

The Fibre Guild of Lochac

Issue Four, Newsletter May Crown A.S. XXXIX

From the Editor

Well, preparing for Rowany Festival certainly is easier when you only live an hour from the site! We were very pleasantly surprised when we realised that we didn't have to take extra days of holidays for travel time.

The meeting at Rowany Festival was well attended by many enthusiastic guild members. There was also a plethora of wonderful pieces put in for ranking, and I was overwhelmed by all the talented guild members out there! Once again I am hitting myself on the head for not remembering to take photos to show off all the talents of our members!

Speaking of all our talented members, would people be interested in putting photographs of their work up on the website?

We are all delighted to welcome Mistress Mathilde Adycote of Mynheniot back as a guildmaster. Mistress Mathilde is particularly experienced in making bobbin lace, but has done some of nearly every different fibre art I can think of! Recently she has been knitting and fulling some rather cute hats!

Rohese

Long-term Guild project for Royalty

Lady Teffania has proposed an excellent project for the Guild, one that is open to all levels of skill and need not take too much time nor money for those short of either or both. Their Majesties have a continued need for ribbons or cords for award tokens.

I have spoken to Bombard Pursuivant (the College of Heralds Deputy for Ceremonies) and he advises that the cords would be good made in the colours of the Kingdom - red, white and blue. Of course, not all colours need to be in each cord, single coloured cords are fine too.

Please remember to make them long enough to go over a head (sometimes with hat or veil), and fine enough to allow a medallion or token to be threaded or tied on. The ends should be treated to stop fraying eg hemmed, sewn in, dipped in wax. Her Majesty thoroughly approved of the presentation at Twelfth Night and certainly adored the added touch of all cords having a note attached listing technique, materials and maker. This will be the standard way we present the cords.

It is planned to have a supply of cords presented to Their Majesties each Crown event. Cords made for the project can also be submitted for ranking (with the documentation of course). I look forward to seeing the variety of techniques, designs and materials.

Morag

For Midwinter Investiture in Riverhaven, Lady Isabeau is collecting the cords. She requests that cords be sent to her post office box, from which they will be forwarded to her. Please allow an extra week for the cords to be forwarded to her in Queensland.

P.O. Box 318
Chadstone Center,
VIC 3148

Minutes of the Rowany Festival Meeting

Present (apologies for misspellings and incomplete names): Lowry, Catherine D'Arc, Isabeau, Teffania, Eryka, Esclaramonde, Osanna, Alessandra Torrigiana, Iseabael, Angharab Y Nyddwr, Ysmay de Lamor, Marit, Rhiannon, Glynhaver, Eurgain, Leofwynn, Lauren.

Meeting chaired by Mistress Marit. Minutes recorded by Mistress Rohese.

Business

- Newsletters are available on the website.
- Ranking- there are requests for ranking guidelines and self-assessment guidelines.
- Guild Day- will probably be held in Rowany.
- Kingdom Arts & Sciences officer is putting together Lochac Collegia in a website format.
- Cockatrice- needs subscribers and articles.
- Website- the webmistress is Lady Gwennie, and the site can be found at www.sca.org.au/fibre.
- Badge- the members voted on their preferences, which were;
 - On a chevron.
 - Colours- blue & red
 - Metal- gold
 - Items- spiked wheel of St Catherine, skein of yarn, fleece, drop spindle
- Gifts for their Majesties- Eryka has spun silk and will dye it blue. Rohese will make it into a hairnet for Her Majesty.
- Continuing gifts of cords for award tokens. Teffania will collect the cords, except for when a local representative collects them. We will look into the use of specific colours for certain awards and publish the list of colours.
- For Midwinter Investiture, cords can be sent to Isabeau (Joey).
- For 12th Night, cords can be sent to Osanna.
- Minutes of meetings will be published in the newsletter.
- A number of people have reported problems subscribing to the email list.
- Rankings are to be put up onto the website so people can check their progress.
- Guild members from Riverhaven are concerned about how isolated groups can get their work ranked, and would like self-assessment guides.

Book Review

“Ecclesiastical Pomp & Aristocratic Circumstance”

By Nancy Spies’

This 314 page book concentrates on historical examples of brocaded tabletweaving. Part One covers the historical background. Chapters include where brocaded tabletwoven bands were made and who wove them, historical uses, technical information, diagrams and graphs of designs used and historical tablets and looms

Part Two contains valuable information on how to recreate these brocaded tabletwoven bands. There are general instructions, but more importantly, also detailed descriptions of surviving pieces and graphs of the designs. There is also a catalogue of surviving pieces in museums, with many photographs of the extant pieces.

While this book is not cheap (approximately \$70), it contains a wealth of information for those interested in brocaded tabletweaving. I obtained my copy from Mistress Bess Haddon of York, who imports this book for her business.

Controversy Corner- Grading & Ranking Guidelines

To make things easier for the guildmasters doing rankings, we now have a form for people to fill in before putting a piece in for ranking. This is as there is often little spare time at events, and instead of the guildmaster having to write down details such as your name, they can now spend this time actually looking at your work! The top half of the form contains your details, a description of the piece for ranking, and the rank given by the guildmaster. This is sent to the librarian for the guild archives. The bottom half of the form is a tear-off section which the guildmaster can write comments and feedback on. To make it even easier, you could print out the form at home, and bring it to the event already filled in! The form will be available on the guild website (www.sca.org.au/fibre), or it will be available at events where guildmasters are available for ranking work.

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

• Beginner Unranked or new to guild	You don't have to do anything to be ranked as a beginner! How easy is that?
• Novice Has made one piece in chosen area [eg novice weaver]	Note: You may make more than one novice piece. A novice piece will generally be quite simple, and may show inconsistencies in the technique. After all, you are learning at this point!

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Journeyman <p>Has made five pieces or more in chosen area Has done some research Has shared knowledge with at least one other person</p>	<p>In order for pieces to be ranked at Journeyman level, you must include written documentation. This shows that you have done some research. If you do not have documentation, your piece will be ranked as a novice piece instead of journeyman.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Master <p>Has done substantial research Has taught classes on the subject Has produced a masterwork</p>	<p>What is a masterwork? A masterwork is a piece which involves a high degree of skill, technical knowledge, and generally time to produce. It must show a high standard of finishing and care in the work. It must also be documentably period. The research should be presented as a written piece for the guild archives.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fibremaster- master in five or more areas. 	

You can be ranked as a master or journeyman in one field, while still being a beginner or novice in other fields.

The Coppergate Sock

The Coppergate sock was found in the remains of a 10th century wattle building being excavated as part of the Coppergate site in England. It is a short sock, coming to just below the ankle. It was produced using nalebinding, from a smooth plied S2Z (S spun, 2 ply, Z plied) woolen yarn. The sock had been worn quite heavily, as the sole of the foot is felted from wear, and it had also been patched (the patch no longer remains). The last row of the sock is made from yarn dyed with madder, while the rest of the sock was undyed.

Nalebinding (there are many different spellings of this term) is a technique where a fabric is created using a large blunt needle and short lengths of yarn. Loops are created by ‘sewing’ through loops of previous rows, and there are many different variants of the stitched used for nalebinding. The resulting fabric is very dense but still flexible, and superficially resembles knitting, leading to many pieces of nalebinding being misidentified as knitting.

This information on the Coppergate sock comes from “Textiles, Cordage and Raw Fibre from 16-22 Coppergate” by Penelope Walton. The Archaeology of York. Volume 17: The Small Finds. The Dorset Press, 1989. Searching for the Coppergate sock on the internet will find many sites with daigrams of the sock, generally taken from the aforementioned publication.

The Guild at Grassroots - Local Wardens

One of the great things about having a Guild is that it makes it easier to get together with like minded people, in our case, with other who like playing with textiles and fibres. The Guild is encouraging volunteers to be Wardens of their local area to assist in organising the get togethers and to promote textile stuff in all its forms. You don't need to be the local A&S Minister to be eligible to be a Warden.

- Ideas that wardens can do to help Officers of guild and members of guild in local area:
- Central contact point for Guild admin to help keep addresses/contact details up to date
- liaison with local A&S to get textile related lectures/workshops into the programme
- liaison with local A&S to get textile related competitions into the schedule and find judges
- (Masters happy to do that field, qualified Journeyman)
- Organise or host get together to chat and work on pieces
- Help coordinate any current Guild projects underway
- Help introduce local members to appropriate people (Masters happy to do that field to get items ranked, others to help teach)
- Centralised posting (if want to) regularly of ranking information to Librarian for recording
- Report regularly to Guildmaster on what's happening (for publication in newsletter and inclusion in report to Queen and Lochac A&S)
- and perhaps Central distribution point for newsletter (one bulk mailing to region cheaper than many at 50c?)

In the main, I see Wardens as Ministers for Enthusiasm, first point of contact for introductions, and assisting with the administration of the Guild.

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

- Politarchopolis - Lady Morag Freyser
- Agaricus - Mistress Marit the Wanderer OP
- St-Florian-de-la-Riviere - Mistress Eleanor of Orkney OL
- RiverHaven - Baroness Gwynhavyr of Riverhaven OP
- Bordescros Lady Lowry
- Ynys Fawr - Baroness Miriam d'Mont Noir

Volunteers for the other groups? Contact the Guildmaster, Morag.

Guild Masters

Lady Morag Freyser (Politarchopolis)

Mistress Marit the Wanderer (Agaricus)

Mistress Margie of Glen More (Arrowreach)

Mistress Miriam Galbraith (Stormhold)

Mistress Rohese de Fairhurst (Politarchopolis)

Mistress Mathilde Adycote of Mynheniot (Politarchopolis)

Mistress Eleanor of the Orkneys (St Florain-de-la-Riviere)

Contacting the Chronicler:

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