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**SHIRE OF
WINDKEEP**

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⌘ **WINDSWEPT** ⌘

**MARCH-APRIL
AS XXXI
(1997)**

Interesting Facts

Serving Size 1 Issue
Serving Per Container About 1

Amount Per Serving

Pages	16 with Cover
Reality	7%*
Directions	18%
Event Descriptions	65%
Scitum	23%
Humor	10%

* Reality information provided for those who have been directed by their physician to restrict their intake of reality.

Percent Daily Values are based on a 20-event per annum attendance. Your daily value may be higher or lower depending on your event need.

INGREDIENTS: TYPING, PRODUCTION HOURS (LATE NIGHTS) BY-PRODUCTS OF TYPEWRITERS, COMPUTERS, FAX MACHINES, & PHOTOCOPIERS; DESIGN, ARTWORK, PASTE-UP, AN OCCASIONAL TYPO, INK, PAPER, HAULING, COLLATING, BOOKLETMAKING WITH TWO STAPLES, LABEL (CONSISTS OF PAPER & ADHESIVE), POSTAGE AND MAILING.

Available by subscription, the Windswept is the most worthy newsletter of the Shire of Windkeep with up-to-the-minute information and is an absolute MUST for those attending events.

99.98%
**Pure
Shire
News**

**produced under the editorship
of Lady Renate
Chronicler of Windkeep**

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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 \$4.50 for six issues; May, June, July, August, Sep-Oct, and Nov-Dec.

Submission and event announcements for next issue are due by April 25th.

A QUEST FOR CALENDAR ARTISTS

The submission deadline has been extended to April 15, 1997

The Caerthe Building Fund is looking for art submissions for the 1998 Artists of the Outlands Calendar. We know our Kingdom is blessed with many talented artists, and we would like to show your work in the 2nd edition of the calendar.

Chosen artists will retain full rights to their work, but will need to sign a release allowing the Building Fund to use their work. And, you will receive a copy of the calendar signed by each of the artists featured.

Art Requirements: black and white only, horizontal orientation, manageable size that will reduce or enlarge well to 8.5 x 11 inches; original work or high quality professional grade prints.

Send submissions or questions to:
Caerthen Building Fund Calendar 1998
c/o Mary Conley
5015 Beach Court
Denver, Colorado 80221
Phone 303-433-0132 - 303-556-2270
E-mail mconley@castle.cudenver.edu

EXCHEQUER'S REPORTS

December, 16 1996-January, 15 1997

Balance forward: \$2,283.33

INCOME

Taster's Feast \$ 14.60

Windswept \$ 96.00

TOTAL \$ 110.60

EXPENSES

Returned Check \$ 20.00

Bank Fee \$ 2.00

TOTAL \$ 22.00

Ending Balance \$2,371.93

January, 16 1997-February, 15 1997

Balance forward: \$2,283.33

INCOME

Taster's Feast \$ 85.00

Windswept \$ 18.00

Returned Check + Fee \$ 22.00

TOTAL \$ 125.00

EXPENSES

Taster's Feast \$ 101.99

Taster's Site (Quarterly) \$ 75.00

Windswept \$ 19.40

TOTAL \$ 196.39

Ending Balance \$2,300.54

CALENDAR

March

Fri	7	DEMO Heraldry	10:30 AM	Jessup	6113 Evers Blvd
Sat	8	Outland's Arts & Sciences Competition			
& Sun	9		9 AM	Kahlland Hobbs, NM	
Tues	11	Research at the Library	7 PM	Laramie County Library	
Fri	14	DEMO Full	9:45 AM	Jessup	6113 Evers Blvd
Sat	15	Dance Collegium/Ball VII	11 AM	Unser Hafen McMillen Bldg	
				Larimer County Fair	
Tues	18	Research Not at that Library	7 PM	10205 Powderhouse Rd	
Thru	20	DEMO Full	8:00 AM-3:10 AM	East High 2800 Pershing	
Fri	21	DEMO Full	8:00 AM-3:10 AM	East High 2800 Pershing	
Tues	25	Taster's Revel	7 PM	Lion's Park Community Center	
Thru	27	DEMO Full Grades 1-4	1 PM	Laramie County Library	
Thru	27	<u>Populace Meeting</u>	7 PM	Laramie County Library	
Sat	29	<u>April Fool's Masque Ball</u>	1 PM	Lion's Park Community Center	

April

Tues	8	Research at the Library	7 PM	Laramie County Library	
Tues	15	Research Not at that Library	7 PM	10205 Powderhouse Rd	
Tues	22	Taster's Revel	7 PM	Lion's Park Community Center	
Thru	24	<u>Populace Meeting</u>	7 PM	Laramie County Library	
Sat	26	<u>Fun & Frolic in the Frost</u>	10 AM	Lion's Park Community Center	
Sat	26	Purple Flamboy/Rent-a-fighter		Caerthe page 7	

May

Sat	10	Outlands Coronation	TBA	Hawks Hollow Jefferson County Fairgrounds	
& Sun	11				
Tues	13	Research at the Library	7 PM	Laramie County Library	
Tues	20	Research Not at that Library	7 PM	10205 Powderhouse Rd	
Thur	22	<u>Populace Meeting</u>	7 PM	Laramie County Library	
Tues	26	Taster's Revel	7 PM	Lion's Park Community Center	

CREDITS

Cover:	Idea from "Crown Prints" Apr 1996 by Mlodn
Movie Review:	by Da'ud Bob ibn Briggs
Armour 1066-1199:	from Glasgow Museum Leaflet Armour 1
Shakespeare:	A Calendar of Festivals by M. Green
The Fool of Arms:	Motley Heraldry by Fool of Arms

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Fighter Practice is on hold. Please contact Lord Duncan at 637-5293 for information and to indicate day and time preferences. Please call Lord Mavrikkii at 778-8536 for information and/or availability of a ride to neighboring fighter practices

Archery is on hold. For information contact m'lord Roger at 778-8536

Armouring is by contact Lord Mavrikkii at 778-8536.

Calligraphers is by appointment only status until interest increases contact Lady Isabeau at 634-3500.

Research at the Library is the second Tuesday evening of each month at Laramie County Library contact Sir Mark at 634-7151.

Research not at that Library is the third Tuesday evening of each month at 10205 Powderhouse Road contact Lord Mlodn at 635-1320. March 18th plan on working on bags for feast gear. Please join us.

Taster's Revel is the fourth Tuesday evening of each month at Lion's Park Community Center from 7 PM to 10 PM. Feast by reservation only. Donation of \$5.00 per person. If you wish to prepare the feast for the monthly Taster's Revel please contact Lady Aldyth at 632-1133 for times available and other information.

March's Taster's shall be on the 25th. Please call Lady Aldyth at 632-1133 for reservations.

April's Taster's shall be on the 22nd. Please call Lady Aldyth at 632-1133 for reservations.

Populace Meeting is normally the fourth Thursday evening of each month at Laramie County Library. March's meeting is the 27th. April's populace shall be on 24th.

Newcomer's copies of the Windswept are available through either the Chronicler or the Hospitaller.

DEMOS at various Schools are scheduled please check the calander for location, time, and dates. Please make an effort to attend. Your knowledge is needed. Thank you.

Seneschal's Report

We have two events coming up: Masked Ball in March and Fun and Frolic in the Frost in April. **T**his is my last report as your Seneschal. I have enjoyed my time in office but I also know that I need to move on.

I want to thank my officers for all their hard work: Duncan-Knight Marshal, Noemi-A & S, Bjarky-Hospitaler, and Asta our Mistress of Lists. A special thanks to Madlen, our Treasurer, who stepped into office and was immediately expected to develop a financial plan for the Shire and to Peredur for his dedication and enthusiasm in rebuilding Fencing here.

At the end of March Renate will step down as Chronicler. I hope you will all find time to thank her for her excellent work. Renate will be assuming the office of Seneschal. Thanks Renate for all the help you have given me on a myriad of projects and both Maestra Francesca and I have every confidence you will make an excellent Seneschal.

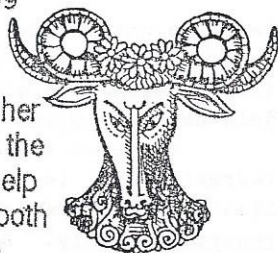
In March the office of Herald will change. Sir Mark is fleeing for the warmer weather of his homeland in the Kingdom of the West. Thanks Mark for your time as Herald and I especially thank you for functioning as my deputy and always offering wise counsel. This Shire will miss you Mark.

Mlodn will be taking over as Herald. Thanks Mlodn for your work on the Windswept and for assisting me when I've asked.

Thank you to all the populace of Windkeep.

In service to the Shire,

Isidore



3 HORNED MASKS

FUN AND FROLIC IN THE FROST

The Shire of Windkeep would like to invite all and sundry (whatever a sundry is it is invited, too) (*Sundry from the Old English syndrig separate, special, private, exceptional: Editor*) to come and enjoy a day of fun, frolic, and fighting with us. On April 26, A.S. XXXI (1997) we will be holding the Fun and Frolic in the Frost. As those of us in the Northern Outlands know, even in April, the temperature can be unpredictable. There could well be frost on the ground that day, but in the event that it is, rampant imagination will receive a most kind reception.

Activities will include at least one heavy weapons tourney (chosen by the autocrat). More heavy tourneys will be run if time and interest permits. There will be a light weapons tourney only if the autocrat (me) receives enough notes of interest to schedule it. There will also be a novelty archery shoot involving combat archery. This shoot pits your skill as an archer against some poor braindead heavy weapons fighter (probably me). I can almost guarantee it will be a fun time for all. In the event that Their Royal Majesties should attend, court will be worked in.

There will also be a feast that evening (you did not think we would forget the food did you?). Feast space is limited to the first 75 paid reservations. Unpaid reservations gain "the waiting list". If you have dietary restrictions, please contact the feast-o-crat. No lunch will be provided

Site is the Lions Park Community Center, 600 South Lions Park Drive, Cheyenne, Wyoming. Site opens at 10:00 AM and closes at 11:00 PM. The site is discretely wet, wine and beer only, remove your empty containers. Make checks payable to: SCA-Windkeep.

Cost: Site \$4.00 Feast \$4.00 Small 5-12 half price, under 5 Free.

Autocrat

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Duncan MacAllister

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Cheyenne, Wyoming 82001

Phone: (307)-637-5293

E-mail: LoneWlf@aol.com

Feast-o-crat

MKA Rebecca Skoetsch

Fekete Hollo Noemi

2513½ East 11th Street

Cheyenne, Wyoming 82001

Phone: (307)-637-5293

E-mail: Varju@aol.com

Directions: Lions Park Community Center; best way to Cheyenne, Wyoming, from I-25 north take exit 12 east (right); continue on Central Ave. to Kennedy Drive (northwest corner of park) turn southwest (right); continue on to Carey Ave. turn southeast (left); continue south on Carey until Lions Park Drive (Botanical Garden), turn east (left); follow SCA signs.

PURPLE FLAMBOYANCE & RENT-A-FIGHTER AUCTION

On Saturday, April 26 at the National Guard Armory (directions below) there will be an event of amazing benefit! **The fighters of Caerthe, as a fundraiser to collect money for their projects, have agreed to be rented to the highest bidder!** Our auctioneer will be Lord Gavin of Birnam Wood, who has promised to treat this auction with all the respect it deserves! The auction will start promptly at 11:00 a.m. All proceeds from the auction will be given to the fighters' fund of Caerthe. Anyone who would like to be auctioned off with the fighters to raise funds for the fighters just needs to show up by 11:00. SPECIAL NOTE: Our seneschal, Lord Roland O'Rourke, has agreed to be raffled off to help raise funds for the fighters. \$1.00 to win a chance at winning the Seneschal!

Cost of this event is \$1.00 site fee and \$4.00 feast fee! Children 12 and under are free!

To start our blood pounding and to bring roses to our cheeks (!) we will begin the day at 8:30 a.m. with a performance class on percussion instruments. At 10:00 a.m. there will be a DRUMMING PRESENTATION led by Master Sylvanus and other premier drummers of the Outlands. To be sure, the floors and ceilings will shake and all who witness this spectacle will be much enlivened! If you have questions regarding the performance class or the drumming presentation, you may contact Master Sylvanus at (303) 684-6707 (Longmont, Colorado).

No lunch is planned to be served, so please remember to bring some eatables of your own!

At 1:00 p.m. after the fighter auction there will be two tournaments presided over by Lady Dovita as MOL. The first tournament will be an escort tourney involving the fighters and those who hold their highest bid in a two-some against their worthy opponents. The non-fighter will be armed with poisoned darts. The second tourney will be a terrific fighters' delight!

At approximately 6:30 p.m. Mistress Aurora has agreed to provide us with an evening feast. She will serve your choice of either roast beef or roast chicken along with pasta in an olive oil/garlic sauce and carrots. The cooks are also putting together a dessert table. Any who would like to bring a dessert for the table is welcome to do so! The site is discreetly wet, period containers only. We will follow this culinary perfection with an evening court where prizes and acknowledgements will be given out.

Evening Court is where the winning raffle ticket will be pulled for the Seneschal!

So now you're wondering where the Purple Flamboyance comes into all of this. In the grand tradition of the former Color Courts of Mistress Morigan de Winter this event will focus on the color Purple! **IN FACT:** this is a **PURPLE CHALLENGE** to the rest of the Kingdom! **SOUND THE DRUMS & LET THE PURPLE WARS BEGIN!** Some of the battles to be held in this War will be: Most Purple Garb (Male, Female, Child); Best Use of Purple; Most Shades of Purple combined to make one outfit; Most Unusual to find an Item being Purple; Most Deadly Purple; Most Eatable Purple; Purple Accessories; etc. (All purple items displayed at this event become the property of the autocrat.)

Site opens at 8:00 a.m. and will close by 10:00 p.m. The autocrat for this event is Tess of the Crossings (306-1430). Questions can also be answered by Lord Kronos at Fighter Practice.

DIRECTIONS: National Guard Armory, 55 South Potomac, Aurora
Best route to I-225. West on 6th Avenue exit to second light which is Potomac. South on Potomac less than 1/2 mile on the west side of street.

April Fool's Masque Ball

March 29, 1997

Shire of Windkeep

The Shire of Windkeep invites all to come and join in our merriment on Saturday, the 29th day of March, AS 31 (1997); for April Fools Masque Ball III. Many silly and frivolous activities are scheduled. Bring a mask, or be prepared to make one there. Prizes will be awarded for the best mask brought, and the best mask made on site. The royalty of misrule will be chosen by chance. Armored fighting and fencing, fun and games will be held according to weather and interest,

Reservations for the feast to serve the first paid 75 is now full.

Day tripping fee (1:00 - 5:30) at the door will be \$5.00. **No sideboard seating permitted.** Dessert/Sotilteis (dessert to serve six) competition with an appropriate prize shall be held. Competition entries close at 5:00 p.m..

Reservations for the feast to serve the first paid 75 is now full.

Site open at 1:00 p.m., closes at midnight, feast at 6:00 p.m. Site is discreetly wet (remove your containers, no hard liquor).

Reservations for the feast to serve the first paid 75 is now full

The site is Lions Park Community Center; 600 South Lions Park Drive. best way to Cheyenne, Wyoming, from I-25 north take exit 12 east (right); continue on Central Ave. to Kennedy Drive (northwest corner of park) turn southwest (right); continue on to Carey Ave. turn southeast (left); continue south on Carey until Lions Park Drive to the left (Botanical Garden), turn east (left); follow SCA signs.

Reservations for the feast to serve the first paid 75 is now full.

Contact Autocrat: Lady Renate Koven (Pat Hansen), 10205 Powderhouse Road, Cheyenne, Wyoming 82009-9689, telephone (307)-635-1320.

ARMOUR

1066-1199

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

Part V "Under, Overgarments and Footwear" to be continued!!

Beneath the hauberk and pourpoint a linen shirt was worn. In the 10th century epic poem 'Gudrun' the clothes of the hero Herwig are described as 'stained with the rust of his hauberk', which puts paid to the idea that nothing was worn under the hauberks – an idea which seems to have arisen from inaccurate 19th century restorations of the Bayeux Tapestry. This linen tunic reached down above the knee but could be below it. Bishop Odo is described as wearing his



hauberk over a white cloth shirt, the long skirt of which appeared under the hauberk. It remained longer than the hauberk throughout the 12th century. When archers are shown with hauberks, they wear them over close-fitting tunics, cut square at the hem and under these plain shirts with tight sleeves ending at the wrist.

The principal leg wear up to 1150 was nothing or loose fitting linen breeches held up by a running cord around the waist. These reached to the ankle, though some may have had feet attached. Hose were then drawn up over the breeches to the knee. From 1150 the breeches shortened to the knee, and therefore became entirely underwear. The hose developed and widened out at the thigh, the shortened breeches being tucked into them. These long hose of close-fitting material were cut to a point at the thigh and tied up by laces to the waist cord. It also appears that mail chausses (see HARD ARMOUR) were probably attached to this breech girdle cord, which was exposed at intervals. When chausses were used hose of thicker material were worn. Up until the early 12th century the breeches were bound with cross-straps of leather or linen from knee to ankle. These later hose may have ended at the ankle and had a loop under the foot or may have covered the foot as well. By the end of the 12th century footed hose with leather soles (for use without shoes) existed. However, most warriors probably had footwear of some description made of skin.



to be continued.

THE ENIGMA OF SHAKESPEARE

One famous name whose birthday is celebrated in April is William Shakespeare. Shakespeare is still an enigmatic character and though his works are known and enjoyed worldwide, his very existence is still a matter of great debate. None of his works survive in his handwriting, but appear in print in the famous First Folio, issued in 1623, long after the year of his death. His thirty-seven well known plays, the comedies, the tragedies and the historic plays, must have all had some common author, yet nowhere are there working scripts, no rough copies scribbled on the backs of old play bills.

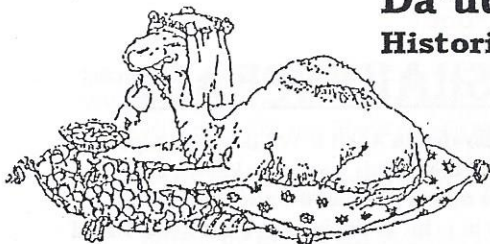
Computers have analyzed the style, the language and the format of all the known works, and technical equipment has x-rayed the memorial plaque behind which it was presumed his bones or his manuscripts rested, all to no avail. Some scholars have devoted their entire lives to uncovering who the real William Shakespeare might have been, and put forth some strange options, including the notion that the plays were a part-time hobby of Queen Elizabeth I, or that they were really the works of other Acting Companies of the latter half of the sixteenth century.

In the sixteenth century the plays were performed as entertainment for the common folk, and the in-jokes and situations portrayed must have been familiar to them. Shakespeare was well-versed in the secret side of life too, for his witches in *Macbeth* have become almost archetypal of witches everywhere, stirring their pot on the blasted heath, making potions from herbs and mushrooms and all kinds of evil-sounding things (many of which are in fact common names for plants and weeds!). He has ghosts in several plays--*Macbeth* and *Hamlet* for example--and he has fairies and spirits in others--*Midsummer Night's Dream* and *the Tempest*. Several of his works show some deeper knowledge of astrology and alchemy; occasionally he dresses his characters in the colors and guises of the planets and heavenly bodies.

Disguise and transformation scenes, ladies dressing as men, characters becoming animals, as Bottom does in *Midsummer Night's Dream*--with these ruses Shakespeare appears to the inner senses of the audience in just the same way that makers of science fiction and fantasy films do today. It is this timeless and unchanging theme of myth that Shakespeare and other writers have continued to exploit in theater, literature and poetic tale through all the ages. It still entertains us because at some inner level of our own beings we sense an enduring truth within the story. Love conquering all, evil being ousted, equity and law triumphing over darkness and dispute. The themes remain. "In Spring the young man's fancy turns to love." "If music be the food of love, play on..." "All the world's a stage and men and women merely players..."

On Shakespeare's birthday there is a procession through Stratford on Avon to the church where a wreath of flowers is laid. The twenty-third of April is the date of his death, as well as his birth, according, if not to fact, to scholarly decision. From the registering of his Baptism on 26 April, 1564, to his death in 1616, his exact life story has remained a mystery, yet the vast richness of literature attributed to his quill is the cause for celebrating festivals all over the world.

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



"Four hours," I thought to myself. "Four Hours!" I hadn't sat through a four-hour long movie since I last watched the 97 minutes of *Deathstalker II*. So even that wasn't really four hours long; it only seemed like it. And what else had been that long? Even *Cleopatra*, during which I fell asleep the first time I saw it (I awoke during the naval battle), was only three hours. Still, this was going to be Shakespeare. And if the director's other three movies of Shakespeare plays was any indication, then this one would be well worth going to see. And so it is that this month, with flat fanny and bloated bladder, Da'ud Bob reviews Kenneth Branagh's *Hamlet*.

With enough well-known actors in it to sink the Titanic, this one stars Kenneth Branagh in the title role, Kate Winslet as Ophelia, Derek Jacobi (in one of what I believe to be his finest roles) as Claudius, Julie Christie as Gertrude, Richard Briers as Polonius, Michael Maloney as Laertes, Nick Farrell as Horatio, Timothy Spall as Rosencrantz, Reece Dinsdale as Guildenstern, Brian Blessed as the ghost of Hamlet's father (Hamlet, Sr.), Rufus Sewell as Fortinbras, and a fair bit of "stunt casting", including John Gielgud, Billy Crystal, Jack Lemmon, Charlton Heston, Robin Williams, Gerard Depardieu, and the Duke of Marlborough in minor roles. (I can just see the conversation now. Ken: "Your Grace. We'd like to borrow your house for a couple of months to shoot a movie." The Duke of Marlborough: "What's in it for me?" Ken: "We'll put you in the movie." The Duke: "But I'm not an actor." Ken: "That's okay. It'll be a non-speaking role." The Duke: "Cool! It's a deal.") The plot you should already know. (Shakespeare really isn't all that subtle in his plots. This is a tragedy. That means that all the major characters die in the end.) So, what can I say about this movie? (Besides that it's long, I mean.)

Some of the parts of especial merit are: The location shots. The library. (Oh, the library! I want that library!) The furnishings. The music. The fight scene. Fortinbras' army on the march. The main hall, with all of its stairs and mirrors. And, of course, the language of Shakespeare. (I had forgotten how many common "modern" sayings and clichés first appeared in *Hamlet*.)

Does everything work? No, not really. But the faults are so small compared to the whole that they hardly matter. Gerard Depardieu seems out of place, and says little more than "Yes, my lord" several times in a heavy French accent. Robin Williams looks like he'd be more comfortable somewhere else. Some people don't like the flashback scenes, though personally I thought they worked very well and did not detract from the narrative. The earth splitting and smoking in the woods scene felt a little overdone. Ophelia being literally hosed down seemed a bit gratuitous.

No breasts (almost, but not quite). Two and a half gallons of blood. Nine dead bodies (not counting the ghost). Thunder rolls. Phrases roll. Snow falls. Dagger fu. Sword fu. Poisoned sword fu. Poisoned drink fu. Forgery fu. Gratuitous hosing down Ophelia. Gratuitous chasing after ghosts in the woods. Academy Award nominations to Kenneth Branagh for bringing a fresh approach to Hamlet to us; to Derek Jacobi as Claudius for one of his finest and most believable performances yet; to Brian (the Hawkman) Blessed as the ghost of Hamlet's father for hardly looking like himself; and to Charlton Heston as the head of the touring actors company for taking a minor role and making it seem to dominate the screen (he's always going to be Moses, isn't he?). A mere 24 on the *Vomit Meter*. Four stars. Da'ud Bob says, "Even though it's not in wide release, definitely check this one out!"



Our Founder

Serving the Steppes Since AS XXI

I know. I'd missed it while it was playing in the theaters. But it wasn't my fault! My car wouldn't start. My dog was sick. I fell down and broke my leg. My grandmother needed me. I had a flat tire. A tree blew down and blocked the driveway. A volcano erupted in the backyard. Some Gulf Coast mosquitoes flew away with all of the livestock in the neighborhood. The earth opened up and swallowed my trailer home. I ran out of Dr. Pepper and M&Ms at the same time. It Wasn't My Fault!

Fortunately, the video release wasn't that far away. And so it is that this month, Da'ud Bob reviews *Cutthroat Island*.

Starring Geena Davis as Morgan Adams, Matthew Modine as William Shaw ("that's Doctor Shaw", though he isn't, really), and Frank Langella as "Dog" Morgan, this is the swashbuckling story of hidden treasure, a falling out among thieves and brothers, crosses and double-crosses, love and hate, good versus evil, and just a whole lot of fun along the way. In other words, it's your typical pirate movie, only the lead is a woman instead of Errol Flynn this time. (Kind of like an old Maureen O'Hara pirate movie, in fact. What, you've never seen any old Maureen O'Hara costume dramas? For shame! Go to your local video mega-store, and sin no more! You don't know what you've been missing. The costumes may not be all that good, but O'Hara makes a wonderful swashbuckler.)

The good points: Things blow up. Lots of things blow up. Far more things blow up than should. The ships. The wigs. Geena's boots and gauntlets. (I don't think that they were necessarily all that historically authentic, mind you, but they sure do look nice!) Some of the costuming looked very authentic. The ship-to-ship broadsides. The effects of cannonball hits on the ships. Everybody looks like they had a good time making the movie.

The bad points: Great gobs of silliness. Long distance -- ship to bouncing ship -- crack shooting with a smoothbore musket. (Let's get real -- some of those old muskets would have a hard time hitting a barn. From the inside.)

Zero breasts. Three and a half gallons of blood. 39 dead bodies, including three that were seriously dead (complete with gratuitous carrion birds!). One seriously smooshed dead spider. Carriages roll. Waves roll. Ships roll. Men at arms roll. Pirates roll. Kung fu. Shovel fu. Sable fu. Musket fu. Pistol fu. Cannon fu. Hand cannon fu. Way too many insufficiently paid stunt people. (I don't care how much money they were paid. For some of those stunts, they weren't paid enough!) Gratuitous cockroaches. Gratuitous quicksand. Gratuitous rat. Academy Award nominations to the monkey, King Charles, for his "smell no evil" pose and for his salute to Morgan; to Frank Langella as Dog for "Love; who can explain it?" when he obviously knows nothing at all about it; and to Geena Davis as Morgan for "By the way, that won't work. You see, I took your balls" and for "Bad Dog!" An 83 on the Vomit Meter. 2½ stars. Da'ud Bob says "Check it out!"



THE FOOL OF ARMS

Once on a winter's night, a vagrant Fool,
Passing by fire-lit panes which told of Yule
Cheerily kept, peeped through the glass and saw
Three Kings who feasted in a noble hall
With Pursuivants and Heralds. As they sipped
Their wines of *gules* and *or*, and slowly stripped
The plenteous board of flesh and fruit, they spoke
Of some deep matter. Not a smile broke
Their high solemnity, nor laughter ran
About the tables; but on every man
Sat gravity unshaken.

Quoth the Fool:

'Now by my faith, was ever such a pool
Of rainbow-trout waiting the tickler's touch!
An if I charm them not until I clutch
Some royal guerdon, call me fool indeed!
So to the door he sprang, and, without heed
To startled porters, strode into the hall,

His tattered motley travesty all
That rich heraldic pomp.

‘A boon!’ he cried.

‘I plead a suit that will not be denied
By lords of many coats. Grant me array
Of livery, and in this court to play
The jester’s trump; for what do three Kings score
Unless the joker come to make them four?
And Heralds must the *humerus* condone,
For who bears arms without a funny-bone?’

More had he uttered, but the underlings
Of that proud court, with blows and buffetings,
Hustled him to the door; but there he turned
And said, ‘’Tis folly’s fortune to be spurned.
Yet I have heard, there were three Kings as wise,
One other Christmas, who did not despise
An ass’s company.’

Sudden in behest

Spake Garter: ‘Clothe, and feed, and let him rest.’

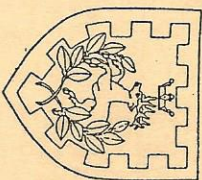
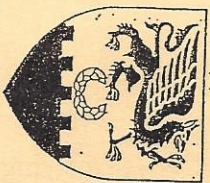
So was he Fool of Arms, his task to regale
The Heralds in their leisure with some tale
Of chivalry; his pleasure to obtain
Scraps of their lore. These his fantastic brain
Rendered in nonsense-verse—a frothy brew
Not for his masters, but the unlearned crew
Lapped it and chuckled.

And in later times

Another Fool of Arms and Knave of Rimes
Chanced on some fragments of the jester’s lays,
Filched his ideas, re-wrote them for new days
(With more of wit and less of ribaldry)
And published them as

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