

The Fibre Guild of Lochac Newsletter

Issue Five, Midwinter A.S. XXXIX

From the Editor

Hello everyone!

Some of my more observant readers may have noticed the bias towards knitting and sprang in recent issues of the newsletter. There is an easy remedy for this! Please send me articles on other topics!

I'm looking forward to seeing guild members at the Combined Guilds Day in September, and learning lots of new stuff!

I'd also like to include many thanks to Lady Gwennie, who manages the Guild website. Thanks also to Mistress Adrienne, who stepped in and made some tabletwoven braid for Her Royal Highness Serena at short notice.

Rohese

From the GuildMistress

Hello all and welcome to the Midwinter AXXXIX edition of our Guild Newsletter. Many thanks to Mistress Rohese for continuing to issue such an informative publication.

The GuildMasters are working on the guidelines for ranking, with a nominated publishing date of November Crown Tournament. These aren't the be all and end all for grading a piece, but are an aid to ensuring the same standards are being applied across Lochac. We are our own worst critic, so if using them for self-assessment before deciding whether to submit an item, please make sure you pat yourself on your back for what you have achieved - the research, the trying a new technique or the improvement since the last piece, and of course - finishing the piece. The last criteria is the hardest for me!

Speaking of finishing things, by the time you get to read this, I will have finally finished my Uni degree, so will have time to really get stuck into textile projects rather than the sub-thesis that is taking up all my time. First on the list is a knitted and fulled fifteenth century acorn hat.

Many thanks to those who are providing award cords for the Crown, Her Majesty Queen Yolande loved the presentation at May Crown. You may have seen the request from her Royal Highness Serena for a supply of hanks of dyed and spun yarn to fill her Gifts Basket. This is another delightful way to show off both your skills and your support to the Crown.

Another event coming up is the Annual Guilds Day - this time on the 4th September in Rowany sponsored by the Royal Guild of Defence. I'm going, it will be great to meet up with other Guild members there.

Enough from me (and I have that other writing to do)

Morag

The Combined Guilds Day is coming up!

The Combined Guilds Day is being held in Rowany on the 4th of September. This will be an exciting opportunity to attend classes, share resources, discuss projects and techniques, show off our latest projects and have a good old gossip about fibre arts.

Let's think about what we want to at this event and make arrangements on the email list. We will have some time for a Guild meeting, so we will have time to talk about things like whether we want to include bios on the website, sharing websites and resources, swapping information, and chatting about our ongoing projects- Lochac award cords and local tourney tassels.

I believe that there are still some spaces in the timetable for collegia. This is a wonderful opportunity to share what you have learnt with other people.

Book Review- "Folk Socks" by Nancy Bush

"Folk Socks: The history & techniques of handknitted footwear" by Nancy Bush. Published by Interweave Press, 1994. ISBN: 0-934026-97-1. Currently available at www.amazon.com for \$15.37 US.

"Folk Socks" is an interesting book, and extremely useful for anyone interested in knitting socks, whether historic reproductions or for modern use.

The first 32 pages cover the history of socks and stockings, from animal hides to cloth hose to knitted stockings. The information is useful, and includes some photographs of extant pieces and historical knitting tools.

The next chapter leads the reader through knitting a basic sock. This gives a plain modern ankle length sock, and covers all the techniques a beginner sock knitter would need for this basic sock.

The next section is the most useful for me- the author leads the reader through 8 different heel styles and 8 different toe styles. The instructions are clear, and include photographs of the finished product.

The author then gives patterns for her versions of various historic and ethnic socks. The patterns are clear, and produce truly beautiful socks, but these are generally not beginner's projects! The patterns will give lovely socks, which are based on, but definitely not exact copies of the original socks.

A disadvantage of this book is that the techniques only cover socks knitted from the top down towards the toes. This is a particular issue when she gives a pattern for Mamluke socks, which were knitted from the toe up in period. Furthermore, many of the sock patterns require yarns which are not readily available here. There are no patterns that you could follow exactly and produce a really authentic sock, but the information and techniques are there so that you could write your own pattern.

Overall, a useful book for those interested in historical knitting

Project - Scoggers & Hoggers

By Meroe M. Cahill (Rohese de Fairhurst)

Scoggers were 'armwarmers' worn by sailors for warmth and protection when working, while hoggers were the legwarmer equivalent.

A scogger was found on the Mary Rose, a ship that sank in 1545. It is a tube 30cm long knitted from black wool at a gauge of 6 stitches per inch. It was knitted on 4 needles, and is shaped via decreases (knit 2 stitches together) at the end of each needles during certain rounds, therefore decreasing 3 stitches evenly around the tube. Similar items were found in excavations of 16th century London. The excavated items have decorative borders at each end, consisting of single rows of purl stitches with 2 rows of plain knitting between each purl row.

Records show that Queen Elizabeth I wore knitted sleeves, both simple ("*garnesey knit slevis*") and ornate ("*a peire of slevis of whit knit work with braunches of gold*").

While ornate sleeves knitted from silk were fashionable in Spain in the early 16th century, cheap sleeves made from plain white wool were also worn. For example, a pair of sleeves knitted from flesh-coloured and red silks and lined with mulberry satin and trimmed with gold fringes and large seed pearls were valued at 15,000 maravedis, while knitted sleeves from plain white wool cost only 62 maravedis. These plain cheap sleeves were probably similar to the scoggers in use in England.

Your scoggers should be suited for the social class and station that you wish to portray with your garb. Generally, scoggers were knitted in plain stocking stitch with just a simple border at each end, using a relatively course wool. They were a practical garment, whereas knit sleeves were made from fine silk, and had ornate patterns, and could be decorated with goldwork or jewels, and were lined to protect the fine silk. Scoggers are an easy project for those learning to knit in the round, and a very practical accessory for cold events!

Skills needed

Cast on, knit, knit 2 together, cast off, knitting in the round.

Materials needed

2-3 50g balls of 8 ply wool per pair, a set of 4 double pointed needles (around 3mm is a good size), tape measure, tapestry or wool needle.

Instructions

Change your measurements if you want to make a hogger instead.

- Measure your forearm and wrist circumference, and the length of your forearm (in inches). Allow a little bit of ease, as these would have been worn over shirt sleeves.
- Knit a small sample piece in stocking stitch and measure the number of stitches and rows per inch. Fill in the table below. If necessary round up to whole numbers.

		Your numbers
Forearm circumference	A	
Wrist circumference	B	
Length of scogger	C	
Stitches/inch	D	
Rows/inch	E	
# of starting stitches	$F = A \times D$	
# of finishing stitches	$G = B \times D$	
Decreases	$H = (E \times 6) / \{1/3 \text{ of } (F-G)\}$	

- Cast on (**F**+1) stitches, and place onto 3 needles. Join together (without twisting!) by knitting the first and last stitches together.
- Knit plain for _ of (**C**-6) inches.

- Decreases- Every **H** rows, decrease 3 stitches by knitting 2 together at the end of each needle for that row, Continue until you have **G** stitches left.
- Knit plain for **_** of (**C-6**) inches, or until scogger is desired length. Cast off loosely. Sew ends in.

For a slightly harder scogger, do a border of (purl 1 row, knit 2 rows, purl 1 row, knit 2 rows, purl 1 row) at each end. This will also help to stop the edges from rolling up.

References

- "A History of Hand Knitting" by Richard Rutt. Batsford, 1987.
- "Queen Elizabeth's Wardrobe Unlock'd" by Janet Arnold. W.S Maney & Son Ltd, 1988.
- "Hispanic Costume 1480-1530" by Ruth Matilda Anderson. Hispanic Society of America, 1979.

Filler

I ran out of things to write about, so here is one of my socks! It is based on a 13th century Islamic sock, and is knitted from Regal 4ply cotton at a gauge of 9.5 stitches/inch and 12 rows/inch using a set of 5 2mm double pointed needles.



Guild Administration Matters

Local Wardens

The following members have volunteered to be the Warden for their group:

Politar chopolis	Lady Morag Freyser
Agaricus	Mistress Marit the Wanderer
St-Florian-de-la-Riviere	Mistress Eleanor of Orkney
RiverHaven	Baroness Glynhyvar
Bordescros	Lady Lowry
Ynys Fawr	Baroness Miriam d'Mont Noir

Guild Masters

Mistress Margie of Glen More (Arrowreach)
Mistress Miriam Galbraith (Stormhold)
Mistress Rohese de Fairhurst (Politar chopolis)
Mistress Mathilde Adycote of Menhiot (Politar chopolis)
Mistress Eleanor of the Orkneys (St Florain-de-la-riviere)

Webmistress

Lady Gwennie – gwennie@viking.org.au

Contacting the Chronicler:

Meroe M. Cahill - Meroe@homemail.com.au