



the skein

wherein ARE WOUND
the JARARVELLIR JARNS



The Skein
Paul Goldschmidt
5625 Highland Way
Middleton WI 53562



DECEMBER 2008 A.S. XLIII



BARONESS:

Her Excellency Eithni ingen Talorgain (*Jean Hetzel*) 4934
 Goldfinch Dr, Madison WI 53714, 628-7782, 226-0846,
 baronesseithni@yahoo.com

BARONIAL OFFICERS



Archery Captain: Lady Jois Corbet (*Deena Thompson*) 226-0846,
 corvusjoyous@gmail.com



Chatelaine: Lady Elizabeth Wren (*Kristine Anderson*) 333-6413,
 ladywren@gmail.com



Chirurgian: Lady Fiona (*Lyn Andreassen*) 445-4622,
 tskrangsangel@lycos.com



Chronicler: Paul Wickenden of Thanet (*Paul Goldschmidt*) 827-6891
 goldschp@tds.net

Demo Coordinator: Annora le Spindlere (*Vicki Spindler*) 835-2617,
 democoordinator@jararvellir.org

Directory: Cwenthryth wine (*Toni Sumner-Beebe*) 298-0918
 cwen@uwalumni.com



Exchequer: Lady Tatiana McGowan (*Dawn Brueggemann*) 989-493-
 9019, exchequer@jararvellir.org

Historian: H.E. Adrien de Troyes (*Chris Olson*) 249-6382,
 detroyes@hotmail.com



Knight Marshal: Roisin igen Ailill (*Rebecca Heidelberger*) 244-4621,
 roisin106@aol.com



Minister of Arts & Sciences: Ermina (*Bettymae B. Doyle*) 338-5897,
 bettymae.doyle@charter.net



Pursuivant: Kristyan Applegate (*Kristen Bird*) 715-760-0603,
 kristyanapplegate@gmail.com

Rapier Marshal: Cosimo de Cellini (*Joe Ordaz*) 274-0997,
 jordaz@netzero.com



Seneschal: Ivan Matfeevich Rezansky (*John Beebe*) 298-0918,
 rezansky@sbcglobal.net

UW Reservations: Amy of Jararvellir (*Amy Dee*) 715-559-3653,
 uwreservations@jararvellir.org



Web Minister: James (*James Krot*) 989-493-1953,
 jamesjkrot@yahoo.com

Baronial Mailing Address: PO Box 1002, Madison WI 53701-1002

Baronial Web Page: <http://www.jararvellir.org>

Baronial Email list: jararvellir@minstrel.com

LEGALESE: This is *The Skein*, a publication of the Barony of Jararvellir in the Kingdom of Northshield of the Society for Creative Anachronism, Inc. *The Skein* is available from Paul Goldschmidt, 5625 Highland Way, Middleton WI 53562. It is not a corporate publication of the Society for Creative Anachronism, Inc. and does not delineate SCA policies.

The Skein is Copyright © 2008 Society for Creative Anachronism (SCA), Inc. - Barony of Jararvellir. Except where otherwise stated, all articles in this publication may be reprinted without special permission in newsletters and other publications of branches of the SCA, Inc., subject to the following conditions: A) The text must be printed in its entirety, without additions or changes. B) The author's name and an original publication credit must be printed with the text. C) You must send a letter to the editor of this newsletter, stating the articles you have used and in what publication the material has been reprinted.

SUBMISSIONS & SUBSCRIPTIONS: Subscriptions for 2008 are free, but there is a recommended donation of \$1 per issue to cover postage and copying (Full year = \$12). Submissions will be edited for grammar and spelling. Anything that is in poor taste or violates SCA publication guidelines or copyright law will not be published. *The Skein* is published monthly on the first Wednesday after General Meeting. The submission deadline for each issue is the Friday before the General Meeting of the publishing month. Submissions are accepted in any (legible!) format and via e-mail. Please also include any publication restrictions beyond those of this newsletter.

ART CREDITS: The cover and interior art are unattributed and taken from an unknown antique book, reproduced at the Karen's Whimsy website (<http://karenswhimsy.com>).

CANTON OF COILLE STOIRMEIL

(Monroe & Juneau County, WI)

<http://www.coillestoirmeilonline.org>

Seneschal: Matthias of Rolling Oaks (Matt Schwall)

23149 State Hwy 21, Tomah WI 54660

limos112@hotmail.com, (608) 372-5445

Monthly Meeting: First or second Sunday of the month at the Nest in Tomah

BARONIAL MEETINGS, GUILDS, AND CONTACTS

Please call the contact person to verify when & where an activity is held!

Archery Practice Sun 12-2PM, Wed. 6:30-9PM. UW Stock Pavilion

Contact: Lady Jois (Deena) 226-0846

Armoured Combat Wed. 7-10PM, Sunday 2-4PM. UW Stock Pavilion

Contact: Roisin igen Ailill (Rebecca Heidelberger) 244-4621, roisin106@aol.com

Armormaking Tuesdays 7PM. 3314 Ridgeway Avenue

Contact: Master Giles (Ed Gilbert) 244-2845, horsebows@mail.madtown.net

Bardic Arts (not currently active)

Contact: Vacant

Brewing & Vintning Third Monday. Various locations (call for info)

Contact: Robert the Stout (Robert Trefz) 441-6150, rtrefz@tds.net

Calligraphy & Illumination Tuesdays 7PM. Call for location

Contact: Lady Eile (Alicia Cronk) 250-4595, leleth.faery@yahoo.com

Clothier's Guild Alternate Mondays, 7PM. Contact for location and dates.

Contact: Iohanna (A. Rebekah Turner) 957-9072, arebekah@gmail.com

Cordial Guild First Tuesday 7:30PM Contact for location

Contact: Lady Cianna Kharleen (Carrie Wilkey) 846-8008, cianna@teadame.com

Equestrian (not currently active but information available)

Contact: Alissende de Montfaucon (Tammy Thompson) 212-5433, alissende@centurytel.net

European Dance Sundays 3PM. UW Campus—check TITU for room.

Contact: Lady Genevieve Elisabeth Dumas (Jenny Becker) 206-9330, kathrynscully98@aol.com

Fletching Fridays 6:30PM (call ahead) 5418 Imagine

Contact: Lord Toussaint de Caluwe (Tyson Patterson) 838-4092

Fool's Guild Alternate Wednesday 6:30PMish, UW Stock Pavilion.

Contact: Lady Aliénor Hathaway (Mariessa Dobrick) 658-8941, reesa83@aol.com

General Business Meeting Usually 1st Sunday, 7PM, Edgewood College,

Predolin Hall — call to verify meeting date and location.

Contact: Ivan Matfeevich Rezansky (John Beebe) 298-0918, rezansky@sbcglobal.net

Instrumental Music Mondays 7PM-Beginners, 8PM-Advanced.

UW Campus—Check TITU

Contact: Lord Nikolaus der Ausländer (Clint Hotaling) 846-0859, n_auslander@hotmail.com

Middle Eastern Dance and Drumming Wednesday 8:15pm, UW Stock Pavilion.

Contact: Lady Kenya (Heather Cushing) 298-0103, evilkenya@tds.net

Needlearts Tuesdays 7:30. Call for location

Contact: Lady Helena Caxton (Sara Andrews) 414-507-5872, lostvirtue76@yahoo.com

Pottery Guild First or second Monday (alternating with Clothier's), Fired Up Pottery.

Contact: Annora (Wendy Nelson) 438-6530, wendybyrd42@yahoo.com

Rapier Practice Wednesday 6:30-9PM, UW Stock Pavilion

Contact: Cosimo de Cellini (Joe Ordaz) 274-0997, jordaz@netzero.com

Social Practice Wednesday 9PMish. Call to verify location

Contact: HE Eithni (Jean Hetzel) 628-7782

Thrown Weapons Sundays Noon, Second Wednesdays 7PM, UW Stock Pavilion.

Contact: John "Jack" Bartholomew of Flanders (David Thompson-Hall) 257-1082

Vocal Music Thursdays 7 PM UW Campus—Check TITU

Contact: Lady Aliénor Hathaway (Mariessa Dobrick) 658-8941, reesa83@aol.com

EPISTLE FROM THE BARONESS

Unto the Populace of Jararvellir does Baroness Eithni ingen Talorgain send greetings!

December is here and Nature has decided that Winter is as well, regardless of what the scholars tell us about there being a few more weeks of Autumn left in the year. With Winter comes a series of wonderful Holiday activities and events. First will be Boar's Head in our neighbor Barony of Caer Anterth Mawr. I hope that many of you will be able to attend because, in addition to the usual delights of the event, CAM is bringing back a series of old favorites - from tourneys to feast menus. This year, Boar's Head will also host the Princess' Sleeve Tourney for our very own Princess Ailleanne. Plus, there will be one major new feature to the event that they are promising will be a great improvement - the event will be held at the same location as the previous two years, but in a brand new, larger building. I look forward to starting my holidays off right in CAM and I hope to see you there! After a short break for the holidays and soon after the New Year will be Nordskogen's Twelfth Night. As usual, it promises to be a delightful gathering of friends and family from across the kingdom, an event more than worth the snowy trek north.

And shortly on the heels of Twelfth Night will be Jara's own Yule Moot, to be held Sunday, January 18th, 2009. Please note that, in addition to our traditional Holiday merriment, the evening will conclude with the combined January/February General Meeting. If you have any suggestions for activities you would like to see or award recommendations, please contact me as soon as possible so that the requests can be considered. As usual, it will be a laid back, minimally scheduled day, but watch the Jara List for details as they become available.

The end of January will bring "It's Only a Flesh Wound" an event of all fighting, all day. Last year this was a wonderful success, despite truly challenging weather that weekend. This year promises to be even more spectacular, with Duke Paul of Belatrix attending - a "guest beater" I guess you could say. More information is available at: <http://www.jararvellir.org/OnlyAFleshWound2.php>. Grab your armor and your fighting buddies and join us in Jefferson for a full day of wonderful winter fighting!

With all this winter excitement, don't forget the Canton's winter event - That Moot Thingy, to be held February 6-8 in Tomah. As usual, they are having a slumber-party event, so please register early to obtain a "cabin" space if you will be spending the night.

With all these wonderful opportunities for visiting, I look forward to seeing many of you often in the coming months. The holidays are a wonderful time for celebrating our families - both born and chosen. Thank you all for being such an

important and wonderful part of my family! May you and yours enjoy a safe, wonderful, and blessed Holiday season!

Yours in Fishy Service,

eithni

DECEMBER GENERAL MEETING MINUTES

In attendance: Marian Elizabeth Wollenschläger, Paul Wickenden, Ivan Rezansky, Tatiana, Tegan, James, Nikolaus der Ausländer, Eliane, and Cwen.

Chronicler (Paul): The January *Skein* will appear on January 21 (the Wednesday after the Moot and General Meeting) while the February *Skein* (which will include the Domesdaye) will appear around February 4. Remember to send me your renewals!

Tegan: Nothing.

Directory (Cwen): I am having trouble with my wrist and thumb and typing has become very painful. As a result, I need help finishing the Directory.

The Directory's listing of awards is mostly out of date and incomplete. In the future, the Kingdom OP is going to include a full list of Baronial awards, making a list in the Directory unnecessary, so I plan on removing this part of the Directory.

Webminister (James): I forgot to do a quarterly report but will do it tonight.

Exchequer (Tatiana): If you need any reimbursements, I'll have the check book at Boar's Head and we will be able to handle it there.

LOCAL NEWS

JARARVELLIR ARTILLERY BRUNCH

Sunday, December 21 at 11am

Please join us for the first indoor archers' brunch of the season, starting at 11:00 am. Our kind host this month is Toussaint de Caluwé at 5418 Imagine St (directions below). Please bring a dish to share. Archery practice begins at noon at the Stock Pavilion. As always, we have loaner archery gear available.

Directions to 5418 Imagine St:

From the Beltline, go south on Stoughton Rd. (Hwy 51). Turn left at the first stoplight onto Voges. When Voges deadends, turn right on Marsh. Turn right on Yesterday, entering the Lost Creek neighborhood.

Take an immediate left on Honeypie, then turn right onto Imagine.

The house is 5418 Imagine, 4th house on the right. The phone is 838-4092.

Questions? Contact Jois (226-0846) .

STOCK PAVILION SCHEDULE

We have the Stock Pavilion for all of our accustomed times in December, except for December 24th and 31st, when we are canceling practice. As always, the full schedule (and the new waiver) can be found at:

<http://www.ansci.wisc.edu/Facilities/stockp.htm>

Classes by Duke Paul:

Great Weapons 2hrs

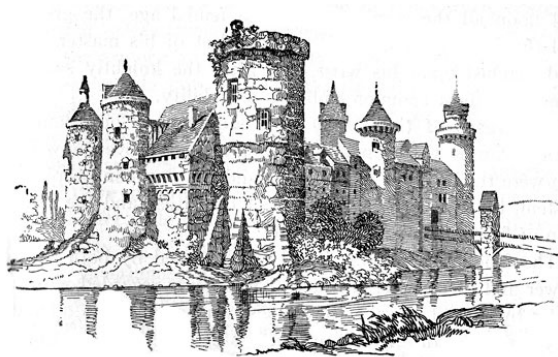
Perception Movement and Rythmic Slow work 2hrs

Question and answer session

First class will start at 10

There is also an A&S competition/display. All entries must somehow be connected to armored combat whether it is a piece of armor or a scroll blank with a fighter on it.

<http://www.jararvellir.org/OnlyAFleshWound2.php>



EVENTS

OUT AND ABOUT

For more information visit the individual group's website (accessed from <http://www.northshield.org/Events/List.aspx>).

December 2008

13—**Boar's Head**, Caer Anterth
Mawr (West Bend WI)

February 2009

6-8—That Moot Thingy/Rumble in
the Forest 3, **Coille Stoirmeil**
(Tomah WI)

April 2009

4—Spring Coronation, **Jararvellir**
(Madison WI)

May 2009

29-31—**Mermaid's XVI—Sweet 16**
Coming Out Party, Turm an dem See
(Valders WI)

Eliane: There is no Bardic Madness site yet.

Chatelaine (Ivan for Wren): Wren submitted her quarterly report and announced that she is planning to step down. Eliane is the only candidate. **[Wren did not actually nominate Eliane though, so that will need to be done at the January meeting (and the vote will take place at the March meeting)]**

Newcomer's Moot (Ivan for Wren): We had fairly low turnout for the Moot, with twelve people sitting feast. As a result, we went slightly over budget on food. The site was cleaned on time and we got the site deposit back. The site was happy with us and would let us come back if we wanted to use it again.

Music Guild (Nikolaus): We are prepared to perform at Boar's Head. And we also have a new member, Laura (who is 11 years old). She's also joining the choir. We are also planning to perform at Flesh Wound.

Marian: I just came to collect paper work.

UW Reservations (Amy): The central reservation office has been working off our organization's information from last year, but we need to formalize our structure to be an approved student group (and use the facilities). I have created an operating procedures document. **[Ivan suggested that we could strike out the section about guilds as the only leader that needs to be mentioned is the UW coordinator. Amy will send an electronic copy to Ivan and Eithni]**

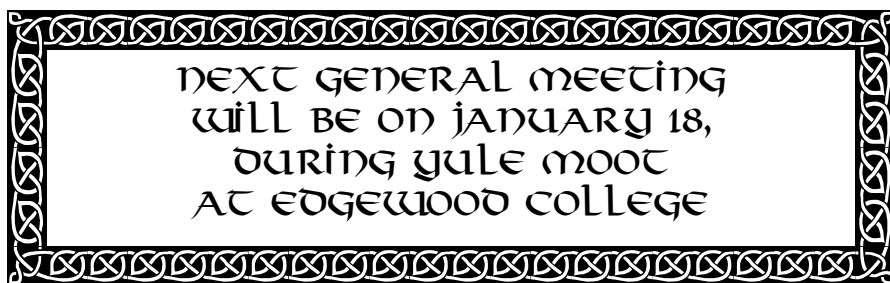
Coronation (Ivan for Kristen): We need to make a decision about what the site fee for coronation should be. She recommended a fee of \$7, which would have a break-even of 125 people. **[Meeting approved]**

Yule Moot (Ivan for Eithni): HE has requested that the instrumental and vocal music guilds do a performance. **[Ivan will ask her to contact the guilds]** There will be a potluck feast, games, court, and a general meeting.

Seneschal (Ivan): Our meeting dates for next year will be March 1, April 5, May 3, June 7, June 28, July 26, August 30, October 4, November 1, and December 6.

I would like to move the Baronial mailbox from main post office on Martin Luther King. It is inconvenient to get to and park at. It has very limited hours in the lobby (and fewer hours at the counter). One alternative would be Hilldale station (behind the mall). It is near the stock pavilion and has extended hours. The south side is also an option (and we could look at the Westside or Eastside Stations). I will research the hours further.

Bake Sale (James): Everyone should make baked goods for a bake sale at Boar's Head to benefit the Heiresses Fund.



ANNOUNCEMENTS

JARARVELLIR yule moot

Sunday, January 18, 2009 — Washburn Room, Edgewood College

Come join us for a day of fellowship and winter merriment as Jararvellir hosts its traditional Yule Moot! Bring some games and munchies to share during the day and a dish to pass for the evening potluck. Tea and hot cider will be provided throughout the day. Please note that, after the potluck, we will be having the combined January/February General Meeting.

Contact Eithni with any questions or award recommendations (baronesseithni@yahoo.com 608-628-7782). Watch the Jara list for more details and a final schedule!

it's only A flesh wound

Jefferson County Fair Park ,
503 North Jackson Ave., Jefferson, WI 53549

Gate opens at 8:00am

Site closes at 9:00pm

Site Fees: Adults \$8.00 5-12: \$3.00 Under 5: Free
Non Member Surcharge will apply No Pre-Registration
Site is handicap accesible.
Food is available for purchase on site from vendor

Co-Autocrat: Lady Kristyan Applegate(Kristen Bird)
764 Topeka Dr
Lake Mills, WI 53551
(715) 760-0603 kristyanapplegate@gmail.com
Co-Autocrat and MIC: HRH Stephen du Bois (Stephen Ward)
5105 Wallace Ave
Monona WI 53716
(608) 886-3909 polearm1@gmail.com

First tourney will start PROMPTLY at 10:00. Authorizations are at 9:00 and by appointment only through the Marshal in charge. Showers also available on site.

Tourneys:

Atlantian Speed Tourney (unbelts)
Banner Bearer Tourney
Great Axe
Great Sword
Florentine
Mixed Weapons
3 person melee (only 1 member of the Chivalry per team)

Special Guest: Duke Paul.

We are excited to announce that Duke Paul of Bellatrix will be in attendance. We are all honored to have him visit and teach.

Now take the flat underside of the nib and put it flat to the inside wall of the ink bottle. This will drain some of the excess ink away from the pen. This puts some of the ink back into the bottle and leads to less wasting of ink and less ruining of your calligraphy.

Okay, now that you've done that go ahead and draw some quick lines on the corner of the paper you are using. That should get rid of any leftover ink and stop it from blobbing as you write.

Now you can make your angle diagram. On your lined practice paper draw a pen angle diagram in the upper right portion of the page. Draw the angle to about 30 degrees. Then on the first line of the paper draw a nib ladder that is four squares high. This will be the height we'll be working with. Now look back to the drill pages and let's have some fun! Try to draw at least a full line of each pen stroke. Take into account that you are writing with a flat nib, not a ball point pen.

Use the least amount of pressure you possible. It sometimes helps to think that you need to pull the ink out of the paper. Out of the paper? Yes. The ink is actually coming from the nib of course but if you think of pulling the ink out of the paper you don't bear down so hard on the nib. Bearing down hard on your nib makes it much more difficult to write with a calligraphy dip pen, and doing so can destroy your pen and the project you are working on.

— Pen Angle:

Every hand of calligraphy has a proper angle to hold the pen at. Here is one way to remind yourself what that pen angle is for the hand you are doing.



Just draw the left and bottom side of a square and then approximate the given pen angle for that hand.

— Line Width and Letter Height:

Likewise every hand of calligraphy has a proper height to write the letter to. This height is almost always in direct proportion to the width of the pen you are using. This pen width is often called a nib width. An easy way to determine the correct height to write to is to make what is called a ladder. Yes, it looks more like steps but it is called a ladder. This diagram is made by turning your flat nib to 90 degrees flush with the bottom line and drawing it straight toward the right side of the page.



As you can see each square you make from drawing the nib horizontally to the right side of the page starts on the upper right corner of the square furthest up. In this way you build your ladder square by square until you get the correct height for your ladder. You then wait for the ink to dry. Then you can measure the height of the ladder to determine just how wide your lines should be.

northshield choir

Greetings, tis I, Lady Genevieve Elisabeth Dumas, and I would like to announce that the Northshield Choir will be having a rehearsal and concert at Boar's Head! We will be meeting at 12:00 and rehearsing until 1:30. At 1:30 we will be having a concert. Music is yet to be determined, but once it is it will be announced and I will do my best to have midis and music available. Anyone who attends the rehearsal is part of the Northshield Choir, reading music is a plus but not completely necessary, past choral experience isn't necessary either, just a desire to sing and make music with others and have fun are needed! Please come and join us! If you have any other questions please don't hesitate to email me at kathrynsully98@aol.com I hope to see many old and new faces at Boar's Head this December 13th in the beautiful Barony of Caer Anterth Mawr!

YIS,

GENEVIEVE ELISABETH DUMAS

Northshield Choir Coordinator

MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS

Now it is even easier to renew your membership online!

The SCA Inc. and the Board of Directors is pleased to announce a new service available to new and renewing members. Next time, when you renew your membership online you can also sign your waiver online. This means it is no longer necessary to fax or send in a signed waiver, and no white card until your blue card arrives!

As in the past you can still print a proof of membership from the website.

Please take a moment and take a look at our new website and online services!

PATRICK ANDERSON

President, Society for Creative Anachronism, Inc.

A GENTLE INTRODUCTION TO CALLIGRAPHY (TWO OF AT LEAST A FEW)

by Ian the Green

In my last article I discussed the pen, ink and paper with you and some basic general knowledge about calligraphy supplies. It was brought to my attention though that while I discussed paper with you, I didn't discuss what papers are out there and what kinds are best to use. So we're going to revisit the topic of paper for a moment and then we will go on to discussing basic calligraphy practice strokes.

Paper (continued)

There are many different kinds of paper out there and each has its own finish, fiber, weave and each takes the ink differently. Papers come in so many different kinds, one's that are really wonderful for one project can be terrible for another.

Practice Papers

Some paper is useless for a finished product but is wonderful for practicing on. It is strongly recommended that you don't use regular lined writing paper for practice paper. Its fibers are very loose and they will get caught up in your nib. Also, your ink will bleed through the paper fairly easily. Instead, a pad of sketching paper can be a good inexpensive paper to do your practice work on. Another good practice paper is simple computer printing paper. If you're worried about needing lines on your computer paper there is a wonderful website that will make lines for you: <http://www.scribblers.co.uk/cgi/gridlines.pl>

Another excellent paper for practicing your calligraphy is Borden and Riley's #37 Boris Bright White. This paper is a layout paper and shares some qualities of tracing paper. Namely that it is thin and white and you can trace what is underneath it. However, unlike most tracing papers, you can use calligraphy nibs and ink on it and the results are just spectacular. I prefer to use it when I'm working with Scroll Blanks. I can trace the writing area out along with any important illuminations such as borders and historiated initials. This is great for doing rough draft work and, as the name suggests, layout work too. Boris's semi-translucent quality makes it easy to lay over another piece of paper with lines and transfer them over. A 9" by 12" pad of 50 sheets will cost you less than \$7.00 and can be purchased at Artist and Craftsman on State Street. Other craft stores may carry it, but it isn't a common pad of paper to have in stock, so call and find out first.

When you are done practicing and/or working on your layout, its time to move on to a paper worthy of a finished product. Some papers are a matter of choice, others are just to be avoided no matter how much you like them.

Final Project Paper

Paper that is rough is wonderful for painting on but when it comes to writing with a flat nib on them, they couldn't be worse. Avoid any paper that is not smooth, which includes many papers designated for use with water colors. Rough pieces can catch the edge of your nib and flick ink drops onto your finished product, ruining it. Also, the nib may not be able to touch down on all the nooks and crannies and so they simply won't write there, causing your lettering to be broken up. While these issues can create some very cool effects, for what we do in the SCA with Calligraphy these results are disastrous.

Bristol Vellum is a very common paper to use for finished calligraphy work. It is relatively cheap, easy to find and work with and is good enough quality and weight to be used for scroll blanks and scrolls. An 11" X 14" pad of 15 sheets of Bristol Vellum will cost you less than \$7.00 at almost any art supply shop that sells paper.

Arches Cold Press and Hot Press papers are very nice to work with and in my opinion provide for a better looking finished product. Unfortunately, I haven't found any place that sells blank sheets in pad form. They almost all have preprinted borders on them. You can however, find 20" by 30" sheets for around \$5.00 each at Michaels and at Jo-Ann Fabrics.

We discussed pergamena in my last article as well. John Neal Bookseller sells 10 sheets of natural or white colored heavy weight pergamena for less than \$5.00 plus of course shipping and handling. John Neal Bookseller is a very SCA friendly Scribal Merchant. <http://www.johnnealbooks.com/>

Drills

Enough already! Let's start writing! Take a look at the Pen Angles and the drill page inserts. You will learn how to put ink to paper and how that affects the look of the calligraphy and how you write. You will see some diagrams there and we're going to give them a try. Yes, this is the part you may have thought was scary.

Before we get into actually using the pens, let's discuss how to dip the pen into the ink and then clean off the excess ink. When you dip your nib into the ink you only need to dip about half the length of the nib into the ink. Any more than that and you will have a lot more ink than you need. Too much ink on your nib will create ugly blobs of ink on your paper that can cause lots of problems.