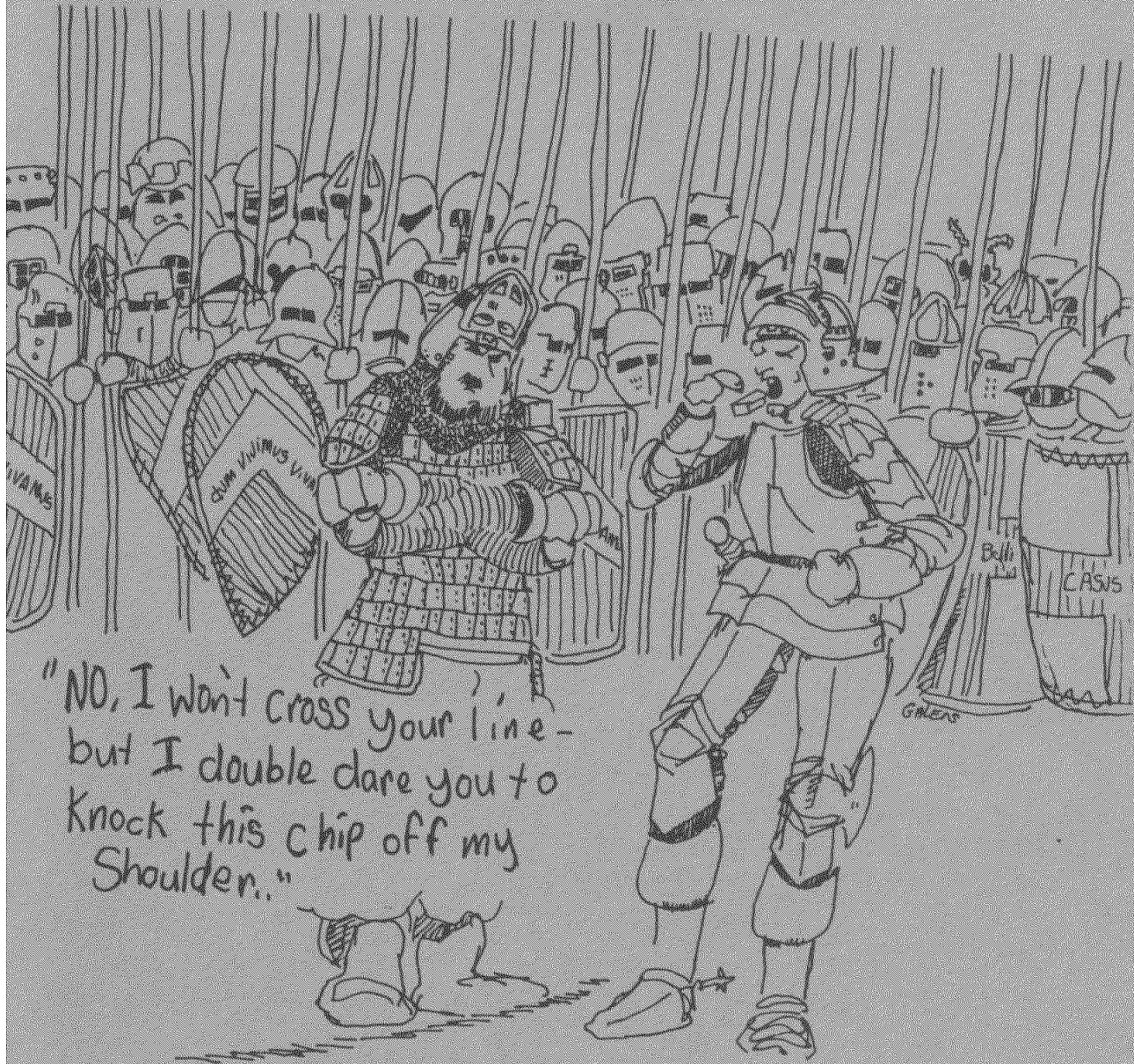


FLOWER OF SOUVENANCE

#10

issue price \$2.00



Cover Art by Lord Galen of Wiltshire.

LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

Greetings!

Welcome to the Third Anniversary issue of the Flower of Souvenance!

Readers, in the center of this issue is a questionnaire that is necessary for you to fill out and send to me by October 1, 1990. I will be publishing the results of this poll and the disussion to be held at Pennsic XIX, more information to be given on the form itself. Oh...you didn't know about the discussion? Well...

There will be a class held at Pennsic on Thursday, the 16 of August at 1:00 to 3:00 PM. (Location to be posted at Heralds Point.) This class will be an open discussion regarding ladies armor standards and minimum Society requirements for women. The point of this discussion is to begin to come to some agreement what Society-wide "necessary protection" for women should be. His Excellency Viscount Wulfbrand Lurkr (Society Marshal) will be in attendance to take the suggestions under consideration.

If I may be allowed to be mundane for a bit here is something for all of you who are into comics as much as I am: Once upon a time there was a comic Sisterhood of Steel created and written by Christy Marx and published by Marvel's Epic Comics. Unfortunately I am only able to locate 1, 2 and 3. From the looks of it this is a darn cool concept. It is not only your basic 'Amazon pulp', but much more. Set, of course, in an alternate time-line, there are many parallels to be drawn form this to our own historical treatment of women who dared to fight with men. This, however, has a much more solid grasp than historical theory. It brings emotion, power plays and racial tension to a whole new height. For those of us who still re-read Amazons and Amazons II and are sick of the "butch" woman warrior in a chain mail bikini, it is a treat to read.

Look for the ad in Tournaments Illuminated and also the article on the survey results to appear in II at a later date, maybe.

As no doubt a few of you will notice, "Vixen's Keep" by William Blackfox is not included in this issue. Due to unfortunat mundane circumstances he was unable to make the deadline for the August FOS. However, in FOS #11 he will continue 'Old Scars' in a special six page installment! Be prepared, it promises to be a dramatic shocker!

As always, in service to the SCA and those upon the Field of Combat,
Cymber

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Publication falls in the following months; February, May, August, and November. All submissions must be received before the first of the month of publication the author wishes that article to appear. Starting 1990 publication will commence regardless of submission allotment or the lack of it. All mailing of current and back issues will occur at the same time on or about the end of the month of publication. If any problems occur with mailing to subscribers, they are encouraged to write the editor for clarification.

Advertising is printed as space allows. Rates are \$20.00 full page, \$10.00 half page, \$5.00 quarter page. All checks and money orders must be made payable to KC Lancaster. DO NOT SEND CASH THROUGH THE MAIL

Polearm Fighting Part II

Sir Kazimier of Silesia

Caid

Now for the rattan versus fiberglass polearm "controversy". Frankly the fiberglass polearm does not droop, bow or sway like the rattan polearm can, it has better point control than the rattan weapon. It tends to be lighter and hit harder. On the down side, the fiberglass pole is slightly harder on the hand and arm since the impact of a thrust carries down to the grasping hand of the user. After using rattan poles, it didn't take to much adjustment to the more direct and precise movement of the fiberglass polearm.

My rattan polearm with its "period" droop (since I preferred thin rattan poles rather then thick stalks) has to compensated for by aiming above my intended target and allowing the pole to droop or dip into the target area. Not so with the fiberglass pole, as this tactic can't be done.

I'll leave it up to the reader to decide for themselves which they prefer. I've tried a heavy fiberglass pole and a lighter fiberglass pole and like rattan tend to prefer the lighter weapon. Again, it's up to you.

Most polearm fighters like to carry a secondary weapon. Should you be forced to fight in close with the sword and shield fighters, this can give you a decided advantage over fellows like me who can't seem to manage the extra baggage. Try for yourself, it throws my aim off to carry anything on my arms. To carry a secondary at my waist had tended to slow my agility. Try for yourself.

When at Estrella or any war, use the terrain to your best advantage. In the rough terrain battles, fighting behind the shrubs can offer you a better defense then a shield wall. Force your opponents to cross rough terrain to get to you and take advantage of his discomfort while doing so.

This brings forward another tactical point, do not fight from behind your supporting shield line when facing a polearm heavy unit or skirmishers. At the very least, fight shoulder to shoulder with your shield carrying comrades to keep the pressure off the shieldmen. It's even better to step one or two yards in front of the shield line to skirmish with the enemy polearms.

If you decide to fight from behind the shields you will lose two to three feet of range that your opponents will use to stay out of your range and yet within the range of your shields, pounding them while you can do nothing. The enemy operating thus will kill your supporting shields or exhaust them while you will do nothing. Only retreat behind your shields should the opponent attempt a shield/shock charge or your polearms are badly outnumbered by their poles.

In the old days (the Burro Creek Wars) , so few fighters has pikes that if a poleman was killed, especially in a bridge fight, he tossed the pole back so that others could use the weapon to continue dispatching opponents. Polearms being somewhat rare, this is still a good idea today. Just be sure to mark your pole so you can easily recognize it.

I personally disfavor halberds and other short cutting weapons in set piece battles like bridge fights. The halberd is constantly out of range and stands a good chance of getting killed by enemy pikes and stands less chance against the sword/shield fighter. If you insist on using a halberd, use it in the open field battles in support of the other weapon forms.

As mentioned before, tactics utilized by polearms can dramatically influence a battle. War units without pike support are at a severe disadvantage against those who do have pikes.

In wars and melees, combat units tend to carry large heaters and scutum style shields. This allows the shield bearer greater protection from the roving polearms. I have found that most shield units tend to key on the enemy shields in front of them. This gives the polearms the opportunity to flank these enemy shields while the shieldmen are engaged with each other and clean up.

Techniques for improved handling of polearms can vary also. You can't beat a good pair of steel gauntlets. I've worn hockey, lacrosse, kendo and steel mittins and each has problems. Some take a great deal of effort to close, others are heavy and most simply don't offer enough hand protection. Finding a good pair of gauntlets might take a while, or more likely the reader will opt for one and live with it. I found a pair of steel hour glass style mittins that I liked very much but thought they were a bit expensive, so I passed them up for an inferior (but cheaper) set of hockey gloves, while I'm working on my own set of hour glass mittins.

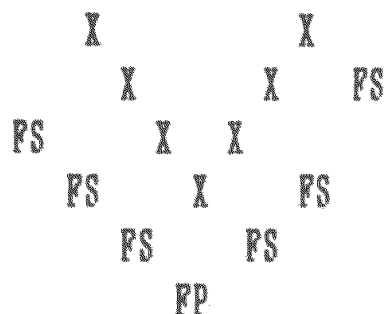
One method I've used to improving pole handling has been to wet the palms and fingers of my gauntlets before the battle. This has improved the handling of the weapon over the normal gritty slick palms of the hockey glove.

Another important technical device is to add a "warning track" along the end of the polearm to notify you, by feel, when the end of the polearm is imminent. That is, while I'm facing an opponent I don't want to have to fumble with my polearm and try to find the butt end of the polearm before thrusting again. A warning track of leather or friction tape can allow me feel my way back to the end of the polearm. It also gives you a better hold on my pole should my opponents try to wrestle or pull it out of my grasp.

Positioning yourself for maximum effect in a battle also depends on your pre-disposition. I'm right handed, so during a bridge battles I like to place myself on the left side of the bridge. This allows me to look only straight ahead and to the right to watch for enemy attackers. It also offers me a better defense for the above reason (I don't have to look to my left since that is the edge of the bridge) but also the polearm is in a better position to defend myself since it is held to the right side of my body, ready to block oncoming thrusts.

Fighters who prefer to hold the pole on the left side of their bodies may like the right side of the bridge for the same reasons.

In an open field battle, being at the pointed end of an enemy wedge can increase your killing ratio. Your opponents are not only considering you but also your comrades on either side of you. Positioning yourself at the apex will give you the opportunity to make many more killing shots. Below is an example of what I'm describing:



KEY: FS - Friendly Shield
 FP - Friendly Pole
 X - Enemy

It is also a good idea to allocate a shieldman and polearm fighter together. A good shieldman can do wonders, for at the Outlands/Atenveldt War, one good shieldman protected me from four out of five enemy shieldmen assigned to assassinate me. A sword and shield fighter will make enemy fighters think twice about going after you, perhaps giving you enough time to dispatch them.

In castle battles, tactics are very similar as bridge fights. At times, when an attacking unit attempts to push down through a castle corridor and no target presents itself, I'll help the shieldmen repulse the attack by pushing the attacking shields with the point of my weapon. In absolutely desperate situations, I'll place my polearm crosswise in the doorway, point to the floor, holding the butt end up and out at an 45 degree angle. Two polearms cross wise in such a position can cause a real obstacle to the enemy attempting to enter the castle, it can also lead to an alarming bow in the polearm when the attackers really pushes hard.

Attacking at different angles is a tricky affair, I usually associate it with single combat. A different angled attack simply means thrusting or slashing at unorthodox directions. Sometimes, I'll quickly move my polearm over my head, the point down towards my opponent and thrust. This is usually a last ditch effort to defeat an otherwise excellent defense. This type of attack does tend to leave you vulnerable since your pole is no longer in position to defend. This attack depends on surprise and shouldn't be used too often.

When fighting another polearm fighter, watch what he does, when he is most vulnerable. I had an excellent opponent who would charge in with his halberd, attempting to slash at me from in close to slash at me. After two or three grapples, I noticed he would relax his guard while pulling away, that's when I thrust and killed him.

I like to use a "saber-halberd" for a shorter seven and a half foot cut and thrust weapon. Little less then half of the total length of the weapon is bladed so it offers a great weapon for fighting in close with, as opposed to a weapon with a shorter head.

Many fighters prefer having a cut and slash weapon on one side of their pole and a mace type of butt on the other. This combination can be quite deadly, but it's difficult to thrust with this weapon and not "period" for my persona.

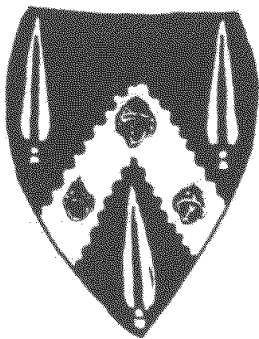
In Caid, skirmishers have been recently popularized by being utilized against and dealing with Atenveldt Army irregulars who operate outside the normal large shock attack or shield wall regulars. These irregulars skirmish units and individuals attempt to pin down and harass larger units or work behind a larger enemy unit to attack them from behind. I will discuss this further in Part III of the article.

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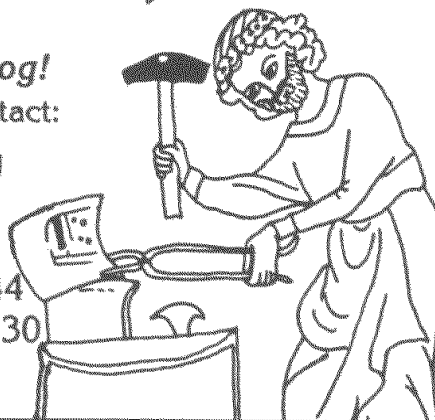
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Deadly Tricks with Polearm

By Shana Morgana
Barony of Calafia, Caid

Having been lucky enough to fight alongside Sir Kazimier and unlucky enough to fight against him, I read with great interest [the first part of] his article on fighting with a pole arm.

Any fighter in Caid or Atenveldt would surely agree that Kaz is one of the best pole fighters any kingdom has ever seen. However, in his article, he did leave out several of his more deadly tricks, and tricks which are of great use to female polearms.

One of the better tricks Kaz and most Caidan pole fighters will use is double teaming. Two polearms are always more effective than one. The first polearm can draw the attention of a poor shield on the other side and distract him while the second polearm clocks him.

A person fighting with a spear should have a hook so she can hook an opposing shield while the second polearm hits the shield person's body. Hooks are particularly nasty if done right because they are so hard to defend against. Spears with hooks can catch the top of a shield and often pull the shield person into your own line. (Remember a women's center of balance is lower than a mans. Even if a female pole is obviously outweighed by the shield man, if she drops her weight and steps back, she will often be able to pull the shield person to her own line.)

Side shield hooks are useful. The polearm merely hits either side of the shield, slides the pole between the shields if they are in a wall, hooks the shield and pulls it open. One of the most devastating hooks is a bottom hook. The polearm reaches past her own shield wall and hooks the bottom of the poor person's shield and lifts. The effects are a lot like having a Genie garage door opener.

Because most women are shorter than men and have less arm reach, I do recommend that most women fight with 9' spears rather than 7' axes. However, since I've often used an axe, I have found that most of these tricks are as effective with it. Kaz neglected to mention that he is almost 6'8". On my good days, I'm 5'2". Yet, I can be effective as a polearm because of things I can do that he can't.

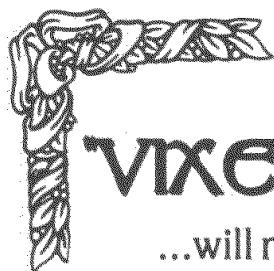
One of my tricks is to kneel behind my own shield wall > Another polearm will sucker the opposing shield wall into lifting their shields to

cover their faces. When they do lift their shields, I'll hit them low. The opposing shield wall will often not know I'm there until they're dead.

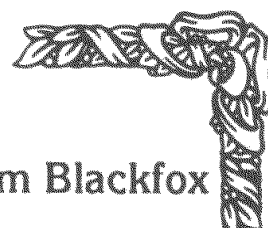
When a unit I'm with is flanked, I've managed a lot of kills because I was too short for some of the guys to notice. Some of my kills have sworn that I have appeared out of nowhere to kill them.

Caid has developed a tactic of polearm skirmishers. Again, because of my height, I'm not as good as a Kazimier because I can't reach the other side to deliver a killing blow. However, what I can do is push their spears down with my own, tying up their weapons so a polearm on my side can do the killing safely.

When men train women to fight, the men often ignore the physical differences. But, as women, we must acknowledge these differences and work with them. We cannot pretend to be 6'9" or use the same tactics a person of that size uses. We must turn our differences into our strengths. Women can be effective polearm fighters, if they're willing to work at being good.



VIXEN'S KEEP by H.L. William Blackfox



...will not appear in this issue of Flower of Souvnenance due to untimely mundane occurrences.

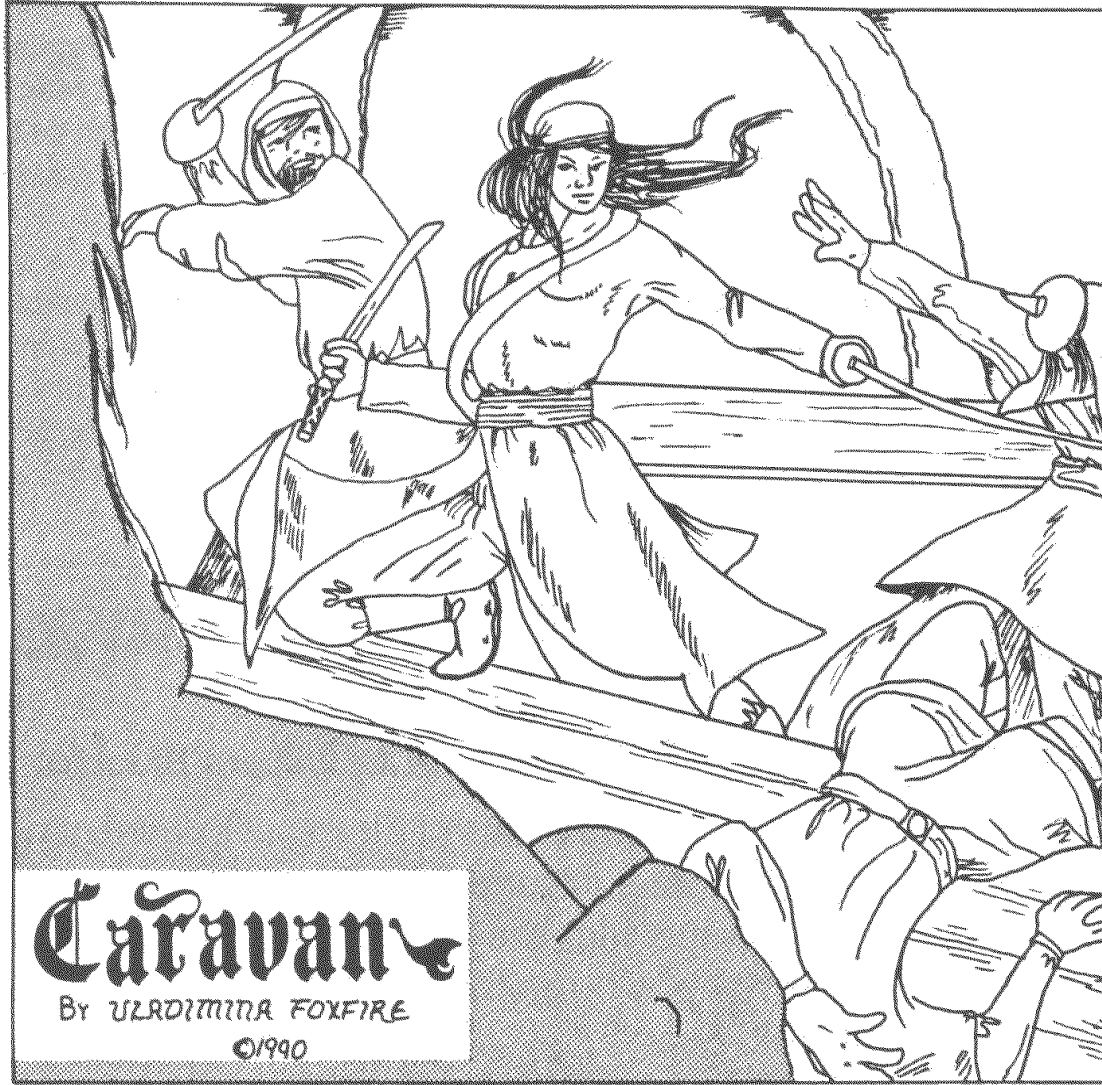
In the next issue with the help of Master Cadfan ap Morgan, "Vixen's Keep" will return with a dramatic SIX PAGE continuation of Old Scars!

Don't Miss It!!!



KIMIKO HAS A SMILE THAT IS SET AND GRIM. EVENTS OVER THE LAST FEW WEEKS HAVE BEEN JUMBLED WITH AN OVERWHELMING FEELING OF PAIN AND HUMILIATION. IT BEGAN WITH HER INABILITY TO PROTECT THE CARAVAN RESULTING IN THE DEATHS OF MANY FRIENDS AND LEAD TO HER CAPTURE BY THE HENCHMEN OF DAUD IBN OUDIN.

THE MAN WHO HOLDS HER FEALTY, MATTHIAS AUSLASTEN, HAS SENT HER FOR TWO MORE GUARDSMEN. HER REPUTATION NORMALLY PRECEDES HER AMONG THE NATIVES OF DAMASCUS, BUT HERE SHE IS AMONG THE TRANSIENT SOLDIER POPULATION. AND SO...



Caravan

BY VLADIMIRA FOXFIRE

©1990

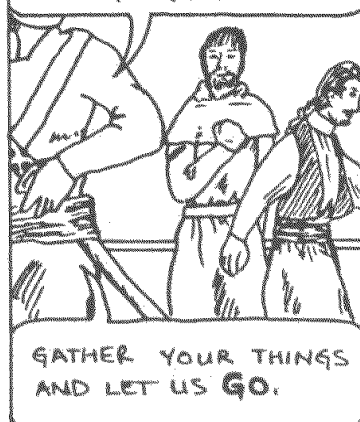


YOU WILL BE TAKING YOUR DIRECTIONS FROM ME.

SHE TALKS WITH THEM A BIT, EXPLAINING WHAT THEIR DUTIES WILL BE.



WHEN YOU DO WELL, YOU GET PAID WELL.



GATHER YOUR THINGS AND LET US GO.

MINIMUM ARMOUR PROTECTION QUESTIONNAIRE

Your Name _____

SCA Name _____

Rank and Awards _____

Kingdom, Principality and Local Area _____

Are you a Warranted Marshall? _____

Marshallate or Chirurgeonate positions held _____

How long have you been involved in heavy weapons combat? _____

How much of the above in active combat participation? _____

What weapons do you most commonly use? _____

What kind of breast and genital protection do you use? _____

What is your Kingdom's required protection for these areas? _____

Please fill out the questions below:

1.) In your opinion is breast protection for women necessary For SCA Combat?
Why?

2.) Is it necessary to require "rigid" protection as opposed to a light weight leather or a gambeson?
Why?

3.) What, in your opinion should be the necessary minimum protection for the breasts?

Continued on back of page

4.) What do you feel is the necessary minimum protection for the women's genital area / reproductive system?

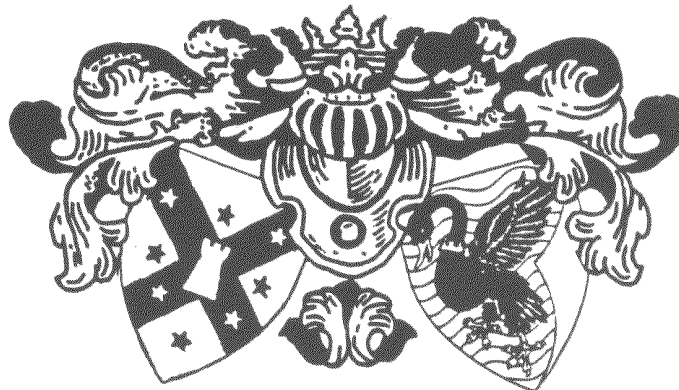
5.) Do you feel that breast protection and/or genital protection should be required by the SCA Marshallate or highly recommended so that each lady may decide on her own?

6.) If the SCA Marshallate decided that, for instance, breast protection is highly recommended and you took the option of not complying would you be willing to sign a wavier specifically for women that stated a hold harmless for damage (including extreme bruising, dimpling, fat necrosis, traumatic mastitis and changing of the shape of the breasts)?

Please hand this completed questionnaire to Countess Cymber of the Darkwater or Duke Christopher of Hoghton as soon as possible. For those of you who find it impossible to hand it to us during Pennsic, please mail it to:

F.O.S. Questionnaire
c/o KC Lancaster
6633 Irving
Denver, CO 80221

by October 1, 1990 so your ideas may be counted in the survey to be published in the Flower of Souvenance as well as being sent to the Society Marshal for all of our benefit. If you, for some silly reason, do not currently subscribe to the Flower of Souvenance and only wish to receive a synopsis of the poll and meeting at Pennsic XIX, please send a self addressed stamped envelope with this form to the address above.

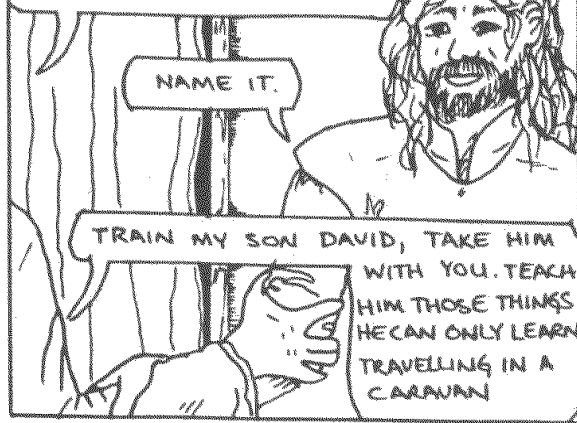


HERE ARE THE TERMS OF MY PROPOSAL; I SET YOU UP WITH 3 SMALL WAGONS AS WELL AS MONEY AND GOODS TO START. YOU WILL NEED TO SET UP ADDITIONAL MERCHANDISE AND PEOPLE.



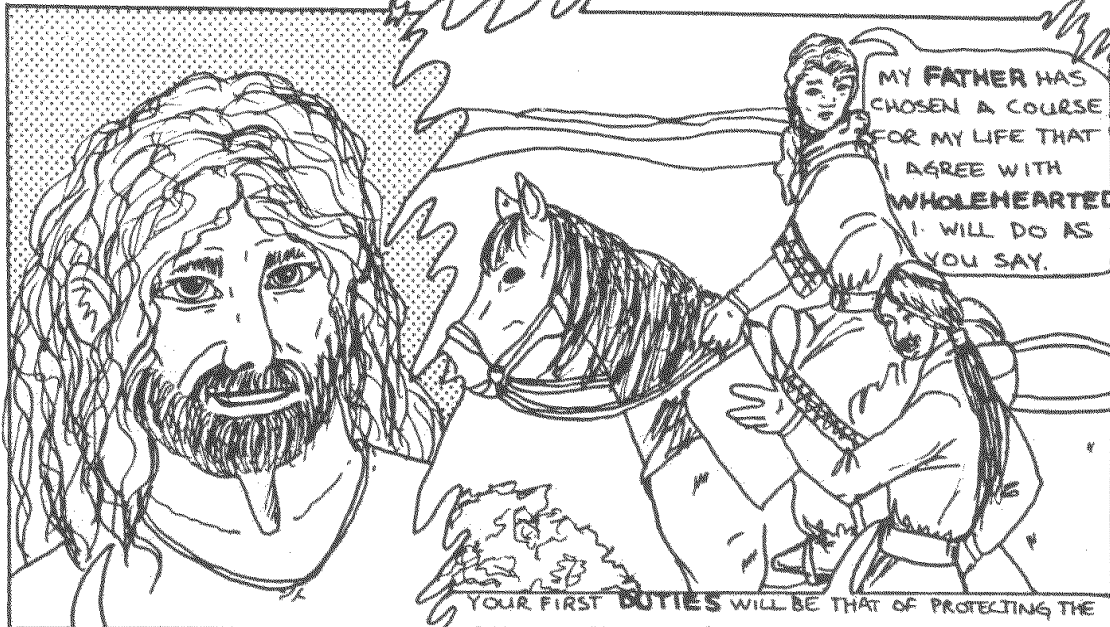
YOUR TERMS ARE MORE THAN ACCEPTABLE.

HOWEVER, FOR MY ASSISTANCE I ASK ONE FAVOR IN EXCHANGE



NAME IT.

TRAIN MY SON DAVID, TAKE HIM WITH YOU. TEACH HIM THOSE THINGS HE CAN ONLY LEARN TRAVELLING IN A CARAVAN



MY FATHER HAS CHOSEN A COURSE FOR MY LIFE THAT I AGREE WITH WHOLEHEARTED I WILL DO AS YOU SAY.

YOUR FIRST DUTIES WILL BE THAT OF PROTECTING THE CARAVAN FROM HARM. GET TO KNOW THE OTHER SOLDIERS AND THEY WILL TEACH YOU WHAT THEY KNOW. IN A FEW WEEKS COME BACK TO ME AND I WILL BEGIN YOUR OTHER 'LESSONS'

THIS SOUNDS FAMILIAR, JOHANNES

YOUR FATHER IS A WISE MAN. NOW GO, FIND THE CAPTAIN OF THE GUARD, HIS NAME IS NIKOLI AND INTRODUCE YOURSELF.



JA!



LATER THAT AFTERNOON AT THE INN...

WELL AND GREETINGS! I HAVE SOME-ONE FOR YOU TO MEET. THIS IS DAVID GOLDSMITH, SON OF JOHANNES. HE WILL BE THE HEAD MERCHANT FOR OUR NEW ENDEAVOR.



INTRODUCTIONS ARE IN ORDER. I AM MATTHIAS AUSLASTEN, HANSGRAF OF THIS CARAVAN.



THIS IS GEOFFREY, LATE OF JERUSALEM. HE IS MY PARTNER.

THESE ARE....?



THIS IS DUNCAN OF BRADLEA,

AND JOHN OF GILFORD.

BOTH ARE FINE SOLDIERS. I HAVE TAKEN DUNCAN AS MY LIEUTENANT AND JOHN IS QUITE A YEOMAN.

THIS IS KIMIKO TAMARISK, MY CAPTAIN OF THE GUARD AND SECOND IN COMMAND.

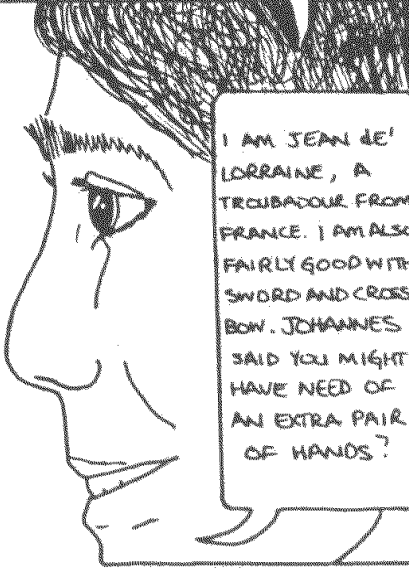


KIMIKO, YOU AND YOUR MEN WILL BE PREPARING THE WAGONS THAT WILL BE BROUGHT HERE SHORTLY. GEOFFREY, DAVID AND I WILL LOOK OVER THE LOCAL MERCHANTS AND SEE IF ANY WISH TO TRAVEL. THERE SHOULD BE ANOTHER JOINING US SHORTLY.

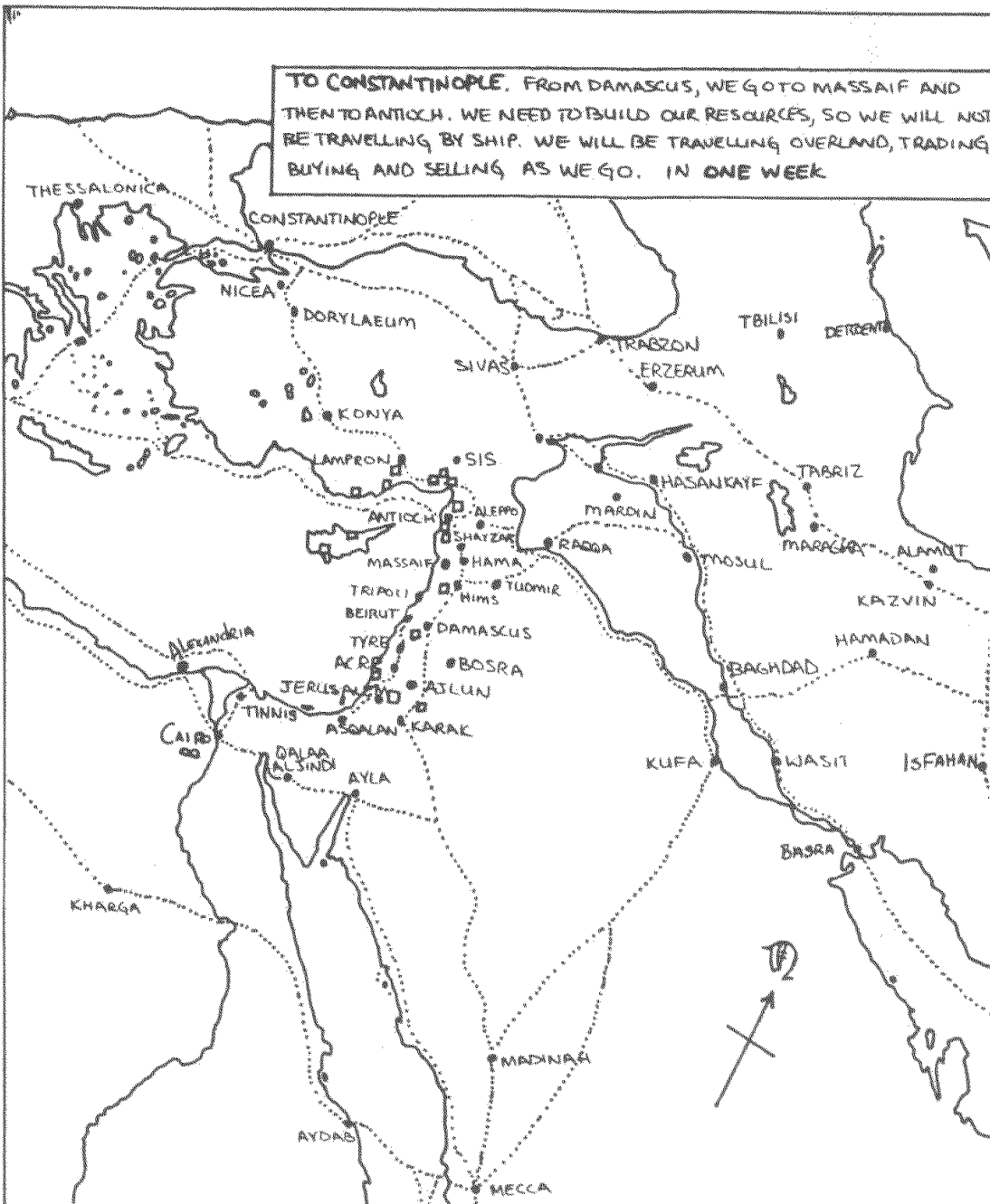
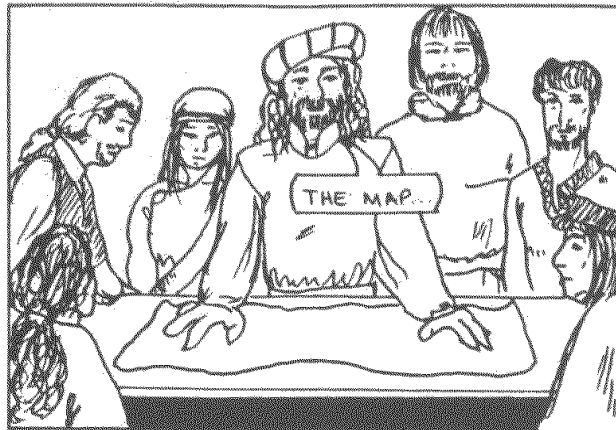


AND HE IS HERE! YOU ARE AUSLASTEN?

YES.



I AM JEAN DE' LORRAINE, A TROUBADOUR FROM FRANCE. I AM ALSO FAIRLY GOOD WITH SWORD AND CROSS BOW. JOHANNES SAID YOU MIGHT HAVE NEED OF AN EXTRA PAIR OF HANDS?



I WANT TO BE CLEAR OF THIS CITY AND WELL ON OUR WAY.



On Getting Things Done

a brief diatribe by Lady Llamrei Aethnen
Incipient Barony of Unser Hafen, Outlands

I did something really out of character the other day. Mundanely, I am a graduate student in forest ecology at a large university. Forestry is a field not traditionally pursued by women, but as there are more and more female graduate students in our department, the administration had become concerned that we were experiencing discrimination. In an effort to prevent that (or to keep us happy and quiet; I'm rather cynical), the department proposed that we form a women's support group, so we could discuss those problems that were uniquely female.

I hadn't personally experienced anything I interpreted as discrimination, but I am usually quick to leap to the defense of those whose rights are being infringed, and women's rights are of particular, personal concern to me. But when the questionnaire came around to me, I had to write that I could not support such a group. The reason I said so was because of an experience I had at an SCA event.

It was a large war. I was commanding the contingent from my area.

We had drilled and trained and we acquitted ourselves quite well. I was really looking forward to the Women's Tourney, too, as a chance to pit my skills against people I didn't know. There aren't many fighters in my area, and only four of them are women. The tourney was a disaster for me from the start. I had a terrible time finding the autocrat to sign up, and then the herald didn't get around to our end of camp, so the tourney was already in the second round by the time I arrived and they wouldn't let me in. I fought a couple of byes and was unhappy.

My knight, Sir Kevin MacKinnon, had come over with me to watch. I stalked around the list field, tapping my knee with my sword, itching to get out there. "So go pick a fight with somebody, for Heaven's sake," he said at last, and propelled me toward a knot of armored women who had been eliminated from the tourney and were talking intently.

I didn't know any of them, but I picked one and asked her if she wanted to spar. We went out onto the grass nearby and threw a few shots, then something went wrong with her knee armor and we stepped aside to fix it. She fixed it, and then began to talk about how horrible it was to be a woman fighter where she came from and how the men didn't take her seriously and how awful it was to be unrecognized and how nothing would ever change and how angry she was. Another woman came over and commiserated with her, and I listened for a while. Then I asked the second woman to fight, and she said no, she was tired from the tourney, and they continued to kibitz.

I mentioned that I hadn't had much trouble with people not taking me seriously. My husband and my knight were both very supportive and made me work hard, and all the fighters under my command followed me willingly. I am the knight marshal of my shire, and I have never had trouble getting people to adhere to the rules or my enforcement of them. They looked at me as though I had grown wings and horns, but they did not seem interested in how I had achieved such acceptance. They went on and on about how the system works against them and no one would listen and how difficult it was for women to achieve anything. They were looking forward to the women's meeting at Pennsic when they could get together with people with similar problems and discuss them. Eventually I left, unnoticed, and went back and fought off my frustration with some of my friends.

It took me a while to realize what had bothered me about the conversation. In fact, it took the prospect of the women's support group in the forestry department. I suddenly realized that if people just sit around and whine to a friendly audience about how horrible things are, nothing will change, and I didn't want to be part of that. Being angry at some "system" and throwing jibes at it or whining at it for what you perceive as its injustice

to you is not very effective. It's not just women and their problems either. Allow me to use environmental examples, which is something I am familiar with.

Take the radical group Earth First!. I sympathize with many of their positions, but their methods of instigating change, while spectacular, are not very effective. They sabotage equipment, trespass, drive spikes into trees, and generally make a lot of noise. They act outside the law. They are emotional and sometimes abusive. They attract a great deal of media attention, get arrested and angry, have shouting matches with loggers and trappers, and usually end up accomplishing nothing but discrediting themselves with their radical approach.

Then take the Sierra Club, or the Nature Conservancy. The Sierra Club employs a cadre of lawyers and lobbyists who wear conservative clothes and speak quietly and urbanely. They infiltrate the government and sue big companies and are one of the most powerful lobbies in Washington. They have had great influence in the designation of wilderness areas, endangered species, and the creation of the EPA. The Nature Conservancy quietly does research and collects money and buys up land to prevent its exploitation and to protect endangered species. Both of these organizations have infiltrated the "system" and quietly and deftly used it against itself to further their ends.

They have worked hard to promote their ideals, and they have been diplomatic but firm. They have backed their claims with solid research and have built a following of decent people who support both their ideals and their methods. They don't whine or scream; they just get their information together and go after the enemy on his own ground, and win.

In the SCA and in real life, the people I have seen succeed are usually the ones who are willing to work hard for what they feel is right. They don't sit around whining about how horrible things are; they jump in and do something to change it. You don't get people to take you seriously when you sit on the sidelines and complain. People will take you seriously if you take yourself seriously. If you believe in yourself and are willing to work hard based on that belief, if you are capable of being diplomatic and acknowledging the worth of others, you will eventually be respected. People can only treat you as an inferior if you let them.

The implication for women fighters is that you have to get out there and fight a lot. You have to believe that you are a fighter worthy of respect. You have to convince people, politely and with unshakable firmness, that you are a fighter worthy of respect. You have to be committed to fighting, to train, to build armor, to work as a marshal. That is what is expected of

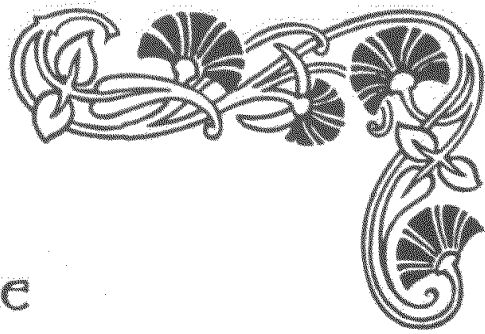
male fighters who are respected; why should it be any different for women? The biggest mistake I have ever seen women fighters make is to separate themselves from their male comrades, to point out their differences.

The way to get accepted in the brotherhood is to expect to be. Don't accept anything but equal treatment. But remember that equal treatment is not special treatment. I'm not saying you have to spit on the floor and scratch your crotch in public or do other exclusively male things. But don't expect lighter shots or other fighters to carry your stuff for you either. How people treat you is in large part determined by how you behave. Whining is the best way to turn people off. If you carry yourself with dignity, behave with honor, and work hard, it won't matter whether or not you win; it won't matter what sex you are, you will be worthy of respect, and you'll get it.

While this attitude has obvious implications for women (and other) fighters, it is applicable to anyone. I know people who are disgruntled because they haven't gotten this or that award. I ask them, "Have you done anything to deserve an award?" Awards are for activity above and beyond the call of duty, and those who do things solely to get some award are probably not worthy of recognition. If you want to change something in the SCA, hold an office, run an event, volunteer to be some officers deputy. I have never seen someone turned down if they volunteer to work, and I have rarely seen people get recognition for not working. If you want your voice heard, you must have something worthwhile to say, and say it diplomatically, to people who can do something about it. Conviction is one thing; emotional outbursts are quite something else. You must know what you are talking about, and be able to back up your position with truth. Constructive criticism, with prospective solutions to problems, will get a hearing long before whining.

If you want to change something in the mundane world, vote, join the Sierra Club or the National Organization for Women or a union or a political party, support a political candidate or run for office yourself. You can't control what other people do, but you can choose for yourself. No one ever accomplished change by whining about their problems. But with dogged hard work, patience, and unshakable confidence, you can move mountains, dissolve centuries of prejudice, or save a planet.

There will surely be people who will disagree with this assessment of the world and how it works. To them, I can say only that this approach has worked awfully well for me, both mundanely and in the SCA. It isn't easy, but it is worthwhile



WITHOUT YOU LIFE IS IMPOSSIBLE

My heart is branded with your love,
It does not settle elsewhere.
Without all, there can be no existence,
Without you, life is impossible.

داع تو دار دین دلم جای دگر نمی شود
بی همگان بسر شود بی تو بر نمی شود

You are my wine and my intoxication.
You are my garden of roses and my spring.
You are my peace and my sleep.
Without you, life is impossible.

خمرین و حمارین باغ من دهار من
خواب من و درار من بی تو بر نمی شود

One moment, you steer toward good faith,
Next, you turn to unkindness.
You can not leave me, you are my destiny.
Without you, life is impossible.

گاه سوسی و ماردی گاه سوسی عماردی
آن نمی گما ردی؟ بی تو بر نمی شود

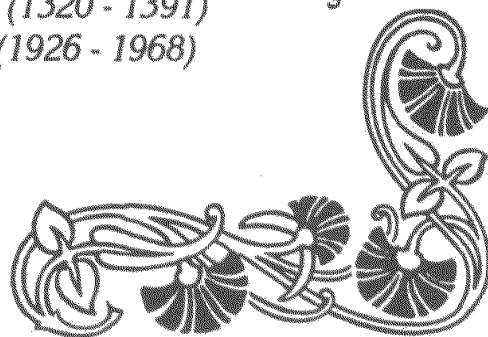
You are my dignity and my glory.
You are my wealth and my homeland.
Your are my clear water.
Without you, life is impossible.

د مملکت و مال من توئی
جاه و جلال من توئی
آب زلال من توئی
بی تو بر نمی شود

Without you, I have no pleasure in life.
Without you, I have no reward in death.
How can i revolt from the ardor of your love?
Without you, life is impossible.

بی تو نه زندگی خوشم
بی تو نه مردی خوشم
سر زغم تو چون نسیم
بی تو بر نمی شود

*This was included in a thesis
regarding The Divan of Hafiz (1320 - 1391)
translated by Gertrude Bell (1926 - 1968)*



LETTER TO THE EDITOR

As I am a rather struggling female fighter in training. I have a question to put to you, that you may help me with the decision of upper arm protection.

One year ago due to an auto accident I managed to break my upper right arm in a spiral break. This is why I am so long in training. I do not wish to re-break this arm.

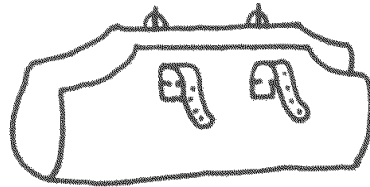
Could you possibly give your opinion of protection for my arm?

Also, I am taking combat archery would there be any special protection I would need in this area?

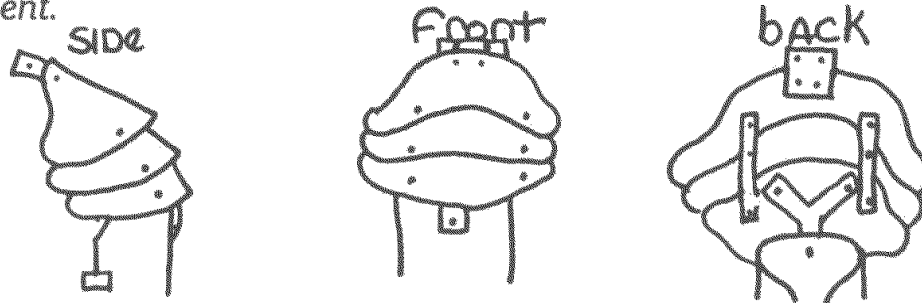
If you have not done so already, PLEASE ask your doctor if it is a wise move to subject your arm to the physical stress of SCA combat. Only with his approval should you continue.

There are several ways to protect your upper right arm in combat. Your options will depend on the fighting style you wish to adopt and the nature of the rest of your armour.

Perhaps the easiest, if not the most comfortable, is a rearbrace (Armour that covers the upper arm) of rigid material with padding encircling your upper arm with slight semicircles taken out for harmonious movement with the rest of your arm and body.



Another option is paldrons in conjunction with a small rearbrace to cover the shoulder as well as the higher risk part of your arm. The paldrons can be made large and semicircular to cover a large area and offer movement.



If you wear a gambeson you can incorporate a small plate over the problem area for added protection.

These are but a few of the options available to you. My suggestion would be to seek help from the established fighters in your area. Especially those fighting peers who may also wear the protection you seek.

If your rules for combat archery are the same as SCA combat, your protection should stay the same. If you are not required to be protected from heavy weapons combat, then I see no reason why you would need to wear anything on your upper arm.

The Revised Edition of
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and Training Manual**
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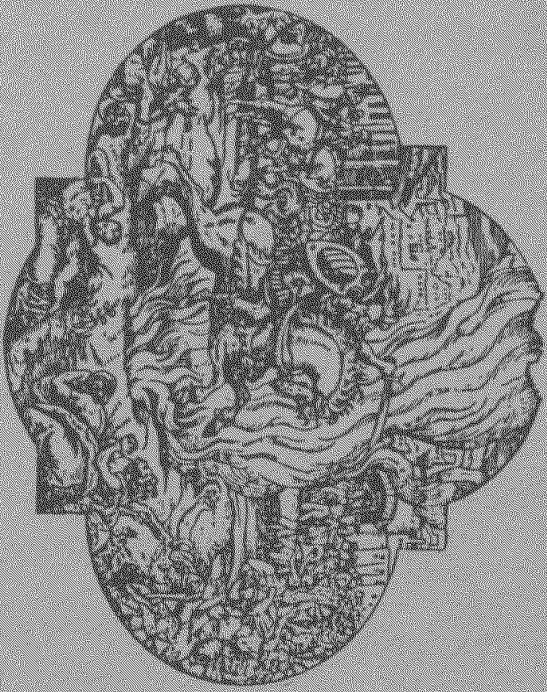
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