbit or hare fur (like the *jazerant* which may have been lined in this manner) as did the coifs. The coif had a flap of mail known as the *ventail* which covered the lower portion of the face. This hung loose at one side when not in use and it was brought across when readying for battle and secured by a buckle or lace at the side of the face.



BEHOLD GOOD GENTLES ONE AND ALL

THE FIELD OF GOLD CHAMPIONSHIP CHALLENGES IS IN THE OFFING!

Does your heart pound at the thought of honorable mortal combat? Does your heart soar at the thought of arrows in flight? Does your heart sing at the thought of a stirring romantic ballad or serenade? Or does it perhaps race within your breast at the thought of all three? Well if so then plan now to journey to Pawnee National Grasslands on the weekend of August 30 through September 2 of this very year. For an event of such epic proportions, of such unprecedented grandeur as to truly test the metal, talents and skills of any good gentle regardless of their interests. This will truly present an opportunity to witness the genius and creative talents that is the Kingdom of the Outlands! All of this for the paltry sum of \$8.00 (teens \$2.00/children under 12 free).

Scheduled thus far in brief to wet your appetite:

Friday: site opens at 2:00 p.m.

Saturday: heavy weapons, fencing and archery tourneys, one each sponsored by the Baronies of Caerthe, Dragonsspine and Unser Haven, for a total of three heavy tourneys, three fencing tourneys, and three archery shoots that day. Followed by the Field of Gold Bardic Championship Challenge.

Sunday the Champion Challenger's Grand Processional followed by the Field of Gold Championship Challenge tourneys for heavy weapons, fencing and archery. After all the tourneys, a **Grand Court** will be held which will be followed by a Field of Gold Championship Revel! The site is very, very wet.

Also on Saturday, a variety of classes to enlighten the mind with a repeat of the very same classes on Sunday, lest you miss one.

Though the prizes are legion, the true glory shall be for the gentle proclaimed the "Field of Gold Grand Champion." In addition to honor and riches beyond measure, they will also have the privilege of naming the Consort of Love and Beauty, both to reign for a year and a day in immeasurable grandeur and splendor. For any and all with the courage, skill and valor to compete for this singular honor, the following shall be done:

At the Saturday morning Assembly all competitors in the Field of Gold Championship Challenges "Grand Champion" title must declare themselves and receive a "Special Grand Champion Competitor Sheet" ("SGCCS") from the autocrat. /// Saturday the competitor must enter a heavy weapons tourney, a light weapons tourney and an archery shoot and your standing entered on your SGCCS. /// Saturday evening the competitor must enter the Field of Gold Bardic Championship Challenge and your standing entered on your SGCCS. /// On Sunday morning, the competitor must enter the Processional and your standing entered on your SGCCS. /// On Sunday, the competitor must enter one of the three tourneys (competitor's choice) and your standing entered on your SGCCS. /// Turn in your Special Grand Champion Competitor Sheet to the autocrat before the Grand Court and after completing the above.

And then trust to the fortunes of war or peace as the case may be!

There will also be a mini-Field of Gold Championship Challenge for the children with boffer, bardic and archery with a junior Field of Gold Champion.

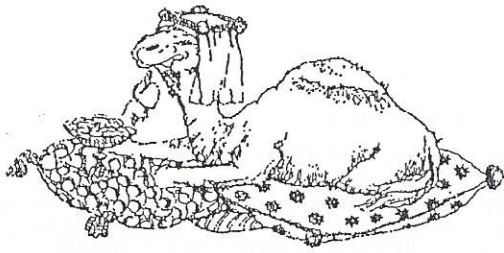
The amazing Lady Theresa from Unser Haven has agreed to provide the feast on Saturday evening.

Merchants are welcome! Contact Lady Amber the Quietest for more information: (303) 789-2515.

The site has many amenities, lots of fresh HUN land, crystal clear spring water, several privies, picnic table and fire pit areas in many central locations, trees and shade! The site is very wet and all pets must be leashed and under control at all times or they will be asked to leave.

So as the fields turn Gold in the late days of summer, come to the Field of Gold Championship Challenges for an unparalleled immersion in the medieval experience, the likes of which has yet to be attempted. If you miss this one, you will regret it unto death!

Questions call the Autocrats: Lady Caelainn ingen Muiredaig or Lord Grellan O'Conchobhair (Caerthe: 303-287-6963, email: kristenm@ile.com)



Da'ud Bob ibn Briggs Historical Drive-In Movie Critic

It's always fun to go out and see a movie that isn't getting wide release, that's only playing in the "art" movie houses, that's a little off-beat, and is just a totally winning movie. Add to that the scriptwriting abilities of Kenneth Branagh (doing a bit of somewhat autobiographical material) as well as his direction, and you've really got a winner. The fact that it often ends up sounding a bit like a Woody Allen movie set in rural England instead of New York doesn't hurt it, either. And so it is that this month Da'ud Bob reviews *A Midwinter's Tale*.

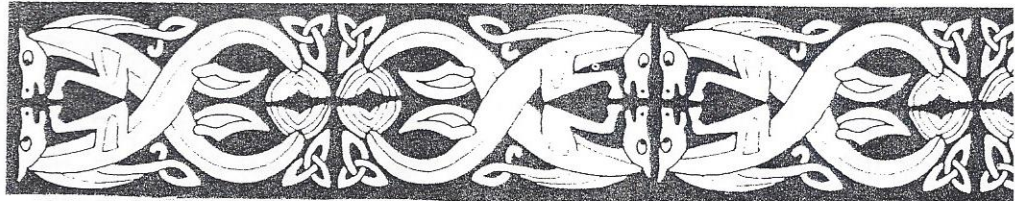
Starring an ensemble cast (in alphabetical order, just like they did on the marquee poster) Richard Briers, Hetta Chanbey, Joan Collins, Nicholas Farrell, Mark Hadfield, Gerard Horn, Celia Imrie, Michael Maloney, Julia Sawalha, and John Sessions, this is the story of one man's obsession to bring culture to the impoverished country folk by putting on a production of Shakespeare's *Hamlet* at Christmastime. The down side? He's got insufficient money, and besides, no good actors want to work at Christmastime. So he gathers a cast of misfits and low to no-talents about him, and they set off to "do" *Hamlet*.

Good points: The dialogue. Watching the auditions. Hill climbing in rollerblades. Getting a queen to play the Queen. The backstage antics of the cast. The on stage antics of the cast. The internal bickering. (Da'ud Bob has been on stage in a couple of amateur productions before [I know this comes as a great shock to many of you, but it's true!], and it's all very much "old home week" for me; extremely realistic.) The way some lines get added -- and modified. ("Tis a far, far better thing I do than I did that night with the sailor and the artichoke.") Making painted cutout figures for part of the audience so it would look like a "full house" to the actors.

Bad points: It's a movie for adults. (No, no, I don't mean that there's any sex or violence in it. But a lot of it is way over the heads of most of the kids I know. You know, an "intellectual" sort of comedy.) And the fact that it's not in wide release will make it hard to find to see it.

Zero breasts. No blood. Six dead bodies -- on the stage only. (Well, they are doing *Hamlet*, after all.) Nearsighted actress rolls. Personality fu. Makeup fu. Gratuitous humorous opening monologue. Academy Award nominations to all of the cast (and to scriptwriter Kenneth Branagh) for such lines as: "More Russian than fox." "Hamlet is this desk. ... Hamlet is my grandmother." "Or my middle name isn't Fabulously Talented and Modest." "I'm not just an attractive sex object, you know." "Oh, yes, you are." "Hello, kids. Stop watching Mighty Morphin Power Rangers and come see a four hundred year old play about a depressed aristocrat." A 76 on the Vomit Meter. 3½ Stars. Da'ud Bob says "The play's the thing. Check it out!"





Well, the ads had been both mysterious and intriguing -- a black field with the a knight on horseback in a ball of light, the hint of wings overhead, and a single word. Well, there were other words, too, but two which held our interest more than any of the others: "Sean Connery". I mean, there are people who would walk miles through the snow (uphill! both ways!) to hear Sean Connery read from the telephone book. But there was also that fascinating title. And so it is that this month Da'ud Bob reviews *Dragonheart*.

Starring Dennis Quaid as Bowen, David Thewlis as Einon, Dina Meyer as Kara, Julie Christie as Aislinn, and the voice of Sean Connery as Draco the dragon, this is one of those more or less classic tales of good versus evil. Bowen, a follower (though not a terribly good one that I could see) of the "old" ways, tries to teach young Prince Einon to be better than his father, who is a bit of a tyrant. Well, Einon's father gets himself killed by a bunch of peasants, and it turns out that Einon is more of a tyrant than dad ever thought of being. In the end, Bowen, a professional dragonslayer, teams up with Kara and her less than enthusiastic army of peasants and the last living dragon (all the others having been slain, several by Bowen) to overthrow Einon in the end. It's also a story about the sacrifice of self for others.

Good points: The old ruined "Roman" castle. The traveling monk's scallop shell (a token of his been on the pilgrimage to the shrine of Saint James of Compostela). The last dragon's first faked "death" scene. The dragon's second faked "death" scene (in an entirely different, and if not for the danger, almost hilarious way). The mail worn by many of the fighting men. King Einon's mail hauberk, with the rings of two different colors making a design. The location shots. The soundtrack. The kite shields.

Not so good points: The crown. (Foremost contender for the "Ugly Hat of the Year" award.) The costumes. (Most of which were "sort of" medieval, without following the costumes of any specific time and place that I could find. And the stuff that Bowen, and the other dragonslayers, wore was pretty much fantasy. So do not, repeat, Do Not go see this movie to get costume ideas.) The "ring mail". (Latest evidence I read seem to indicate that it probably never existed in period.) Peasants in rags. (Really! Even poor people in period knew how to hem a garment, for Pete's sake. [If you'll pardon the expression!]) The animation of Draco regularly reminded me of that prime time TV comedy series which starred special effects dinosaurs: not realistic enough and occasionally "funny looking".

Zero breasts (unless you count Draco's). One gallon of blood. 42 dead bodies (not counting dragons). Sword fu. Wooden sword fu. Spear fu. Fireball fu. Tail fu. Fighters roll. Waves roll. Gratuitous special effects. (Is there anybody these days who can make a movie without either George Lucas (Industrial Light & Magic) or Jim Henson's Workshop?) Gratuitous "stick to your teeth" ribs. Academy Award nomination to Sean Connery as the voice of Draco for "Tha must have hurt" and, regarding a piece of another dragonslayer wannabe found in his teeth, "I only chewed in self-defense. But I never swallowed." Filmed in the Republic of Slovakia, a very lovely land. Wonderful final credit: "Read the Troll Book". A 65 on the Vomit Meter. Three and a half stars. Da'ud Bob says "Check it out!"



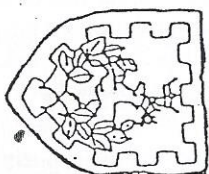
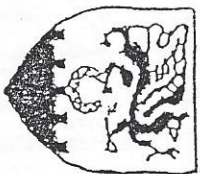
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c/o Pat Hansen

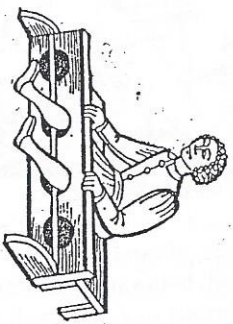
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