

the skein

wherein ARE WOUND
The JARARVELLIR JARNS



The Skein
Paul Goldschmidt
5625 Highland Way
Middleton WI 53562



AUGUST 2009 A.S. XLiv



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

Baronial Email list: jararvellir@minstrel.com

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SUBMISSIONS & SUBSCRIPTIONS: Subscriptions for 2009 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 Anything that is in poor taste or violates SCA publication guidelines or copyright law will not be published.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 art is unattributed and taken from an unknown antique book, reproduced at the Karen's Whimsy website (<http://karenswhimsy.com>). The filler art comes from the archives.

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, kathrynscurly98@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

Greetings unto the Populace of Jararvellir from Eithni ingen Talorgain!

With Warriors and Warlords so newly past, and Pennsic so soon in the future, we now enter into the still limbo-time of summer. Often, the days of late July are too hot for a gentle to even think straight, but this year they have been cool and breezy, offering us the luxury to reflect and to plan.

First, while Warriors and Warlords is always an excellent and memorable event, I think most of the kingdom will especially remember WW XVI, whether or not they attended. Things proceeded most smoothly for the majority of the event - this was our second year at Boscobel, so many people already knew the lay of the land and were becoming comfortable with the town. As usual, WW's schedule was full of fighting, and dancing, and classes, and shopping, and courts, and so many of the wonderful tight-packed delights that make WW a fabulous event every year. Even the weather gave us a mostly smooth weekend, save the windy and wild weather on Friday morning... Instead of weather, or injuries, or site changes, or other disasters, this year's excitement was provided instead by the unexpected arrival of a new Northshielder. Duchess Æsa, our fearless Jara autocrat, left site abruptly on Saturday evening and was quite quickly delivered of her daughter Maren. If babies were not miracle enough on their own, the lovely little girl has been known to make Duke Raito smile... repeatedly! News of the birth was shouted from fire to fire across the WW encampment and the whole kingdom rejoiced, raising toasts and singing lullabies well into the night. Congratulations to the new family! What an exciting end to such a wonderful event!

Of course, we cannot discuss WW and all its joys without a word of thanks to the volunteers. From autocrat to the folks volunteering for a shift at Info Point, every contribution to the event helps it run more smoothly. There are literally hundreds of hands that make this event run - I'll not even try to name you all, but that does not make your efforts less appreciated or necessary - so thanks to Staff and Crews and attendees alike! You are what makes WW such a special experience for so many! Thank you!

And now, it is time to prepare for War... We are called East, first to fight with the Dragon and then against her as a new format for the War is trialed. We will begin the week East and Allies versus Middle and Allies as usual, but midway the war will be realigned and the Middle and the East will unite against the armies of the rest of the Knowne World. It promises to be an interesting and exciting war, both on and off the battlefield, and I hope many of you may join us. But for now, I take my leave – there is sewing and packing and scheduling to be done, after all!

Yours in Fishy Service,

eithni



AUGUST GENERAL MEETING MINUTES

In attendance: Eithni, Paul Wickenden, Annora le Spindlere, Iohanna Carracci, James, Tatiana McGowan, Sol, Roisin, HRM Stephen, Reinholdt, and Ivan.

Chronicler (Paul): Having recently lost my deputy (Ermina), I am looking again for a deputy. In addition to learning how to produce the *Skein*, this person would need to be available to take minutes at the General Meetings that I am unable to attend.

JARARVELLIR ARTILLERY BRUNCH

Sunday, August 16 at 11am

Please join us Sunday, August 16 at 11:00 a.m. at lovely Hoyt Park. We'll provide the hot coals and condiments, bring a grillable item for yourself. Feel free to provide something else for people to munch on, though it's not required. Please bring your own feastware. After the BBQ, we will retire to the Stock Pavilion at noon to shoot. You are welcome to join us at one or both locations. Loaner equipment is available.

Directions to Hoyt Park:

FROM THE EAST--take your best route to Regent St. Head west on Regent, keep going past West High School and the cemeteries. Continue on Regent, it will take you into Hoyt Park. Keep driving past the sign for the park and the parking lot for the large park shelter (on your right), continue down the street as it meanders along. Eventually the houses on the left give way to an expanse of lawn with picnic tables and stone fireplaces. On the right, the woods with picnic tables and stone fireplaces drop away and a scenic overlook with parking for several cars appears just before the road starts to meander downhill. Park there. Go across the street to the table with the SCA people sitting at a table with a tablecloth.

FROM THE WEST--take your best route to Midvale Blvd. Turn onto Hillcrest, located halfway between the Mineral Point and Regent intersections. Go several blocks on Hillcrest and turn left onto Owen Parkway (note that you will pass Owen Dr. along the way). The street sign is hard to see, but if you reach Westmoreland you went 1 block too far. Owen Parkway will take you up into Hoyt Park and turn into Regent St. Look for the lawn with stone BBQ's on your right and the scenic pullout on your left. You can park in the pullout, or continue down the street to a lot on your left as you leave the park.

Questions? Contact Sol (sol1040@gmail.com)



EVENTS

OUT AND ABOUT

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

August 2009

7-9—Poor Man's Pennsic
XVII, **Falcon's Keep**
(Wisconsin Rapids WI)

September 2009

4-6—Autumn Rose, **Rokeclif**
(Galesville WI)
25-27—30th Baronial
Anniversary and Baronial
Championship, **Caer Anterth**
Mawr (Menomonee Falls WI)

October 2009

10—Fall Crown Tourney,
Windhaven (Fond du Lac WI)

November 2009

7—Kingdom SUN, **Jararvellir**
(Madison WI)

December 2009

5—Boar's Head 2009, **Caer**
Anterth Mawr (West Bend WI)

January 2010

23—It's Only A Flesh Wound,
Jararvellir (Jefferson WI)

LOCAL NEWS

STOCK PAVILION SCHEDULE

At press time, the calendars for August and September were not yet posted, but we assume that we have our customary times. Be aware that there the practice schedule may be modified/reduced during Pennsic.

The full schedule (when it is available) can be found at:

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

Shade Flys (Iohanna): The Baronial shade flys are finally done (they just need a little paint!). We now have two gigantic shade flys (they are as big as this room when the fabric is unfolded). Just a little note: if you borrow them, make sure to flod them so the fishes kiss (the painted sides touch each other). This way, the paint doesn't get on other parts of the fly.

Baronial Succession (Eithni): The poll should go out right after Pennsic.

WW (Eithni): WW went very well (as all of you know). The autocrat had to leave early but a full report will be available later. Towards the end, the gate count was 820 people. This is not bad. It's a bit lower than previous years, but it's definitely enough to keep us in the black.

Griffin's Needle Challenge (Eithni): Among our upcoming events. We already have five teams confirmed and a sixth one rumored.

Library Demos (Annora): Because this is our August meeting, it is time for us to discuss the Library Mall demos. Do we want to do them? It is good to try to do at least one of them at the same time as the Student Org Fair. This year, the Org Fair is on the 9th but is being held at the Kohl Center. Perhaps we could do our demo on the lawn at the Kohl Center? This would work out best though if we were signed up to be at the Org Fair. To do that, we'll need help from our student members. I will contact Amy to see who is available. We could plan on doing demos on the 9th and the 16th (if possible, we'll do the Kohl Center on the 9th and the Library Mall on the 16th). For the date(s) at the Library Mall, I will go out and plaster the area with posters a few days in advance. I will also find out what we need to do to reserve space in front of the Kohl Center.

Knights Marshall (Roisin): People are fighting.

Fighter's School (Stephen): Windhaven has asked us to do Fighter's School for them. I'm proposing we do it on February 20, 2010 at the same site (Jefferson Co Fairgrounds) where we are holding Flesh Wound (one month earlier). It is a similar event, but there are more classes than Flesh Wound. Our budget for this event is based on the assumption that the site rental will go up 25% (they said it will likely

go up 5-10% but I wanted to be safe). The contract won't be available to sign until September. There really is no problem with this event being too much like Flesh Wound, because this one is about 3/4 devoted to training while Flesh Wound is all fighting. The break even will be about 80 people, but we are planning for 100 to show up (and will probably get more than that). **[Meeting approved the proposal]**

Reinholdt: I have nothing.

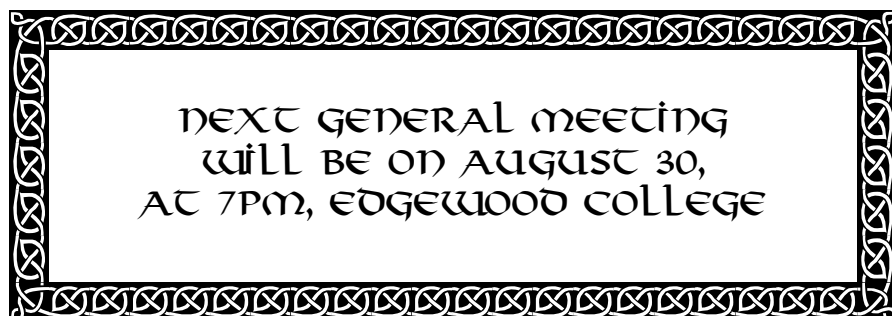
James: I'm OK.

Exchequer (Tatiana): Tentatively, it looks like the Barony's share of the net profit from WW was about \$1655.

Crown (Stephen): After this Wednesday, I will not be available by email for the next week and a half.

SUN (Ivan for Marian): Marian has asked for a check to be cut to pay for event advertising. At this time, it is still possible that the Baronial transition will take place at SUN. People who want to teach a class at SUN should contact Caitlyn or Lyulf (there will be an online announcement to come). I am still looking for a porter.

Baronial Succession (Ivan): Lance should be sending out the polls when he gets back from Pennsic. If you want to vote, make sure that you are a paid-up member and living in Barony by then. The ballot will have a space for comments and Their Highnesses would like to see comments.



Hosted by the Barony of Jararvellir

GRIFFIN NEEDLE CHALLENGE

October 16-17, 2009

Rodeway Inn South * 4916 E Broadway * Madison WI 53716
Hotel website: <http://tinyurl.com/2phqe3>

The Griffin Needle Challenge is a costuming competition, open to teams or individuals, where the goal is to create a complete outfit in just 20 hours! Site will open at 6PM on Friday and the competition will begin at 10PM. Needles down will be called at 6PM on Saturday night, with the judging to follow immediately. There are four divisions to accommodate any skill level, all the way from Novice to the Pyxis' Pleasure (where the goal is to create an outfit and accessories that is as accurate and documentable as possible), so grab some friends and grab some fabric and come sew with us!

The major changes for this year include:

- * No need to draft patterns on site - we would rather you produce a quality garment than show how fast you can drape a pattern.
- * The site is in a hotel and so completely climate controlled
- * The site is in a hotel, so those desiring a "real" bed can reserve a room for the night.
- * However, due to site constraints, we will not have a separate communal napping room. Bring an eye mask and earplugs if you plan to nap at your station.

Please see the website (<http://tinyurl.com/2phqe3>) for details, rules, and more information as it becomes available.

Since site is smaller this year, space will be limited - please register your team as soon as possible by sending the following information to Eithni: Team Name, Team Captain, Captain's email address, Captain's phone number, Division: (Novice, Intermediate, Advances or Pyxis' Pleasure), Period and culture of entry (optional), and Estimated number of team members.

<http://tinyurl.com/2phqe3>

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Deputy Chronicler — The Deputy Chronicler helps with the production of the *Skein* and other print publications, as needed. The primary responsibility is helping the Chronicler with taking minutes at the General Meeting or publishing and distributing the *Skein* during periods when the Chronicler cannot do it. Familiarity with desktop publishing, strong communication skills, and ability to meet tight deadlines a plus. If you are interested in the position (or wish to learn more about its requirements), please contact Paul Wickenden at goldschp@tds.net.

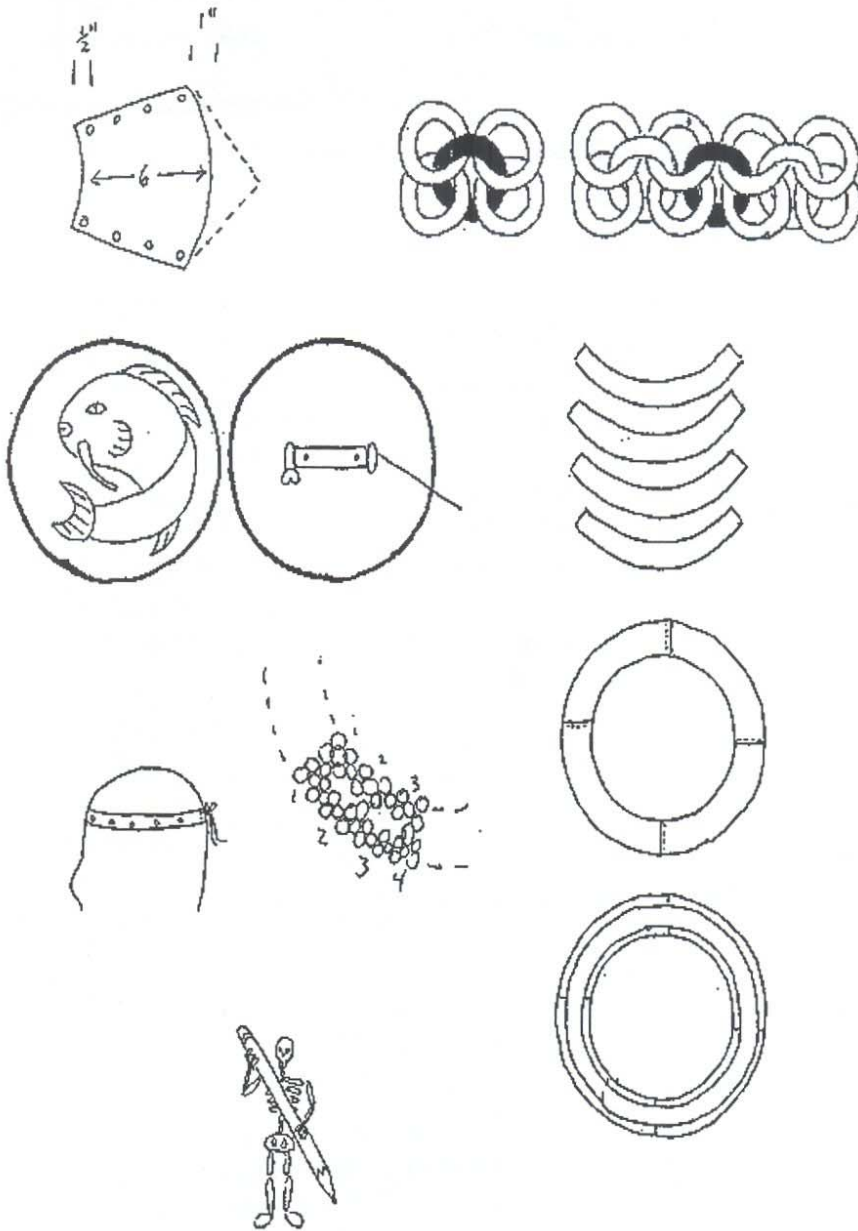


Editor's Note: In the 1990s, the *Skein* featured a series of how-to articles on various subjects written by Scaramouche (and his trusty sidekick Gristle). By request (and also because we are short on recent original contributions), I have decided to re-run a number of these articles.

This article (on accessories) originally appeared in the *Skein* in the June XXXII (1997) issue.

SCIENTIFIC JARAVELLIAN

Hi-ho and welcome! It is I, Scaramouche DelStrago, back in control and ready for action. Gristle is safely back in his box, so there's nothing to worry about.



For this issue, I'd like to talk about accessories (see page 10 for the illustrations). Those final touches that make your event garb get noticed. Ideally, these should be period and appropriate for your persona, but I'll leave those decisions up to you. For men, I suggest faux armor and pseudo-badges of office. For women, accessories are pretty much similar to today's, only more home-made looking: large brooches, belts, and jewelry.

Bracers. Let's start with a simple piece of faux armor, the bracer. Since everyone has different sized arms, these will need to be made according to your own measurements. Get a tape measure and measure your wrist (mine is 7"). Add 1" and write this number down. Now measure 6" down from your wrist and measure the circumference of your arm there (mine is 10 1/2"). Again, add 1" and record the number. With some paper and a ruler, start your pattern. Remember, as a tapering cylinder, the wrist and forearm measurements will have to be plotted along an arc, with a depth of 1/2" for the wrist and 1" for the forearm. If you want, your bracer can be peaked towards the elbow. At 3/8" from each 6" side, you will need four holes to set snaps in. Set the male snaps facing up, and the female down. Personalize your bracers, with studs, tooling, or painting. Put your device on each, or a large calligraphed initial, or Bayeux Tapestry figures.

Circlet. Another easy accessory is the circlet. This is a coronet-like band that encircles the crown of the head. Measure the circumference of your head at the forehead. Cut a 3/4" strip of 4-5 oz leather of that length and dye it whatever color you want. Decorate it with small riveted plates, studs, or spikes; or you could paint knotwork or floral designs on it. Punch two holes on the edge of each end, and tie a small length of thong through them. Tighten the circlet to fit snugly.

Chainmail belt. The next project is a chainmail belt. Get or make about eight hundred 1/2" rings. You can make them yourself with a drill, a 1/2" diameter rod, and some heavy gloves. Close half of the rings and open the other half. Loop four closed rings onto an open ring, and then twist it closed. This is called a *ringlet*. Use up all of your closed rings making ringlets. Lay the ringlets out side-by-side and connect the two closed rings on each side of the ringlets with two from the next ringlet in line. Make two chains like this and then lay them side-by-side, and connect them the same way — two from one chain linked to two from the other — until you have one long strip of

chainmail two ringlets wide. The best sort of buckle for this belt is a trophy-style buckle, with a closed loop on one side and an inward-facing hook on the other. Fasten the rings from one end of the belt to the closed loop, and you can use it like a normal belt. To decorate, you can connect chainmail triangles to the bottom edge to make dags or you can weave colored ribbon through the links. A one-ringlet wide chain also makes a nice choker necklace.

Brooch/cloak clasp. For a brooch or cloak clasp, cut some five or six ounce leather into a 2" circle (or any shape you wish, such as a shield, fish, Thor's hammer, or fleur-de-lis). Tool or paint the face with whatever you want (animals, flowers, knotwork, etc.), or you can cement some fake jewels onto it. Now cut out a mirror image of your brooch from heavy cloth or light leather, and sew or rivet a pin back to it (you can find these pins at craft stores). Cement the two brooch shapes together back-to-back to complete the pin. Two of these connected with a small chain make a wonderful cloak clasp. Experiment with different sizes, shapes, and functions (at some craft shops you can find barrette clips, tie-tack backs, and earring posts).

Chain of office. Lastly, there is the chain of office — a large circle of chain or embroidered cloth, which is worn not tight around the neck, but loose over the shoulders like a mantle. To make one from chain mail, make a mess of ringlets and form them into a 3" chain and a 4" chain. When connecting the chains, link every third ringlet on the 3" chain to every fourth ringlet on the 4" chain to make a large flat circle. For the embroidered version, cut arcs 13" long and 1 1/2" wide out of suede or heavy felt. Overlap the ends 1/2" and stitch them together to make the flat circle. Now take four feet of 1" embroidery trim and sew it down the middle of the circle. Every couple of inches you will have to gather the inner edge of the trim to make it lie flat.

That's about all I have time for this month. I'll be back next month with some more helpful hints and gratuitous abuse. Until then, go bother someone else.

SCARAMOUCHE DELSTRAGO