



The Red Threde

Newsletter for

The Royal Fibre Guild of Lochac

JANUARY ASXLVII - 2013



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Curiosity Corner

Did you come to the SCA with fibre skills, and found that this group helps give a historical aspect to your craft?

Did you choose to learn fibre skills to expand your existing SCA persona?

Share your story about how you can to spin, dye, knit, make sprang pouches or weave.

Send it to me for this newsletter, or spark a conversation on our email list. Details in the Regnum.



~ From the Guildmaster ~



Well another quarter has passed where I've been less active for the guild than I'd like to be. My study commitments are over at last, so I pledge to be better this quarter. But I'd also ask you to help me in that endeavour. There are many ways to help the guild. If your local group lacks a warden, perhaps you'd like to volunteer for the role- you don't need to be an experienced fibreworker, just act as a local contact for the guild, enthusing people about the fibrearts and helping people connect with other fibreworkers. If your group already has a warden, you may like to ask to become a deputy to the warden or to one of our officers - they are sure to all enjoy having a little help and knowing that there is someone who might be interested in the role when they are tired of it. I'm also looking for someone to coordinate the award cord projects - you'd remember to ask people to create cords, and arrange for someone to collect and present cords in court twice a year it's not a big job, it mostly just requires remembering. or perhaps you'd like to coordinates some fibre classes or a fibre workshop in your area? You don't have to be able to teach to coordinate a workshop - you can ask others to teach and arrange a time and place for the activity taking strain off the teachers. There are many more ways to help the guild from making award cords to writing articles for the newsletter, to many others - please ask me if you can't think of a way to contribute that suits your circumstances.

Their Majesties have been asking lately if there is anything that can be done to prevent guilds becoming inactive. This has made me wonder about the role of our ordinances if this situation were to ever occur. We've been blessed with the magnificent Ragnhildr who fostered the guild for many years and made sure it didn't become inactive, but what if we ever become less lucky? I'd also like to ask everyone to take a look at our guild ordinances which are published in this newsletter. Is there any way our ordinances could be improved to try and avoid such a situation? Also it's been a number of years since these were last updated, and perhaps it doesn't reflect what we've been doing lately? Some points to think about are: Is anything unclear in them?, is anything missing? Does it make it clear how guild officials are appointed, how ranking is to occur, when meeting happen etc? Is the role of librarian still relevant in the internet age? what about webminister? Should there be other roles listed eg local wardens? I welcome any comments, in time for discussion at our festival fibreguild meeting. Volunteers to write draft changes are also very welcome, but most of all, please discuss the charter, either on our email list or send comments privately to me if you prefer.

Finally, there are coming guild meetings at 12th Night, Canterbury Faire and Rowany Festival so if you are attending, please check the program or email list for details and come along to the meeting.
yours in stringy goodness,

Mistress Teffania de Tuckerton, Guildmaster



~ *Rambblings from the Chronicler* ~

Hello again!

Just as well this newsletter was running late, as it allows me to congratulate our newest Master in the Guild. At Canterbury Faire, Amalie of Brisache was inducted to the Order of the Laurel for her work on Tablet weaving. In a lovely gesture to the populace, Amalie warped up a belt and encouraged attendees to join in the weaving, particularly the brocaded letters. I'll let you read more about it on her blog <http://www.thewarpfactor.blogspot.com>.

As you may have seen on our FibreGuild email list, what should be covered in the Guild Ordinances is being discussed across Lochac. This edition includes our current Ordinances. The Lochac Guilds have been asked to look at their administrative structure, particularly succession planning, reporting style and frequency and so on. Please consider today's needs of the Guild and, importantly, tomorrow's. Send your ideas to Mistress Teffania and/or the email list.

The next edition will be published in time for May Crown in Burnfield. If you have any classes you wish to advertise or information that is of relevance to new or experienced fibre workers, then please contact me via the details in Regnum where you can also find your closest Warden and website links.

My apologies for the lateness, I have been learning more about formatting and how to care for an injured back. (You may like know in advance that falling out of boats when learning to sail is a good way to get introduced to a bad back).

Fru Ragnhildr Freysteinnottir, Guild Chronicler



~ *Guild Ordinances* ~

Aims of the Guild

- ❖ To promote knowledge of the fibre arts and crafts by teaching and sharing our knowledge through spoken and written forms
- ❖ To produce items of fibre work in whatever form
- ❖ To research the fibre arts and crafts of the middle ages specifically, and fibre arts and crafts generally.
- ❖ To meet at the Crown events with the view of sharing our knowledge and examining our works
- ❖ To advise the state of the fibre arts and crafts to the Lochac Arts and Science Minister as required

Ranking in the Guild

Rankings within the Guild, are for Guild use and do not denote awards or titles of Lochac.

- ❖ *Beginner* – unranked or new to the Guild
- ❖ *Novice* – has made one piece in chosen area (eg novice weaver)
- ❖ *Journeyman* – has made five pieces or more in chosen area, has done some research, has shared knowledge with at least one other person
- ❖ *Master* – has done substantial research, has taught classes on the subject, has good knowledge of the subject and has produced a masterwork.
- ❖ *Fibremaster* – master in five or more areas.

Guild Officers

Guildmaster

- ❖ reports to Lochac Arts and Sciences Minister as required
- ❖ organises meetings at Crown events
- ❖ organises competitions as applicable
- ❖ co-ordinates with other officers

Librarian

- ❖ maintains the register of rankings
- ❖ reports advances in rank at Crown events
- ❖ maintains a collection of articles by members of the Guild and brings them to Crown events as required.

Chronicler

- ❖ receives articles from members and arranges for their preparation
- ❖ provides a copy of each published article to the librarian for the guild records

Patron (not strictly an officer) supports the Guild

Twelfth Century Textiles

In honour of our GuildMaster's elevation to the Laurel for her research into the lifestyles of the Twelfth Century, I've been looking for references to Twelfth Century textiles. Hmm, my personal library tends to stop at 1066 or so, then skips to my Lord's interest in the Hundred Years War. The only real references I have are somewhat fictional, but Brother Cadfael's adventures in Shrewsbury, while as strongly based in history as the author Ellis Peters could make it, don't really cover textile crafts in as much detail as his herbal skills.

With my average google skills, I have found the following sites that may be of interest:

The Textile Industry in Essex in the late 12th and 13th centuries. A fascinating thesis on the supply chain and textile economy in a wealthy, agriculturally well setup region in England.

[Http://www.utoronto.ca/deeds/pubs/doc3/fabrics.htm](http://www.utoronto.ca/deeds/pubs/doc3/fabrics.htm)

12-13th Century clothing – www.anarchisma.net/costume2.htm less scholarly, but as the blogger is a re-enactor, the format and questions and style of research is familiar.

teffania.blogspot.com.au – the research and re-enactment of a certain Lochac Laurel.



and my Fleece to Fibre book (reviewed last issue) tells me that the following sheep were probably herded then: from the Black faced Mountain family – Swaledale (a good milker for cheese) and Lonk (good eating too), the Cheviot (though it is thought that early spanish merinos were introduced into the breed in the fifteenth to sixteenth centuries), the Dorset Horn (a good lamber), the small Southdown in Sussex and Hampshire, the roman introduced Cotswold, White faced Dartmoor, Lincoln longwool, romney, and all the Northern European Short-Tailed family: Boreray, Finnsheep, Gotland, Hebridean, Icelandic, Manx Loaghtan, North Ronaldsay, Shetland, Soay, and then there's the Welsh family – all good eating and with some fleece as well.



~ Guild Contact List ~

- ❖ **Website** - <http://lochac.sca.org/fibre>
- ❖ **Email List** - <http://lochac.sca.org/mailman/listinfo/fibreguild>
- ❖ **Guildmaster** - Baroness Teffania de Tuckerton
<http://lochac.sca.org/fibre/about/contact/>
- ❖ **Patron** -
- ❖ **Chronicler** - Fru Ragnhildr Freysteindottir
ragnhildrlochac @ gmail . com . au (remove spaces)

~ Local Wardens ~

- ❖ Politarchopolis (ACT) - Fru Ragnrildr Freysteindottir
- ❖ Agaricus (Southern Sydney district, NSW) - Mistress Marit the Wanderer OP
- ❖ Okewaite (Goulburn & Southern Highlands, NSW) - Mistress Damiana Tigre de Sylva OL
- ❖ St-Florian-de-la-Riviere (QLD) - Countess Leonore d'Scotia OL
- ❖ River Haven (QLD) - Mistress Glynhyvar OP
- ❖ Bordescros (Albury, Wondonga, Wagga Wagga districts, VIC/NSW) - TH Lady Lowry ferch Gwynwynwyn ap Llewelyn
- ❖ Ynys Fawr (Tasmania) -
- ❖ Southron Gaard (Christchurch, NZ) - Lady Amalie von Brisache
- ❖ Aneala (Western Australia) - Lady Aoife inghean Uí Chonchobhair (of St Basil's)

~ Guild Masters ~

- ❖ Countess Margie of Glen More (Arrowsreach)
- ❖ Mistress Miriam Galbraith (Stormhold)
- ❖ Mistress Rohese de Fairhurst (Politarchopolis)
- ❖ Mistress Mathilde Adycote of Menhiot (Politarchopolis/Drachenwald)
- ❖ Countess Leonore d'Scotia (St Florian-de-la-Riviere)
- ❖ Mistress Damiana Tigre de Sylva (Okewaite)
- ❖ Mistress Amalie of Brisache (Southron Gard)