

windswept



SEPTEMBER

A.S. XXVI (1991)

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This is The Windswept, published by and for the members of the Shire of Windkeep, in the Kingdom of the Outlands, of the Society for Creative Anachronism, Inc. It is only a supplement to the Outlandish Herald and is not intended as a substitute. It is not an official publication of the SCA, Inc., and makes no attempt to delineate SCA policy. Articles of an informational nature published in the Windswept may be reprinted -- in their entirety and with due credit -- without permission unless otherwise noted; rights to art, poetry, stories and other such creative works remain those of the Windswept & the original artist and can not be reprinted without written permission. Subscription rates are \$8.00 per year for 12 issues (pro-rated quarterly) beginning in January. Submissions and event announcements are due by the 1st of the month.

What's happening in your Shire? Where's the local excitement to be found?

Find out in The Windswept! Price for the remainder of 1991 (3 issues) is \$2.00

SCA Name: _____

Mundane Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Mail subscriptions and submissions to: The Windswept c/o Cristina Sheats

2940 Plum Drive / Cheyenne WY 82001

(Make checks payable to: SCA - Shire of Windkeep)

Calender for September 1991

- 26 Caerthe(CO) - Color Court (Morrigan 303-940-0746)
29 Populace Meeting - Call Rhys for new address

October

- 5-6 Windkeep - Crown Tourney (Rhys 307-632-1133)
11-12 Unser Hafen(CO) - Medieval Fair Demo (Mazuna 303-224-5165)
19 Caerthe - Mysterious Caerthen Event (Arianwen 303-337-6312)
Pending Windkeep - Hunter's Feast (Rhys 632-1133)

November

- 5-6 Caerthe(CO) - Coronation (Morrigan 303-940-0746)
9 Dragonspine(CO) - Viking Vinter Vonderland (Lothar 719-687-1449)
16 Caerthe(CO) - A & S Collegium (Wyndyllyn 303-355-6588)
23 Unser Hafen(CO) - A & S Competition (Drahomira 303-663-1513)

December

- 7 Caer Galen(CO) - Midwinter (Alexia)

January

- 4 Caerthe(CO) - Twelfth Night (Ava 303-469-0406)

Febuary

- 8 Caerthe(CO) - Abbey on the Mesa (Kate 303-080-3162)

March

- 7 Unser Hafen(CO) - Dance Collegium (Titus 303-490-2936)
21 Caerthe(CO) - Middle Eastern Event (Fiachra)

Regular Happenings

Read Carefully for they may not be marked on the main calender

Fighter Practice (Heavy & Light weapons): Tuesday evenings in Holiday Park at 5pm. Some loaner gear available - call Thorman (634-0224) or Mavellic (778-8536) for details.

Armorer's Guild: Want to build or learn about armor? This guild is just for you! For more details contact the Guildmaster: Mavellic (778-8536)

All Guilds Night: Thursdays at Lord Christophe's from 6:30 to whenever. All are welcome. Come to practice, sew garb, build armor, or just socialize, but please limit projects to those SCA related. For info call Lord Christophe or Lord Rhys.

Windkeep Archery Practice: Practice is available Monday thru Saturday. Contact Lord Rhys (632-1133) to set up specific time for you to shoot. Loaner bows are available.

Populace Meetings: The last Sunday of each month at Lord Rhys' house unless otherwise noted. Meetings are in garb, and start at 7:00pm. Occasionally the meetings will be potluck and start at an earlier time. Such meetings will be noted on the calender.

Unser Hafen Dance Practice: 2nd and 4th Mondays at 7:00pm. Practices are at Sundance Steakhouse - 2716 E Mulberry. Call Lady Catriona (303-226-2018) or Lady Tehri Hadeel (303-482-6608) for more information.

Unser Hafen Fighter Practice: Sundays from 1pm at Spring Creek Park. For more information call Lord Galen of Shadowraven at 303-229-9507. Loaner armor is available.

Cover by Kostbera: The Griffin is a winging quadruped born in Hyperborean parts, or in mountains. All its bodily members are like a lion's, but its wings and mask are like an eagle's. It is vehemently hostile to horses, but it will also tear to pieces any human beings it happens to come across. The Book of Beasts; being a translation from a Latin Bestiary of the 12th Century; TH White; New York; 1984

Our End of the Kingdom - Nearby events to plan for

For more information consult the Outlandish Herald

Color Court: Furs & Metals - September 28 - Arvada, CO Light weapons. Feast-DRY site.

Dancing and contests for costumes, food, and banners. Site \$3 -site/feast \$15 - call Morrigan di Winter 303-940-0746 for reservations.

Crown Tournament - October 5-6 - Cheyenne, WY See ad in this issue.

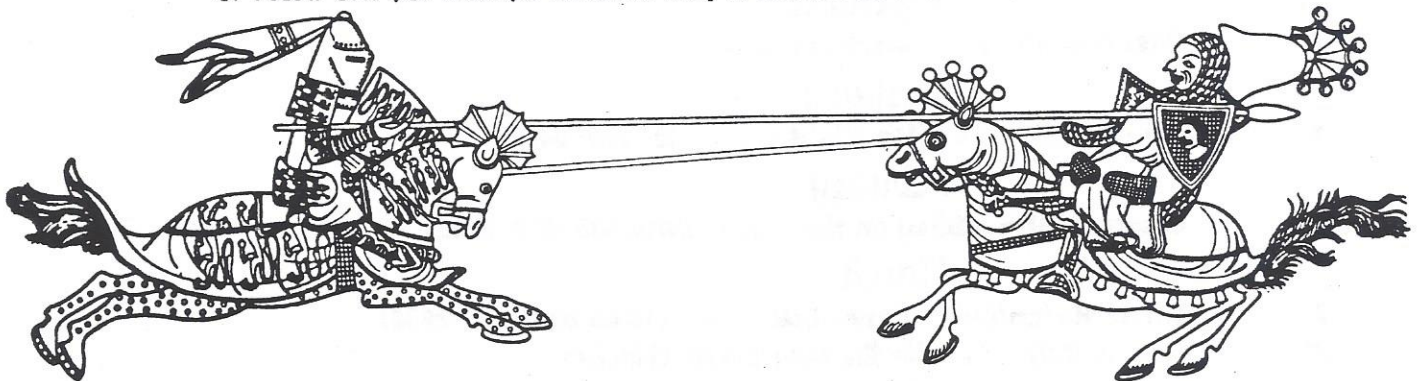
Hunter's Feast - October 26-27 - Cheyenne, WY Pending due to site complications.

Coronation - November 2-3 - Denver, CO Fighting pending. Feast. Kingdom fundraiser.

Reservations until Sept 30: members \$8/non \$10 - until Oct 18 members \$10/non \$12. Site fee \$5 both days/ \$3.50 one day. Autocrat: Morrigan di Winter 303-940-0746

Viking Vinter Wonderland VII - November 9 - Green Mountain Falls, CO Battles and Yiking games. Feast. Wet Site. Reservations needed by Oct 26. Site \$7/Feast \$5 Autocrat: Lothar 719-687-1449

Unser Hafen A & S Competition - November 23 - Ft Collins, CO Categories for all sorts of A & S. Feast. Site \$3/feast \$5 Autocrat: Lady Drahomira 303-663-1513



The horse was an ancient symbol of power and kingship, so that many very early coins bear this device in one form or another. In the middle Ages there were various types of horse, each serving a special purpose or class of people as indicated by this poem.

A courser for the warrior,
A rouncy for the squire,
A sumpter for the baggage-train,
A screwbald for the friar;

But I will braid the jennet
And shine the bridle-rein
For the riding of my lady
When she is home again.

A destrier for jousting,
A hackney for the maid,
A palfrey for the princely one
Who preens it on parade;

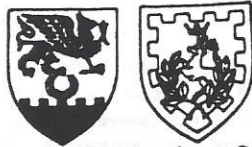
But I will gloss the jennet
That is cosy in the hay
For the riding of my lady
In the merry month of May.

A Dictionary of Chivalry; Grant Uden; New York; 1968

From the Unofficial "Horse Guild"

The barding for their majesties mounts is well under way. The verdant caparisons have been fitted and only await the careful application of the Kingdom ensigns. It is the hope of Kostbera and Aleydis that the unofficial "horse guild" will continue long after the barding is complete. If there are any others interested in the Medieval Horse, either as a scholar or as a rider, they are welcome to join us as we seek knowledge on this most noble of beasts and its place in the Middle Ages.

**Crown Tournament
5 & 6 October 1991**



The Shire of Windkeep is proud to host Crown Tournament on October 5th & 6th, 1991, and invites all gentles to attend. The Tournament will be held in the Sunken Gardens of Lions Park. In the event of inclement weather, the indoor site will be the gymnasium of Anderson Elementary School. The site will open at 8:00 a.m., with Court, armor inspection, and Crown Tournament occurring, at the Crown's discretion shortly thereafter. Crash space is limited but available. We have also contacted several hotels and motels in the area regarding discounted lodging. Please call the autocrat for arrangements. A feast will be held at First Christian Church, corner of 27th and Carey. Please refer to map for location and directions.

The feast site will open at 4:00 p.m. for set up, with the feast starting at 6:00 p.m. Please note that all sites are BONE DRY, no alcohol at all.

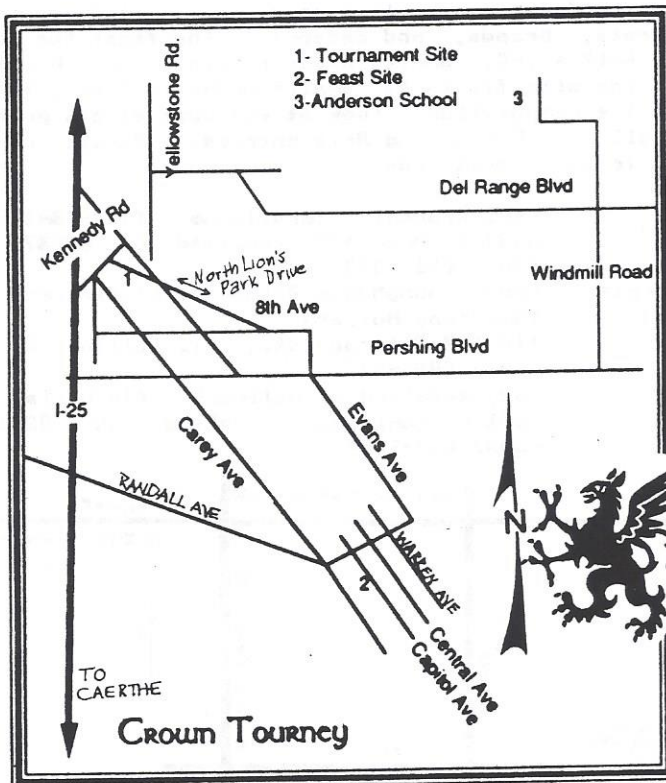
Tentatively, the feast will consist of:

- Breads, Spreads, Meats & Cheeses
- Fowl in Sauces with Rice and Peas
- Stew in Pastry Bowls
- Salmon Steaks with Legumes
- Fried Fruited Meats with Green Salad
- Desert Sideboard

There may be additions and/or substitutions due to availability.

There will be a tournament on Sunday beginning 10:00 a.m. SCA time. The fees for the weekend are as follows: \$5.00 site fee and \$7.00 feast fee for a total of \$12.00. Smalls 3 - 12 are half price, and under 3 are free. The Feast will be limited to the the first 200 reservations. Those who wish to help with the feast of the tournament will have their fees adjusted. Those gentles wishing to help need to contact either the autocrat or the feastocrat in advance. Merchants are welcome. Please call and reserve space for your wares. Reservations will be accepted buy mail until October 1. Please ensure that you include with your check or money order your Shire or Barony, how many you are paying, for and their society and mundane names. Make checks or money orders payable to SCA- Windkeep. After October 1, please contact the feastocrat for feast reservation availability. To avoid confusion, please bring your fees to the site rather than sending them by mail if your reservation is made after October 1.

Autocrat : Lord Rhys Afalwin
 Feastocrat: Lady Aldith o Baddon Poeth
 3400 S. Greeley Hwy #133
 Cheyenne, WY 82007
 (307) 632-1133



UNSER HAFEN ARTS & SCIENCES COMPETITION

Unser Hafen's first Baronial Arts & Sciences Competition, will be held Saturday, November 23, at the Foothills Unitarian Church, 1815 Yorktown Ave., Ft. Collins (same place as Kingdom Arts & Sciences Collegium and Flowers of the Desert), 10 am to 9:30 pm.

Now is the time to be thinking about projects, and their documentation. You do not have to be an expert to enter; the idea is to let the people of the barony and surrounding lands see and admire what you have done lately. I want to see as many things entered as possible. Group entries are welcome in the Performing Arts. Documentation should be about a page, describing what it is, how you did it, and how it would have been done in period. This is the current list of categories.

FUNCTIONAL ARTS

- Glass
- Carving - Wood
- Carving - Other Materials
- Ceramics
- Leather
- Wood Construction
- Blacksmithing
- Fine Metals

VISUAL ARTS

- Calligraphy
- Illumination
- Drawing & Painting

CULINARY

- Breads
- Meat & Vegetable Dishes
- Sweets
- Brewing
- Herbs

TEXTILES

- Sewing - Clothing
- Sewing - Other Objects
- Needlework
- Lacemaking
- Weaving
- Spinning
- Dyeing

PERFORMING ARTS

- Music - Vocal
- Music - Instrumental
- Storytelling
- Court Dance
- Ethnic Dance

MIXED TECHNIQUES

- Jewelry
- Toys & Games
- Musical Instruments
- Armor

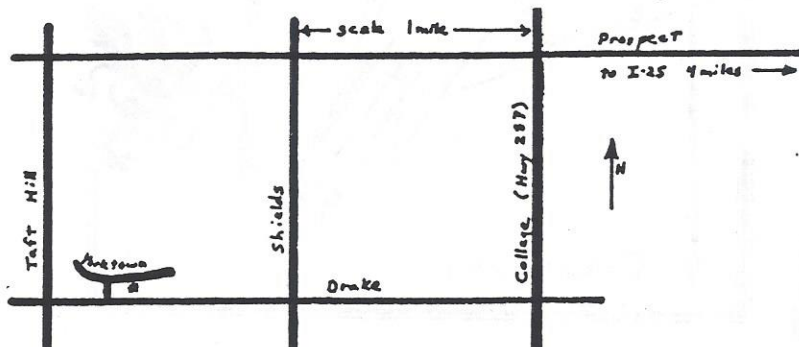
WRITTEN WORKS

- Original Poetry
- Original Prose
- Research
- Instructional

Items that have won a first place in a category (or higher) at an Outlands Kingdom Arts & Sciences competition are welcome to be displayed, but they will not compete.

The evening feast currently consists of stuffed capon, scalloped apples, carrots, breads, and dessert. The feast fee will be \$5 (smalls ages 6-12 \$2.50, smalls under 6 free). Lunch will also be available. The site fee is \$3 (smalls under 12 free), for which you get to enter the competition, look at everyone else's pretty things, and enjoy all the Performing Arts entries. Please contact Lady Rosalind for feast reservations.

- autocrat: Lady Drahomira Jaroslavna (Jodi Smith)
6333 E. Hwy. 402, Loveland CO 80537
(303) 663-1513
- deputy autocrat: Lady Fionnghuala Bethoc of Lindisfarne
(Steffeny Muller)
410 1/2 Peterson St., Ft. Collins CO 80524
(303) 484-5387
- feastocrat: Lady Rosalind of Wellmark (Jo Wells)
3601 El Caminito, Loveland CO 80537
(303) 667-1284



On Waxing Leather

by Lady Maeve of Falconguard

Artificially hardened leather armor, called cuir-boulli, has been employed as protective armor since ancient times, and was widely used by the Roman armies under the Empire. In the 13th century, when the use of chainmail was giving way to plate armor, much of the early plate was made of hardened leather. It was made in medieval Europe by soaking leather in vats of heated wax or pitch. Cuir-boulli was used throughout the age of armor for everything from cuirasses to crests on helmets.

Since it can be rather difficult for most people to have large vats of wax and the means to heat them in their kitchens or backyards, I present a method for small-scale leather waxing. A couple of warnings: waxing leather is not a very neat procedure, and hardened wax is extremely difficult, if not impossible, to remove from some things that you'd rather not have wax on. Make sure you have lots of newspaper or a plastic cover for your work area, and wear old clothes.

Before starting, you should have all of the leather pieces cut out and all needed holes and/or slots punched. If you wish, all straps/buckles/etc. can be attached before waxing; this may or may not be a good idea depending on how complex the piece is (a leather vambrace, for example, can be completely assembled before waxing it, but it would be a less messy operation to wax the pieces of a gauntlet separately before riveting it all together). Any decoration to the leather, such as dyeing, stamping, or carving, should be done before waxing---the wax will seal and waterproof the leather, preventing dye (or water, necessary for stamping) from soaking into the leather. If you wish to dye the leather before waxing, make sure you use penetrating dye instead of acrylic dye to color, as acrylic dyes also seal the surface of the leather (something you don't want before any wax gets in).

A note on the types of leather to use: All of my experience in waxing leather has been with vegetable-tanned, or tooling, leather, and the results have been extremely satisfactory. I have not tried to wax latigo and other oil-tanned leathers; my knowledge in this area tells me that the wax will probably penetrate some of these leathers, but the final product won't be as stiff due to the oil content of the leather. Some water-proof leathers may also be wax-proof (at least on the grain side). If in doubt, experiment with a small piece of the leather in question.

As for the thickness of the leather, thin leather can be waxed, but it doesn't have much rigidity thereafter. Most of the stuff that I have used is at least 1/8" - 3/16" thick (i.e., heavy belt leather, saddle skirting)---when this size leather is saturated with wax, it holds its shape acceptably well.

If you are using vegetable tanned leather, don't rush quickly from the cutting to the waxing without putting any thought into decorating the piece---Stamping a single design along the edges is simple, fairly quick, and does wonders for personalizing your armor. Even just dyeing your leather a different color will set it apart from everyone else's armor. Wax is a wonderful preservative for ornamented leather, and ornamentation is period---armored effigies from the 1300's show decorated greaves that appear to be made of molded leather. Keep in mind that the wax will darken any color you choose to dye the leather with.

To wax the leather, you will need the following materials: 1 blow-dryer; paraffin wax (commonly sold as Gulfvax in grocery stores under canning supplies, for a little more than a dollar a pound); a paintbrush

On Waxing Leather...

(at least 1" wide; use a cheap plastic-bristled brush); and something to melt the wax in (I use a plastic food-storage container).

Preliminary preparation: Spread newspaper or plastic around. Remember, this could get messy!

Step 1. Melt wax by placing the container full of wax chunks (smaller chunks melt faster) in a pot of boiling water---DO NOT HEAT WAX DIRECTLY OVER A BURNER OR FLAME. Paraffin wax is volatile at high temperatures, and the fumes ARE flammable. Anyway, setting it over boiling water makes it harder to overheat the wax. For microwave oven users---wax does not melt in a microwave, but you can boil the water in the microwave oven and melt the wax over the water just as you can with a stove.

Step 2. Lay leather pieces on newspaper. With the dryer on the hottest setting, blow-dry the leather a little to warm it (this helps the initial wax penetration).

Step 3. Brush a layer of molten wax on the leather, covering the surface. Depending on how warm the leather was (and how hot the wax is), some of the wax will penetrate immediately, but for the most part, wax will cool and harden as a layer on the surface.

Step 4. Using the hottest setting on the blow-dryer, blow hot air on the waxed leather until all the wax melts and soaks into the leather. This is the messy part, as once the wax melts, it will try to run rapidly away from the stream of air quicker than it can penetrate the leather (Remember making weird paintings in kindergarden by blowing paint around paper with a straw?). Use the paintbrush to help keep the runaway molten wax on the leather. It will be obvious when all the brushed-on wax has soaked in, as the leather will look dry.

Step 5. Turn the leather pieces over and repeat steps 3 and 4 on the back of the leather. The wax usually soaks in faster on the flesh side than the grain side.

Step 6. Repeat step 5 until the piece has as much wax in it as you want. When the leather reaches a point where it looks continually wet underneath the blow-dryer, then the leather is saturated with wax. Wipe off the excess wax from the surfaces.

Step 7. Bend the warm waxed leather into the approximate desired shape (if it won't stay, then use string or something to hold it there), and set it aside to cool. Small pieces can be cooled in the freezer---after a few minutes, they'll be as hard as a rock.

Step 8. Assemble the pieces (if necessary) as required to finish the piece of armor.

After-care for waxed leather, especially heavily-saturated waxed leather, is rather minimal---anytime the leather gets too flexible or is crushed out of shape, it can be re-waxed and reshaped.

For period-armor buffs: since paraffin (a petroleum derivative) was not known in the Middle Ages, beeswax would be the wax of choice. Beeswax is denser and melts at higher temperatures than paraffin, and also smells wonderful. However, beeswax can be rather expensive if bought in the wrong places. If you're interested in trying beeswaxed leather, find a local beekeeper to obtain the wax from (the price can be less than half of what sewing/crafts stores sell it for). As for pitch (which stinks and is a mess to work with), I would recommend sticking with wax.

Finally, here is the promised questionnaire.

As stated in the publication statement, The Windswept is a supplement, not a substitute, to the Outlandish Herald; it is, however, published for the populace of Windkeep and answering these questions will help shape the next year's Windswept into the newsletter the Shire would like to have. All comments will be considered and welcome.

Should the Windswept be more strongly oriented toward advertising events or presenting articles of the Arts & Sciences?

Some newsletters have reports from all the officers, some none at all. Which officers, if any, should include monthly (or bi-monthly?) reports in the Windswept?

A suggestion has been made that the Windswept become a monthly one or two page "event flyer" with quarterly Arts & Sciences issues. What are your thoughts on that?

What items currently in the Windswept are, in your view, unnecessary? What items would you like to see included (describe new ideas)?

Please describe what you think the Windswept should be and represent (the more detail your willing to put in the more helpful this will be).

Are there any changes or improvements that you would like to see made to the Windswept's current format?

Please return questionnaires by October 25th or sooner. Copies of this form are welcome.

WINDSWEPT
c/o Cristina Sheats
2940 Plum Drive
Cheyenne, WY 82001



TIME VALUE: DON'T DELAY



Norman knights hurrying to Hastings, 1066; from the Bayeux Tapestry