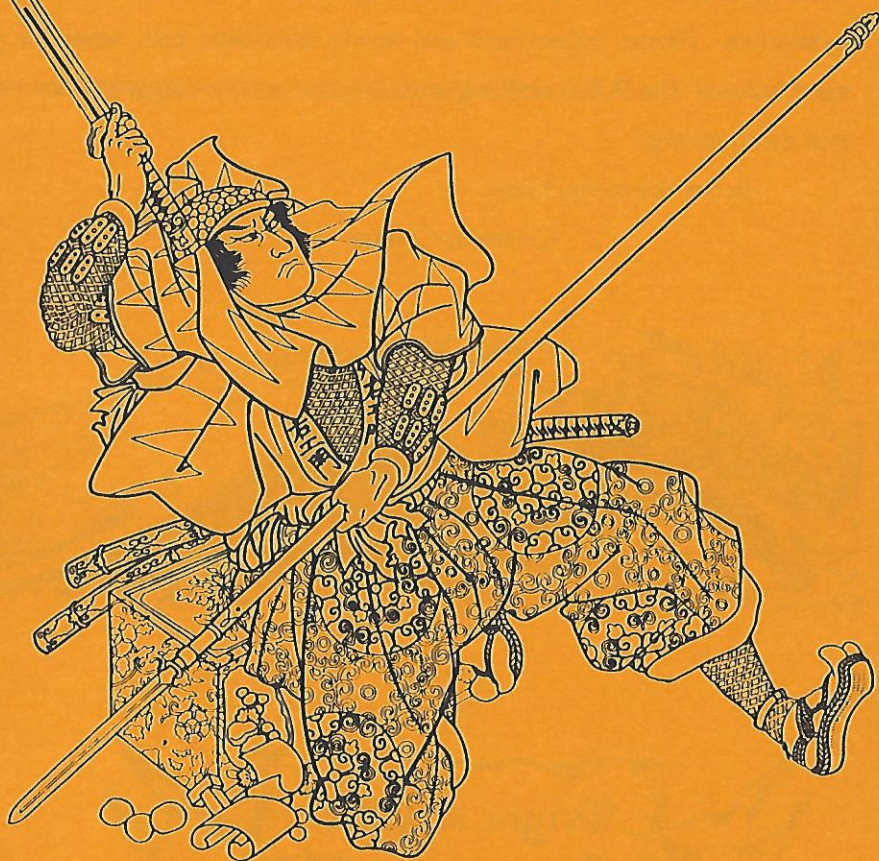


# Flower of Soubenance

#15



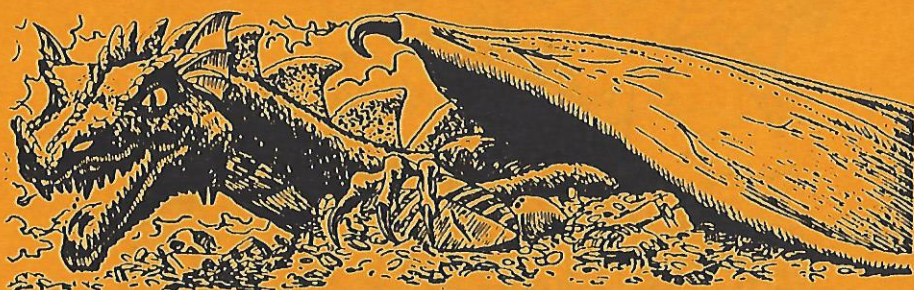
Cover by: Utagawa Kuniyoshi

## Letter From the Editor; Greetings!

I have nothing much to comment upon this time, at least not until you turn to the Letters to the Editor portion of the FOS. Thank you to all the faithful readers of this publication! The this issue had to be postponed until now for the simple reason that I have not had enough information to send out a quality newsletter. Please, subscribers and newly interested folk, send me your submissions! The FOS is nothing without your contributions of information and commentary!

In Service to the Ideal,

Countess Cymber



**Flower of Souvenance:** A flower to serve as a reminder, a keepsake; sometimes a real flower, but sometimes an artificial one, made of jewels, to serve as an encouragement to, or the badge of, some knightly enterprise.

# Table of Contents

2	<i>Pieter van Doorn</i>	<b>A Blow Calibration Exercise</b>
4	<i>Christopher of Hoghton</i>	<b>Playing Rangegames</b>
6	<i>Sir Guthar</i>	<b>Martial Arts and SCA Combat</b>
8	<i>Cymer</i>	<b>Sex and the Single Squire</b>
10	<i>William Blackfox</i>	<b>Vixen's Keep</b>
16	<i>Aeruin ni hEarain O Chonenmara</i>	<b>Book Reviews</b>
20		<b>Letters to the Editor</b>
24		<b>Back Issue Listing</b>

This is issue #15, February 1992, of the Flower of Souvenance. This is not a corporate publication of the Society for Creative Anachronism, Inc., and does not dictate or delineate SCA policy. The opinions of the articles contained herein do not particularly express the opinion of the editor, but are the opinion of the authors of the individual articles only as well as those that might agree with them. Except where otherwise stated, any other articles in this publication may be reprinted without special permission in newsletters & other publications of branches of the SCA Inc., subject to the following conditions: a) text must be printed in its entirety, without additions or changes; b) author's name & an original publications credit must accompany the text; c) you must send a letter to the editor of this newsletter, stating the articles you have used, and in which publication the material has been reprinted. A copy of said reproduction would be greatly appreciated, so that the author might be notified.

All submissions may be subject to editing. If requested, the author of a submitted article will receive a copy of the issue in which that article appears. Editorials will be printed occasionally with a response from the editor, this response is the editors current opinion and should not be viewed as factual unless suitable documentation is given.

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. 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 \$10.00 full page, \$5.00 half page, \$3.00 quarter page.

All checks and money orders must be made payable to KC Lancaster.

# A Blow Calibration Exercise

by Lord Pieter van Doorn, Middle Kingdom

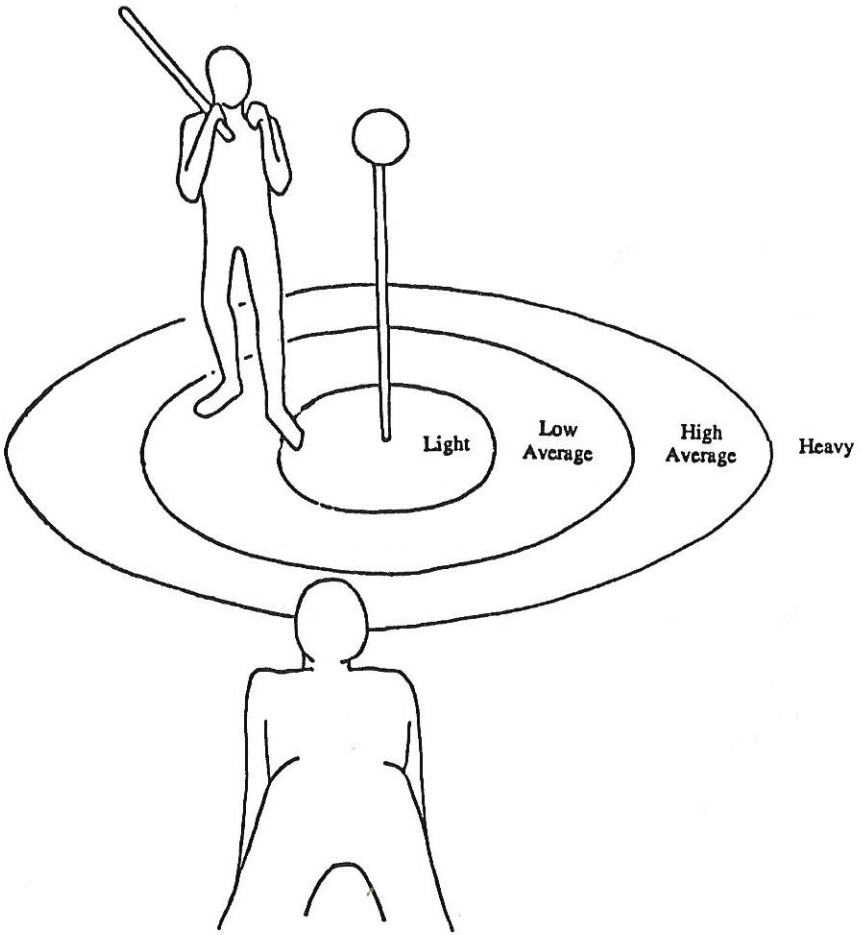
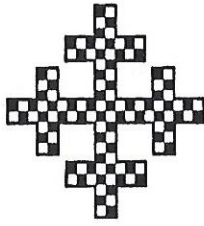
Erect a narrow pole between 46" and 58" tall and draw three circles on the ground around the base of the pole, using the table below to determine the appropriate radius for each circle. Balance a bowling ball on the top of the pole, then strike the ball with a level blow and observe the point where the ball first strikes the ground. According to a survey of over 600 fighters from throughout the Known World\*, 80% of all fighters would agree that a "good" killing blow with a single handed sword should deliver the ball to a point somewhere between the inner and outer circles. The center circle corresponds to an "average" killing blow. "Light", "low average", "high average" and "heavy" blows are indicated by the other areas shown in the diagram below.

This exercise is designed especially for new fighters who do not have experienced trainers to teach them how to calibrate their blows. Veterans may wish to use this exercise as a way of comparing their blows to the Known World standard. NOTE: The blow must land squarely on the center of the ball, and the ball must be driven straight of the pole. If the sword glances off the ball or drives the ball either upward or downward, the results will not be accurate and the blow should be repeated.

*\*A Survey of Blow Calibration Standards in the Combat of the Society for Creative Anachronism* by Lord Pieter van Doorn (m.k.a. Vance VanDoren, PhD) Barony of Rivenstar, Middle Kingdom, August 15, AS XXV (1990).

Pole Height (inches)

		46	49	52	55	58	How to Use This Table
Ball Weight (pounds)	8	37	38	39	40	41	← The top value in each set of three gives the radius of the inner circle appropriate for the ball weight on the left and the pole height above.
		56	58	60	62	63	
		76	79	81	83	85	
	10	30	30	31	32	33	The middle value in each set of three gives the radius of the center circle appropriate for the ball weight on the left and the pole height above. ←
		45	47	48	49	51	
	61	63	65	67	68		
12	25	25	26	27	28	The bottom value in each set of three gives the radius of the outer circle appropriate for the ball weight on the left and the pole height above. ←	
	38	39	40	41	42		
	51	52	54	55	57		
14	21	22	22	23	24	Thus, for a 14 pound ball and a 58 inch pole, the inner circle should have a radius of 24 inches, the center circle should have a radius of 36 inches, and the outer circle should have a radius of 49 inches. For a 16 pound ball, the three circles should have radii of 21 inches, 32 inches, and 43 inches, respectively	
	32	33	34	35	36		
	43	45	46	48	49		
16	18	19	20	20	21	Thus, for a 14 pound ball and a 58 inch pole, the inner circle should have a radius of 24 inches, the center circle should have a radius of 36 inches, and the outer circle should have a radius of 49 inches. For a 16 pound ball, the three circles should have radii of 21 inches, 32 inches, and 43 inches, respectively	
	28	29	30	31	32		
	38	39	40	42	43		



# Playing Ranged Games

by Duke Christopher of Hoghton, Kingdom of the Outlands

One of the more important aspects of fighting has to do with knowing the range of not only your weapons, but that of your opponents, and using it to your best advantage. Are you the type of fighter who likes to stay well away from your opponent, choosing your opportunity to strike, or do you like to fight in close, "climbing in your foe's shorts"? These are two examples of ranged games.

The most important thing about using range to your advantage is knowing what your range is and knowing your opponents. The first things to know are the four different ranges; close range, normal range, long range, and out of range.

**Close Range**- When a fighter gets in close, it limits the type of blows that can be thrown successfully. Most "standard" blows won't work because the shield(s) are in the way of your arm. Generally a fighter in this range will throw wrap-around shots, and occasionally a slot shot. A slot shot that is thrown when fighting in close needs to be thrown with your hand well ahead of the sword shortening the arc of the blow. Although fighting in close proximity limits the type of blows that can be thrown, it makes the blows that can be thrown more effective.

**Normal Range**- When fighting at normal range a straight snap to the head should strike in the sweet spot of the sword (roughly 8 - 10 inches from the tip of the weapon). You can throw a straight leg blow and connect. For a shot going across your body and striking the offside of your opponent may require you to lean in slightly, but not excessively. For the greatest variety of blows, and the best distance to use combinations, this range works best.

**Long Range**- This range needs but a single step forward to strike a killing blow. This can be a dangerous range to be in, since many fighters relax in this zone, making them vulnerable to a quick strike. The first blow of a combination can be thrown from this range, to get your foe to commit their defense and set them up for the rest of the combination.

**Out of Range**- This is the only range which is safe to truly relax in. It requires several steps to be able to throw a killing blow. There can be no surprise from this range unless your opponent just isn't paying attention.

Another thing that is very important for knowing the range of the fight, is the length of the weapons used. Close range for a sword is normal range for a mace, while out of range for a sword is normal range for a spear or polearm. You must be very aware of what range you are in not only for your

offensive capability, but as a defensive measure.

Knowing when to strike and when to use range to your advantage takes a lot of practice and observation. The next time you watch a fight, concentrate on watching the distance between the fighters and how they use that distance to their advantage. When they move into close range do they set their combination of blows up by throwing a shot while coming in? Do they get their opponent moving in the wrong direction by body movements or weapon fakes? When they get in close, do they throw the blows in a combination and change range while their opponent is still defensive?

When you notice the distance between you and your opponent, you will become aware of the required change of fighting style that accompanies a change from one range to another. When a fighter moves into close range they often move their defense slightly back to protect against an anticipated wrap-around. Fighters often also brings their defense slightly higher for the same reason. Fighters are vulnerable during this transition from one range to another.

Be aware of when your foe is moving between ranges and you can use this to your advantage. If you can move to counter his range change, you can get an even greater advantage. An example is if your opponent is charging, by moving backwards or sideways, you can create a delay in their transition from normal to short range. Although their defensive posture will be in a close range mode and they will be mentally close, you can still make your attacks at them in a normal mode.

The best way for you to learn about range games is to watch the better fighters of your area and to see how they fight and to concentrate on how they use range to their best advantage. Then train yourself with a partner or with a pell to be as aware as you can of the distance and range you use in your fighting style. Work on fighting both offensively and defensively against and in every range. By doing this you will be a better fighter.

## MANDRAKE ARMORY

*Offers the some of the best armour in the Knowne World!*

**We have a large selection for you to choose from  
at modest prices everyone can afford!**

Our specialty work is armour made to your period specifications to complete your personae whether that be 5th Century Roman or 17th Century Landsknecht!



Ask for our free catalog!  
For more information contact:

Mandrake Armory  
c/o Greg Anderson  
PO Box 1551  
Lawrence, KS 66044  
Phone: (913) 843-8830



# Martial Arts and SCA Combat

by Sir Gunthar, Kingdom of Ansteorra

John Normal, aka Duke Sir Ogod Herecomes, was walking to his car after a day long demo at a local community college. While crossing the campus, a group of local drunken rowdies began calling out the usual intelligent comments and trailing him. John ignored them and continued to his car. That is, until the leader ran up and grabbed John's shoulder while asking why he was dressed "so stupid". Mr. Normal began to explain about the SCA and the demo that day until the leader began, for some unknown reason, shoving him and shouting abuse.

Poor John hadn't been in a fight since he was twelve, and even then he was usually the one left in the dirt. When the tough threw a looping right hook, Duke Ogod blocked the blow and smashed his patented (feared in three kingdoms) straight shot into the man's nose. The impact of his hand on bone sent pain shooting up his arm, but it hurt no worse than when he had broken his hand in a tourney once. He had won that list.

Ignoring the pain, His Grace noticed that his opponent hadn't called the blow, so Ogod spun and laid a blow into the rhino's body just below the rib cage. The drunk gasped in pain and fell to the ground in a huddled ball. Duke Ogod calmly turned and faced the others as they stood stunned at the skill of the little guy in front of them. They gathered up their fallen companion and fled, commenting it was just their luck to run into some black belt. As they departed, Duke Ogod recedes and John Normal returned to his proper frame of mind, wondering how he had won the conflict.

Jock Truly, a martial artist of local renown, had worked diligently for three years and finally achieved a black belt. He had even done fairly well at various martial arts tournaments in the area. One evening, he attended a rock concert and was accidentally shoved into a wall. Feeling aggressive, he shoved back and eagerly awaited his first "real" fight.

True to Jock's hopes, the other didn't back down. With a slight grin, Jock threw a perfect roundhouse kick to his opponent's head. Unfortunately, the target was no longer there. Jock was knocked off his feet and received a rather severe beating before concert security could arrive. As a result of the encounter, Mr. Truly began to understand about fighting.

Who was the martial artist?

I have heard arguments about whether SCA combat is a sport or a martial art. I hereby declare that I am going to throw my hat into the ring and be downright wishy-washy. SCA combat is whatever the practitioner makes it. His Grace Ogod was a martial artist and didn't know it, while Jock thought he was a martial artist while he trained for it as a sport.

Please do not think that I am down on Karate. I have studied the martial arts for ten years, so I feel I have gained experience on which to expound.



I recall giving instructions to a fighter at TFYC and I pointed out that her accuracy and aggression were wonderful, but her footwork was atrocious. When I heard that she had never studied Karate or fencing, I went into a lecture about how all styles are related, demonstrating how footwork can be modified from each. I also showed how boxing and Karate blows and evasions could be developed into sword and shield techniques.

After my lecture, an observer stated that he had taken Karate, but had not made the connection. It does surprise me that more people do not make the connections.

The first thing I ask brand new fighters is whether they have ever boxed or taken martial arts. This will give me a base to start their training on. This is where being a "martial artist" comes in. Learning martial arts is learning combat. Actually, it is learning the art of combat. No matter what the weapons, the principle remains the same. The true student of fighting should not stick to just style, even if it is effective right now.

If you feel stuck in a rut with your fighting, look at something completely different for inspiration. Watch a fencer evade and counter, or examine a boxer's movements. Attempt to apply these moves to yourself. Look at a greatsword work and see if some of those movements can be used with polearm. For example; a straight temple shot is basically a modified knifehand strike to the temple. The stance, footwork, and positioning of a boxer, martial artist, or fencer is roughly the same with the same modifications for the form. They are able to move forward, back, and to any side with no major loss of speed or balance. Examine how a boxer or karateka will throw a blow with a twisting of the hips to generate speed and power. If you have problems in hitting too lightly, try working on your body motion by imitating other combatants. The secret is understanding how the body works. A small fighter can defeat someone much larger if the knowledge is there.

Do not become limited to moves just because they work right now. Know why they work and think about how they can be overcome. Try not to become tied to one stance or style, but instead comprehend what is going on and what you are doing.

Look at the great fighters in your area. They can usually pick up any weapon and be good with it. They know it all flows together and at that point, a weapon isn't necessarily needed anymore. SCA combat is over twenty-five years of people's learning, experimenting with, and refining this form of combat. Listen to other more experienced fighters and respect their knowledge. Learn what can be applied to you, but also try to understand what can be applied to others.

Try to find the logic in the system, and the art will begin to appear. Observe the masters of the combat arts outside the SCA. Eventually you will begin to grow, and I hope you see the world a little more openly. Even if you never win Crown Tournament, or receive the accolade of Knighthood, you will enjoy fighting more.

## Sex and the Single Squire

by Countess Cymber of the Darkwater, Kingdom of the Outlands

Squirehood can be a serious or nonchalant relationship, depending on the individuals involved. Either way it is a rewarding experience, or should be. I can speak from experience as I have twice been a squire, each time to a Knight almost completely opposite the other.

But, this article isn't about squirehood, per se, it's about rumors. Some rumors have a function, to disseminate information in a widespread basis. Some are speculation only, based little in fact. And some are hurtful to people who may, or may not deserve it. Rumors like the latter, especially when they involve pure speculation about the relationship between a Knight and their squire, are what this article is about. Please allow me a few minutes of your time to speak in diatribe of a subject personal to me.

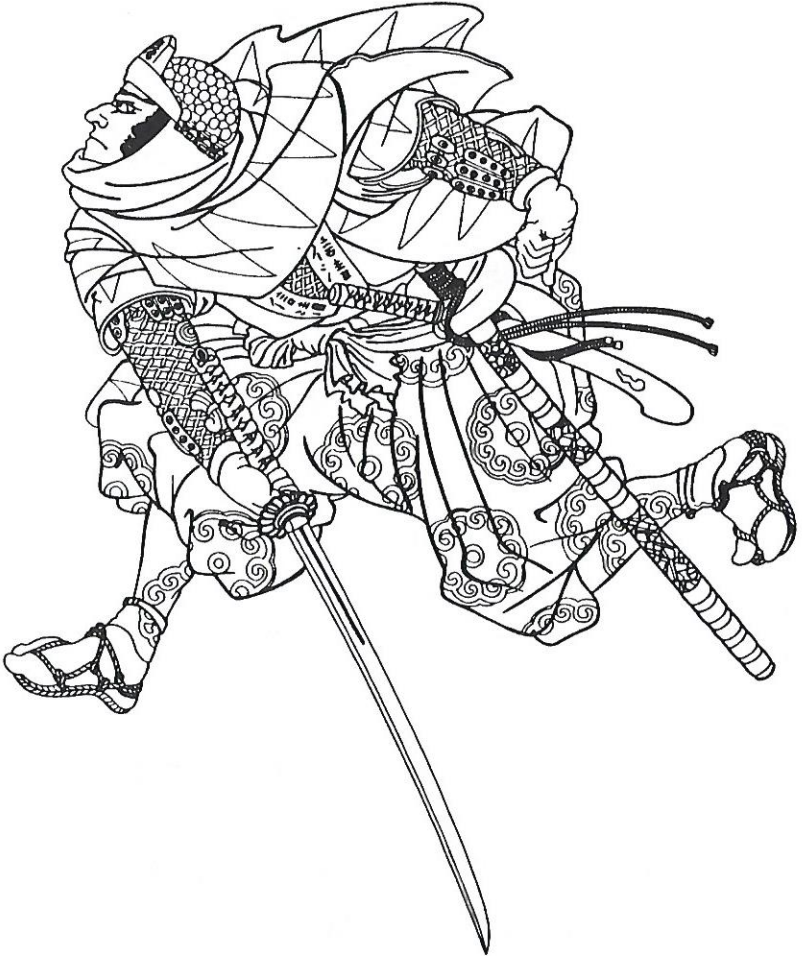
This is another area of which I have personal experience in. My first Knight, a gallant and friendly gentleman, offered me squirehood in the early years of my SCA career. He was married to a woman who was to become a close friend of mine, and had four children. Our relationship was based entirely on friendship, servitude and occasional training. It was about as platonic as you could get, but that did not stop the rumor mongers from speculating about our "probable" love-affair.

For some reason, no matter what the relationship is between Knight and squire, if they happen to be of opposite genders, it is generally assumed that they are sleeping together. I have yet to meet any such pair that did not have this rumor going about behind their backs. To be sure, there are those Knights who make squires of their sex partners, but this is not the standard as far as I am aware. (There are also those who taken squires that eventually become sex partners, but that is far from the rule, and even if it wasn't, it is no one's business but their own.) Why does it seem that no matter how good a fighter a woman happens to be on the field of combat, most people assume there is only one reason she was squired? And even if a woman and her Knight are sexually intimate, why do rumor mongers assume it is their business to become involved? These are hardly the chivalrous actions that most SCA members are supposed to adhere.

This kind of rumor can crush an otherwise healthy relationship. Innuendo can damage reputations as well as mental well being, let alone a potential fighting career. It can break up marriages, separate good friends, and force folk out of the SCA that could benefit it. Who is sleeping with whom is a game for immature high school students, not responsible adults. It is all of our jobs to make the SCA a game in which all of us like to attend, not only a self appointed "chaste" few.

Even if you are not one of those who originates such garbage, all of us have heard it at one time. Hearing it is one thing, but passing it on is another. When you pass on rumors like the above example, you become a part of a

hurtful chain rumor mongering, and you bring dishonor upon yourself by supporting such dishonorable actions. Rumors, especially those of this kind, are for those whose time could be better spent in a more productive fashion. If it affects you directly, search out the truth for yourself, don't take someone else's opinion as fact. If it does not affect you directly, it is none of your business. Unless the people in question bring you into it for their own reasons, do not waste your time.



# Wixens' Keep™

Created  
by Mstr. W<sup>m</sup> Blackfox, O.P.

**S**or the STUDENTS OF VIXEN'S KEEP, EVERY THIRD WEEKEND IS A "LONG" WEEKEND DURING WHICH THEY MAY GO HOME, STAY AT THE CASTLE OR GO TO AN EVENT ON THEIR OWN. TWO INTREPED LADIES HAVE TEAMED UP FOR A TOURNEY. ONE OF THEM, THOUGH, IS ABOUT TO UNDERGO SOMETHING OF A...

JACOMO! CARA MIO! WE'VE BEEN HERE A WHOLE HOUR AND YOU HAVEN'T EVEN SAID "BUONA SERA"!

I TAKE IT YOU KNOW EACH OTHER.

BUONA SERA, THEN! OH, LADY BAEDDANWYN AND HOUSE ALDOBRANDINI GO BACK A WAYS, MILADY... ?

## COUNTER CHANGE

- CREATOR - PENCILS - LETTERS: MASTER WILLIAM BLACKFOX
- INKS: LY. MISHA OF CARL'S BROOK
- STORY: CY. EALASAIÐ RAMSEY OF SKYE
- SCRIPT: MASTER CADFAN AP MORGAN
- EDITOR: MISTRESS ALANNA OF CAER DU PARD



LORELEI LONGEARS. AND YOU ARE... ?

LORD JACOMO CAVALCANTI, APPRENTICE TO DUCHESS LUCREZIA ALDOBRANDINI, AT YOUR SERVICE!



I COULD EVEN INTRODUCE YOU TO MY HOUSEHOLD BROTHER, RINALDO WHOM I HAVE SEEN YOU ADMIRING FROM AFAR.

THE ONE IN THE TIGHTS!

B-B-BUT I WAS JUST... I MEAN I WAS ONLY...

EEP!

THAT MEANS "YES"!





WELL, THEN...

EY, RINALDO!  
LOOK WHO'S  
HERE!

0000...



WELL IF IT ISN'T OUR FAVORITE  
WELSH POETESS! GOOD MORROW!

RINALDO! TRICCI! I'D  
LIKE YOU TO MEET MY  
FRIEND, LORELEI.



UH...  
H'LO.

DAMN!  
TAKEN!  
WELL IT  
FIGURES.



LADY LORELEI, PLEASE CONSIDER ME  
RINALDD ALDOBRANDINI, YOUR HUMBLE  
BUT ATTENTIVE  
SERVANT!

UMmm... SURE. AND  
THIS LADY IS...?



BEATRICCI  
ALDOBRANDINI,  
MY DEAR SISTER.



Sister?  
How Nice!



HEE-HEE! DON'T  
WORRY, LORELEI.  
I'M NOT GOING TO  
KISS YOUR HAND!

GEE, THANKS...  
OOH! I DIDN'T MEAN  
TO... WELL, WHAT  
I MEAN IS, I'M  
HAPPY TO MEET  
YOU, TRICCI.



HMMM...YOU HAVE THE GRIP OF A FIGHTER.

THAT'S PROBABLY BECAUSE I AM A FIGHTER!



YOU'RE...?

OH, SURE! YOU'LL BE ON THE FIELD TOMORROW?



HUH! TRY AND STOP US! AFTER WE CAME ALL THE WAY FROM—



—KERNWALD!

YES, WE'D BETTER SET UP CAMP NOW IF JACOMO WILL HELP. BYE!



LATER...

NO KIDDIN'? YOU MEAN THAT LADY BORGIA GLITZ ACTUALLY FIGHTS?

BEATRICCI CAN FIGHT, DANCE, MAKE GARB, SING... OH, SHE'S A LADY OF A THOUSAND TALENTS!

ALL OF WHICH ARE WELL-PRaised BY A CERTAIN ANONYMOUS POET— WHO'S GOING TO SWELL THE POOR GIRL'S HEAD IF HE ISN'T CAREFUL!



OH, NO!

"OF PRAISES SONG OF HER SHE IS AWARE YET CLAD IN SWEET HUMILITY SHE GOES. A THING FROM HEAVEN SENT TO ALL SHE SHOWS A MIRACLE IN WHICH THE WORLD MAY SHARE." \*

\* by DANTE ALIGHIERI (1265-1321)

NEXT MORNING...

YOU'RE FIGHTING TRICCI  
THIS ROUND, I SEE...

LORELEI, IF YOU COULD  
GIVE TRICCI A FEW  
POINTERS AFTER YOUR  
BOU, WELL, I WOULD  
APPRECIATE IT.

WHY-UH-SURE RINALDO.

OKAY, MISS BALDACHINE-  
AND-BOWS, LET'S SEE  
WHAT YOU'VE GOT!

MMM-HMMM  
HMMM  
LA-DA-  
DA

AND SO...

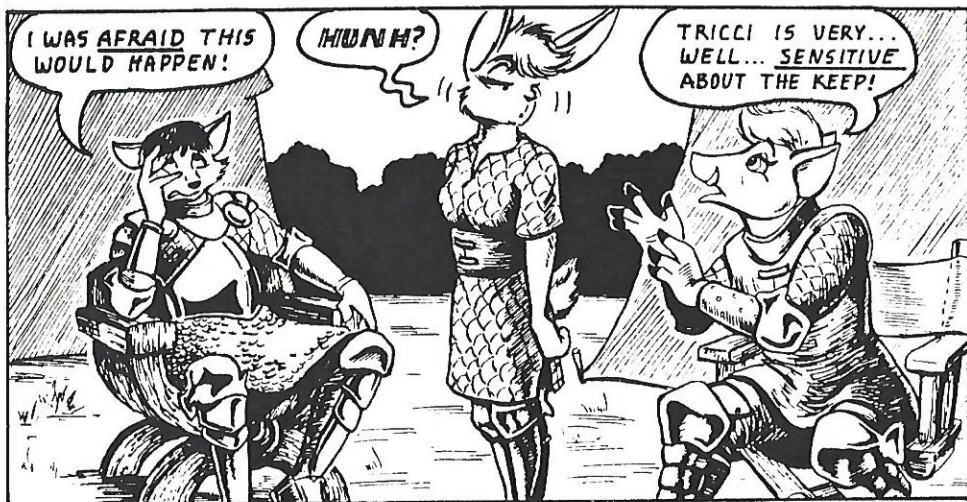








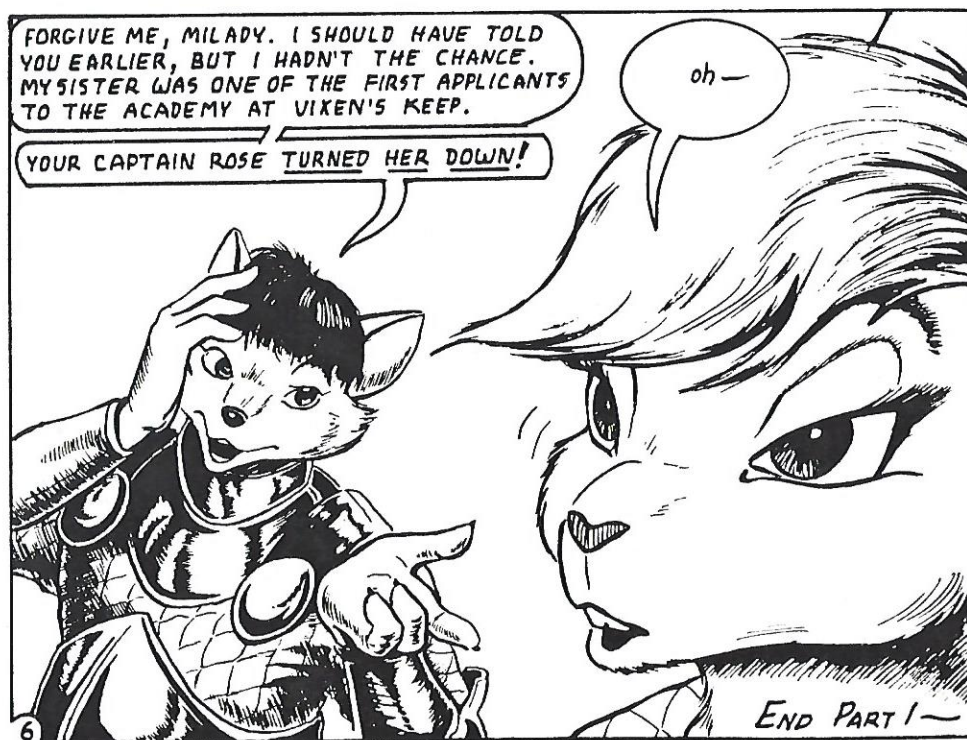
SHE GOT PISSY WHEN I TRIED TO GIVE HER SOME ADVICE. THEN, WHEN I MENTIONED THAT I WAS FROM VIXEN'S KEEP, SHE PUFFED UP LIKE A TOAD AND STOMPED OFF!



I WAS AFRAID THIS WOULD HAPPEN!

HUNH?

TRICCI IS VERY... WELL... SENSITIVE ABOUT THE KEEP!



FORGIVE ME, MILADY. I SHOULD HAVE TOLD YOU EARLIER, BUT I HADN'T THE CHANCE. MY SISTER WAS ONE OF THE FIRST APPLICANTS TO THE ACADEMY AT VIXEN'S KEEP.

YOUR CAPTAIN ROSE TURNED HER DOWN!

oh—

END PART I—

## Book Reviews

By Mistress Aeruin ni hEairain O Chonemara

**Women Warlords: An Illustrated Military History of Female Warriors**, by Tim Newark. 1989, Blandford Press, London. 144 pp.

A Book Review by Aeruin ní hEairín Ó Chonemara, OL

Having researched and written three other titles in similar fields (*Medieval Warlords*, *The Barbarians*, and *Celtic Warriors*), Tim Newark has collected materials for a similar work dealing with women in combat. Nearly all of the women covered within this book are from our time period of interest, or well-enough known during our chosen period that at least their names and deeds were legendary. Most of the book reconstructs their military careers based on contemporary sources and medieval chronicles. A fair amount of archaeological materials are also presented and illustrated, though there are just enough Victorian illustrations mixed in with photos of artifacts, manuscripts, and the like, to be annoying. This practice is consistent with the author's previous works; however, he has not added in a center section of paintings of fighters in their reconstructed armor, from the artist Angus McBride (drat!). For those unfamiliar with that name, Mr. McBride seems to be the "illustrator of choice" for the *Osprey Men-At-Arms* series, which feature not only detailed discussions of museum pieces and reconstructions, but also color prints that can be extremely helpful for those of us wishing to design and build armor and weapons appropriate to one's time period. The author's three other books included those picture sections, and I was hoping to flip to the center section and see a decent rendering of what Joan of Arc was wearing at Orleans - but unfortunately, not in this book.

In any case, the book does its best to describe the strategy, tactics, charismatic leadership, politics, and combat-tested courage of several noted women leaders. It presents the best archaeological support for the real existence of Amazons, pinpointing them as actually being part of the Russian steppe - dwelling nomadic horse warrior tribe, the Sarmatians. The grave finds of women buried with armor and weapons, particularly bows and spears, were well described and illustrated. The author mentions several cases where the parallel recorded histories and/or legends of these women don't match up correctly, though unlike others, he attempts to decipher why this has occurred, and tries to fill in the pieces. For the first time in a long time, I'm now convinced that Amazons were a reality, and not just a useful Greek myth.

Much to my surprise, I learned of two other "societies of women warriors" I'd never heard of previously. When the Spanish conquistadores had conquered the Incas, rumors of incredible wealth controlled by a "city of women" in the depth of the South American rain forest sent Pizarro's brother and several others on a search that came up empty - but named the world's largest river system after the Amazons who were always "just a bit further on down the river." In more recent times, the West African kingdom of Dahomey boasted of having ferocious fighting women as the king's personal body guards - which can not only be backed up by legend, but actual photographs from the late 1800's. The details presented of Dahomeyan society indicate

that these women were not so much an elite military force, as an unusual extension of the king's personal harem. The South American Amazons were probably little more than myth, but the myth was powerful enough to send three different expeditions during our time period of interest into the jungles to find and conquer them - and the gold they were rumored to be hoarding.

The next collection of women leaders all came to power when they lost their powerful husbands in war or politics, or ended up at odds with them for some other reason. Artemisia of Halicarnassus is shown to be a wise naval tactician, even if her contemporaries disagreed with her motives. Zenobia of Palmyra ran the Romans ragged for a good long time before she was captured. The tales of the Celtic queens Medb, Cartimandua, and Boudica have likewise been well described, if mostly from stories and legends. Aethelflaed of Mercia is presented from foreign viewpoints, because her role in the rise of England under the West Saxons to provide a united front against the Vikings is usually presented by the English as "insignificant," by comparison to that of male contemporaries (namely her own brother). Matilda of Tuscany, on the other hand, is well remembered as a heroine famous for her tenacious defence of the Italian papacy against the German emperors, one of the chief military and political struggles dominating southern Europe during the eleventh century. Eleanor of Aquitaine's multifaceted roles during the twelfth century are detailed in political as well as military conflicts, from the Crusade she took part in to her own family dynastic disputes. Jeanne of Montfort showed able leadership during the civil war in Brittany, including siege warfare and naval battles, which eventually merged into the start of the Hundred Years War between England and France. The sole example of a woman warlord who came to power on her own is presented in the case of Joan of Arc, a peasant girl who through "divine inspiration and sheer tenacity" won France a significant triumph in the Hundred Years War and ensured her fame as probably the best known of all women warlords.

Most of the book's presentations are brief outlines of politics, campaigns, and historical details within the proper context. The author has done his best to emphasize careers without inflicting a Victorian bias, or overly criticizing the actions taken by these women under difficult conditions. It reads easily, and the bibliography lists several primary or secondary sources that should be findable through Interlibrary Loan, if one is interested in doing more research on a particular person. I know I will be pestering my local librarian for copies of the works of Christine de Pisan; one of her manuals on contemporary warfare was considered so useful that "80 years later, Henry VII instructed William Caxton to translate it into English for his commanders." The accounts are less detailed than similar ones presented by Antonia Fraser in *The Warrior Queens* (previously reviewed for FOS), and for some of the principal characters, not as well reasearched nor described, but overall the book deserves a place on the fighter's bookshelf if only for its accounting of the Sarmatian Amazons.

What follows is an abbreviated version of the Bibliography from *Women Warlords*, for those interested in reading more.

Sulimirski, T., *The Sarmatians*, London, 1970.

von Bothmer, D., *Amazons in Greek Art*, Oxford, 1957.

Bamberger, J., 'The myth of matriarchy: why men rule in primitive society', *Women, Culture, and Society*, edited by M.Z. Rosaldo and L. Lamphere, pp. 263-280, Stanford, California, 1974.

Herodotus, fullest account of Artemisia at Salamis by a Greek of the fifth century BC. Translated by A.D. Godley, London, 1922.

- Historia Augusta, fourth-century collection of Roman historians chronicling Zenobia and Aurelian. Translated by D. Magie, London, 1932.
- Webster, G., Boudica, London, 1978.
- Webster, G., Rome against Caratacus, London, 1981.
- Anglo-Saxon Chronicles. Only contemporary accounts of Aethelflaed and Edward to survive. Translated by G.N. Garmonsway, London, 1953.
- Duff, N., Matilda of Tuscany, London, 1909.
- Huddy, M.E., Maltida, Countess of Tuscany, London, 1905.
- Pernoud, R., Eleanor of Aquitaine, London, 1967.
- Christine de Pisan, The City of Ladies. Defence of women past and present, written in 1404. Translated by B. Anslay, London, 1521.
- Christine de Pisan, The Treasure of the City of Ladies. Practical manual for women on day-to-day survival, written in 1405. Translated by S. Lawson, Harmondsworth, 1985.
- Christine de Pisan, Feats of Arms and Chivalry. Military manual for contemporary commanders, written in 1408. Translated by W. Caxton, 1490; reprinted in London, 1932.
- Pernoud, R., Joan of Arc: By Herself and Her Witnesses, London, 1964.
- Gies, F., Joan of Arc: The Legend and the Reality, New York, 1981.

My best suggestions are to start a literature search at your own public library, particularly if you have access to a university library or another type that does regular work with Interlibrary Loan. Be patient - sometimes rare books take months to finally arrive, but I've never been disappointed when I finally receive notice that my books have made their long trip. Happy reading to you!

Pillars of the Earth by Ken Follett  
a book review by Aeruin ni hEarain

Every now and again, I come across something that reminds me of just how idealized the SCA is, when compared to the reality of the time periods we choose as the foundations for our Society. Compared to our artificial Society, the world presented in "Pillars of the Earth" was a whole lot more gritty, real, and dangerous. If you are looking for a book that will make you angry with the injustices done to innocent people, for bad guy characters you will loathe more and more as you read on, and for complex, interwoven occurrences in the world of kings that inflict real damage on the lives of simple people, you need to read this book. Though a work of fiction from the New York Times bestsellers list, this book will make you VERY glad the medieval world we play in is NOT the same as depicted within its pages. It's more of a "how it was," instead of the SCA's "how it should have been," and as a result, it will make you think and re-evaluate a great deal of how you feel about the SCA's viewpoint of the Middle Ages.

Actions, people, and incidents in this book all revolve around the turmoil that ensued in England when "The White Ship" sank off the coast, killing all aboard save one person, and leaving the question of royal succession in a mess, which of course set off civil wars and local lawlessness during the contested reigns of King Stephen and "Empress" Maud. Local politics, farmer's hardships, and long term plans all turn strange, as the very large cast of characters find themselves and their interactions crossing and recrossing each other through the years. The central uniting force for a good deal of the action is the building of a new cathedral, with good guys, bad guys, sneaky bishops, hard working monks, unjust hangings, an orphaned baby, uncooperative weather, greed and jealousy in unexpected places, brutal treatment of poor and helpless people, numerous rapes and vicious deaths, famine and unemployment, fires...the works. This book

spends a lot of its time being depressing; it seems every time the people you come to meet and enjoy get a stroke of good luck, the bad guys find a way to sour things. I spent over 300 pages being furious at the main nobility represented, because they were sneaky, lying, underhanded scum - but justice does get meted out in the end, even if the punishments weren't as severe as I would have imposed myself.

Two things surprised me while reading this book, and largely because of my own reactions to what was being read at the time. There are a lot of rapes in this book (perpetuated mostly by the scum mentioned earlier), and I found myself getting more and more furious each time the scum got away with it simply because of his position. Social position was taken as not just an excuse, but a REASON for his behavior, as well as why he wasn't punished; I'm glad that for the most part this is something most of us should never have to deal with (including a system that sanctions such actions because of an individual's rank). The second thing I noticed was how often fire was used as a weapon of terror. As many times as I've read accounts of burning a home, or burning a market or town, this was the first time the sheer terror of such an attack made sense to me. The fire attacks on towns here are so real you'll find yourself sniffing the air for smoke smells, and thinking of what you'd try and grab if you had to run for your life.

With all the turmoil in this book, you might think that there was no safe place, and no peace. Wrong. The church, and many of its agents, are a refuge and support for the people, as well as a source of income, and political troubles, too. What was it like to build a soaring Gothic cathedral? In this book, you can nearly feel the grit from mortar in your nose, and the enormous stone columns and spidery glass windows rising out of hard work and dedication, even in the face of financial troubles, and much hardship. This was my first education in medieval architecture; before you really get serious with this book, find another book (or architecture student, like I did) to learn about the parts of a cathedral, the tools used, and construction techniques. The better idea you have in your head of how cathedrals were built, the more you will enjoy this book. The author has done his research, but sometimes you just need a picture or two to help visualize the magnificent structure going up in the center of Kingsbridge monastery.

Read this book for a serious dose of reality. Get angry, get dirty, get hungry, get depressed, get sweaty, get pregnant, get taxed, and get absolved from sins with the people in this book. And when you are finished, you'll be richer for the experience - and you'll appreciate the fact that unlike these characters, we can step away from our Middle Ages when we need a break.



## Letters to the Editor

I have been reading the Flower of Souvenance for nearly two years now. I haven't always agreed with some of the opinions expressed therein, but I have usually enjoyed reading the articles. I have used some of the shots described to win fights and I have made some of the armor you have run patterns for.

But the article by Duchess Sir Rowan disturbed me.

I like men, and I am a feminist. I've never found those mutually exclusive. I never understood Amazon to mean men-hating either. And if dyke stuff is stuff done by a dyke, then I think I'm out of luck all around.

It may be that I am being too sensitive to a casual word choice, but I had to say something.

I've been told I am an abomination, a crime against nature, sick and degenerate. I don't believe I am any of these things. I came to the realization a long time ago that people are out there who would gladly see me and those like me dead. I've seen letters in various publications telling me we are all bound for Hell.

And yet, it's a throwaway reference I'm writing to complain about. Maybe I am overreacting. Maybe I am too sensitive, but I expected better. I had thought that the FOS was written by and for people who could understand that differences are not so very important, that being different doesn't make someone wrong or evil. Dyke, feminist, amazon, shouldn't be insults. Connie Collins, Middle Kingdom

Connie,

*I am terribly sorry that Duchess Sir Rowan's article upset you in this manner. I think she had a great deal of good to say and I hope you didn't miss it because of a bad word choice. But, the truth is, that was my fault. Her Grace taught that class at TFYC. By what little I was able to attend, I decided I wanted it to be in the FOS. The subsequent article was a transcription made from her notes for that class. The actual transformation from notes into article was done by my husband, who, in many cases, took the exact written words from the notes.*

*The blame however, lies upon me as I did not seek out a different word. I also did not blunt many of the sharp points she made from time to time. This was not done out of malice, but out of lack of sufficient time to do so.*

*It was not my intention to offend anyone by publishing the article the way it appeared. I am sorry if that was the case. Please do not judge Duchess Sir Rowen, or the FOS by this singular incident. I have striven to produce the type of publication desired by those who read it, and in doing so have had to make several compensations along the line. Unfortunately the demand upon my time grows greater as the years pass, and I am not always able to edit articles of potentially controversial or insulting content. This is not so much an excuse, as an apology.*

Cyber, Ed.

---

---

I must say that I enjoy the Flower of Souvenance very much. I do, however, notice a glaring lack of contributions from the East Kingdom. I will try to remedy that.

I have noticed through the years, (I qualified way back in 1978), that the gentlemen of the East have been rather resistant to ladies on the field. There has even been rumor that some men specifically hunt down lady fighters to do them harm. I have never experienced this, but the rumor is bad enough. I also have been out of fighting for nearly 10 years due to a knee injury. I have just started back and I have noticed that although outwardly there seems to be support, attitudes haven't really changed much. The lack of women in the Chivalry speaks volumes. There is a lady in the East who has served as Warlord for several kings, yet no one has the balls to Knight her. She is a more than competent fighter and has all the knightly virtues. None of the Chivalry can come up with a good reason not to do it, yet still they do not.

Another thing that I have seen is the common method of initiating newbies into fighting by using them as pells. I'm sure that the East has lost several excellent potential fighters by means of this practice. I know of very few men, let alone women, that would come back to a sport after that sort of treatment. The calibration in the East also seems to be a bit higher than other Kingdoms. Heavy hitting is frightening to new people. It also requires more and better fitting armor. There is a huge lack of loaner armor in any size, so it is harder for interested people to get started.

I would be interested in suggestions from Lady Knights as to how the rest of us could open the East Kingdom Chivalry's eyes.

Speaking of armor, I was wondering about the many complaints I've seen in your publication about armor difficulties. Long ago it was hard to find ANYTHING small enough, (I'm 5'5"). Nowadays, I've got this great armorer in Florida that makes exquisite, perfectly fitting stuff. He's smaller than I am, so he understands scaling down. They are Wolfshead Armory, 2280 Avocado Ave. Unit 4 Melbourne, FL 32935. The greatest part is that he is reasonably priced! There is also a nice fellow out in Texas who does smaller scale stuff as well. Red Dragon Armory, c/o Rollie Ried P.O. Box 142054, Austin, TX 78714.

Lady Tauna Aelswith, East Kingdom

*Lady Tauna,*

*I thank you for your kind words and information. I have heard rumors from, and about the East as well, and I believe the lady you speak of is Morgan Elandris. It is my understanding that she is more of a war fighter and does few tourneys, this may be a factor in her not being Knighted as of yet, but I cannot say for certain.*

*Lady Knights are not the only ones who may offer suggestions on opening the eyes of Eastern Chivalry, and the best ones can come from the oddest sources. Unfortunately the only thing that will really open their eyes is time and positive experience. If they have already made up their minds, there is nothing that can be done. Sad, but true. If not, they will learn, especially those who choose to travel beyond the East Realm's borders.*

*Also, the East Kingdom is not alone in the deplorable method of pellwork on inexperienced, potential fighters. I heard, just recently from an outstanding fencer in the Outlands, that when he was in the Middle Kingdom, he received the same treatment. Needless to say, that had a profound effect on his choice to become a fencer instead. I am trying to talk him into trying heavy weapons again, but first impressions give one deep scars if not handled properly. There is a lesson in there for all of us.*

*I am glad that you have found armorers that you can work with. I have preferences myself, Mandrake Armory (Whose ad should appear somewhere in this newsletter) suits me and my lord husband perfectly. The key in finding a good armorer, of course, is one you can communicate your needs to effectively, and that is not always easy. Thank you again.*

*Cymer, Ed.*

---

---

The rumor floating around last Pennsic was that this was the last year there was going to be a Ladies Tournament. I hope not! From the standpoint of the less experienced fighters I got a chance to work with, and talk with, that might be a sad thing. For once, I got to be an encourager, a teacher, and a helper, instead of the one that needed these things myself, (but then, who doesn't). People asked me for help, for the first time in a very, very long time. I think those ladies whom I helped might not get that chance again next year, if the tournament wasn't there to provide an incentive for them to drag their armor onto the field for other than the war battles. Though, some of the ladies that came to your tournament came there with fierce, ultra-competitive, cat-fighting attitudes (that happily got trampled into the dust by the three of you with wonderful attitudes that ended up in the final round), a very large number came as shy, uncertain fighters who were hoping for a chance to try without the fear of being broken into smithereens by the behemoths. I too will be happy to see the day when such a tournament isn't needed; I've seen things change a lot in the twelve years I've been fighting, but I think we still need the less threatening attitude and just plain FUN we can create as "just one of the gals" can provide.

I'd like to help you run it, If I can be there. It's important enough to me to see that it happens, that I'll do what I can to help those who really need this kind of tournament for the encouragement, and the learning experience it provides.

Edited from a long letter from Mistress Aeruin ni hEaraino Chonemara, Kingdom of Meridies

*Mistress Aeruin,*

*I would like to take this belated opportunity to respond to the above part of your letter in a more public forum, as there are many who share your enthusiasm about the Ladies Tourney held at the last three Pennsics. As far as I am aware, the Ladies tourney for next Pennsic is still on. It is in the more than capable hands of the lady who won it last time, Lady Alicia MacLeod of Ansteorra (a wicked left hander). I know*



it offers a great opportunity for many women to get together and exchange notes and experiences, and so provides a great service to those who participate in it.

Unfortunately (or fortunately, depending on your point of view), last Pennsic's Ladies Tourney was my last. I had agreed to help run it, and so I did, and entered, knowing it would be my last. If you truly wish to know why, ask me some time. The gist of it is this: For some time now, I have been having a mental dilemma over the gender exclusive entrant restriction of the Ladies Tourney. I know how I would feel if there was an annual tournament excluding all women, and I didn't like the example of a women only tourney. But, it took me a long time to come to grips with my inner turmoil and hypocrisy. Then at that Pennsic, it became clear. After coming in second two years in a row, I knew why I went. In part it was for the female companionship and comraderie, but for the most part, it was because it was easier than any other tournament I had ever been in, (for the stressless atmosphere more than the caliber of the entrants). I proved, to myself and others, that I was one of the best there. My motives were purely mercenary, and that is not the right reason to enter a tourney.

I still think that Ladies Tournies are a good idea, if only for the reasons you stated, but for me, the hypocrisy is just too overwhelming to continue to participate. So now, I play with the big boys, and I don't fare as well, but I can cope with the physical bruises better than the mental ones.

-Cymer

## TOGETHER!!!

The Revised Edition of Ye Headless House Fighters Handbook and Training Manual is now available!

Everything from basic armor requirements, stance, and blows, to advanced fighting techniques and training drills.

Not to be confused with the SCA's Fighter's Handbook, this is not an encyclopedia, but a training manual organized into a series of lessons which can benefit everyone from novice to expert!

All this can be yours for a mere \$8.00 (plus \$2.00 book rate postage; \$4.00 for Canadian addresses).

Send your check or money order to:  
William Jouris  
1248 McEwing Court  
Concord, CA 94521

# Flower of Soubenance

Subscriptions are \$6.00 per year or four issues (within the U.S.), \$8.00 per year in Canada, \$12.00 per year in Foreign Lands without an APO.

Free issues are available to those who submit articles and/or artwork! You will receive a free copy of the FOS that your submission appears in!

## Back issue information:

Issue	Subscriber price	Non-Subscriber price
#7 & 9-15	\$1.50	\$2.00
#4-6, & 8	\$2.50	\$3.00
#1-3	\$3.50	\$4.00

#14 Highlights include: *Women and Fighting*; transcribed from notes by *Duchess Sir Rowan Von Kampfer*, *Thrusting Tip Construction* by *Robyyan d'Elandris*, and *Results from the Flower of Soubenance Tourney and TFYC*.

#13 Highlights include: *Female Fighter's Perspective* by *Sir Hilary of Serendip*, *The Attainment of Peerage* by *Sir Gunthar*, *Changing the World Around You* by *Viscount Galen of Bristol* and the final installment of "Old Scars" in *Vixen's Keep*.

#12 Highlights include: *The 24th Ansteorran Crown* by *Master Cadfan ap Morgan Godrudd*, *Polearm Fighting Part IV* by *Sir Kazimier of Silesia*, *Granuaile Part II* by *Seamus Donn*, *Shark Infested Waters* by *Countess CyMBER* and *Vixen's Keep*.

#11 Highlights include: *Martial Arts female groin and breast protection suggestion and order form*, *Women's Armor Standards - Survey Results* by *Countess CyMBER*, *Polearm Fighting Part III* by *Sir Kazimier of Silesia* and *Vixen's Keep*.

#10 Highlights include: *Polearm Fighting Part II* by *Sir Kazimier of Silesia*, *On Getting Things Done* by *Lady Llamrei Aethnen*, *Women's Armor Questionnaire* and *Caravan*.

#9 Highlights include: *Taking the High Ground* by *Sir Hilary of Serendip*, *Amazon Household Letter* by *H.L. Regina*, *Polearm Fighting Part I* by *Sir Kazimier of Silesia*, *Vixen's Keep* and *Caravan*.

#8 Highlights include: *Practicing the Tear Drop Return* by *Sir Hilary of Serendip*, *Studying Your Opponent* by *Duke Christopher of Hoghton*, *Personal Observations and Techniques* by *Kief av Kiersted*, *Vixen's Keep* and *Caravan*.

#7 Highlights include: *Teaching Lessons* by *Brian Mac Braud*, *Pennsic Women's Tourney* by *Viscountess Yseult Summerhall*, *For the Aspiring Women Fighter* by *Marie Genevieve*, *Vixen's Keep* and *Caravan*.

#6 Highlights include: *Tourney vs Practice* by *Sir William the Lucky*, *Spear Fighting* by *Duke Christopher of Hoghton*, *The Fletchers Jig* by *Valkyrja Skegglos*, *Vixen's Keep* and *Caravan* by *Vladimina Foxfire*.

#5 Highlights include: *Personal Remarks by Master Pavel Josevitch, A Word on Comedy and Tragedy by Lady Llamrei Aethnen and Two installements of Vixen's Keep by H.L. William Blackfox.*

#4 Highlights include: *Talking to Your Sword by Sir Hilary of Serendip, Basic Strapping Techniques, The Fighting Distaff by Mistress Elspeth MacNaughton and the Premier of Vixen's Keep by H.L. William Blackfox.*

#3 Highlights include: *Knees and Knee injuries in the SCA by Lady Kateryne of Hindscroft, Macho and Macha, Attitudes in Fighters, Personal Comments Regarding Armor for Women and Women Gladiators of the Roman Empire by Lady Llamrei ap Pendaren.*

#2 Highlights include: *Initial Trianing of a Fighter by Duke Erin Breck Gordon, Zen of Sword and Shield by Sir Hilary of Serendip and Training Ladies to Fight by Sir William the Lucky.*

#1 Highlights include: *Knightly and Chivalrous Manner by Viscount Galen of Bristol, Specifics on training by Sir Hilary of Serendip, Equality - Love it or Leave it by Sir Maythen of Elhaven and Women Warriors by Adeetha Meara Bytha O'Braugh.*

## Flower of <sup>WARRIORS</sup> Souvenance

letters for the falcons gentle.

\$2.00

First Big Issue!



Flower of Souvenace  
c/o KC Lancaster  
6633 Irving Street  
Denver, Colorado 80221



*Address Correction Requested*