

The Windlore

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A Note from Their Excellencies:

Greetings Everyone,

Although it seems like Fall has just arrived Winter and the Holiday season are their way. We would like to thank our officers and the members of the populace who braved the chilly but sunny weather for the Baronial Fighter Practice, Potluck, and Meeting. You guys help keep the Barony going. :) We would like to remind everyone that Ymir will be here shortly and we and Their Majesties are requesting award recommendations. The earlier you can get them in the better as it gives the scribes time to work on scrolls. We hope that you all will enjoy a warm and happy Thanksgiving with your friends and families and we look forward to seeing you all afterward.

Gaston and Rosalind



Upcoming

Windmasters' Hill Events:

- Baronial Meeting and Practice:
November 15th
(different locations)
- Ymir: February

Greetings and welcome to the October, 2008 issue of the Windlore, the newsletter for the Barony of Windmasters' Hill.

This newsletter is distributed primarily in an electronic format and is accessible from the website
www.windmastershill.org.

If you desire to be sent a hard copy of the windlore via mail, please submit a written request to the Barony by coming to a monthly Baronial Meeting or by contacting the
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Notes from the Baronial Meeting, October:

**Next Baronial Meeting:
November 15th!**

Dunecan started the meeting @ 5:06, and introduced himself as the new deputy Baronial Seneschal. The meeting was encouraged to be quick, as it was cold and the food was waiting.

Exchequer: Trephina announced the \$13,192 bank balance, of \$6,428.13 is allocated (mostly for Ymir), \$6,724.14. Income: \$372.14 from silent auction (Margaret @ Midnight) and \$160 from Pennsic (allocated to next Pennsic). We are still waiting for \$50 from Efenwealt and \$50 from Nimenefeld for using the Baronial tent. Some discussion of outstanding Nimenefeld Ymir \$\$ also ensued. (All of the Ymir profits have been donated back to the Barony except Nimenefeld's). It was noted that the Barony should consider trying to grow our coffers, and discussion ensued – if we hold more events, we could make a bit of money so that we could easily do 2 events at once. Further discussion was held of putting some of the Barony's money into CD's, etc. Gaston urged everyone to consider running Kingdom events, etc – we're in the middle of the Kingdom so we're a great area.

Baronage: Gaston announced that Sir Marc wants to model the Southern Regional army after the Northern Region. Gaston has discussed this with His Majesty, and the current plan is to keep our command structure and tabard color. Rosalind asked that the Barony send in award recommendations for both Kingdom and Baronial level - please include modern names.

Seneschal: Dunecan announced that the Baronial meeting for November will be indoors – one suggestion is Two Guys (has a side room), another is Subway. More ideas are welcome. An announcement of time/place will be made.

Elvegast is sending email announcements of the schedule; since they've moved to Camelot Treasures attendance is up.

Attilium is doing well, practice and meetings are still scheduled as usual (meetings on third Thursday, fighter practice on Sundays).

Buckston had a very successful demo @ Duke, 30 SCAdians were there and the professors were very impressed. 3 students came to War of the Wings. They're also working on a Durham Academy demo – November 7th, 1:30-2:30. The church is doing an ESL class, so parking/fighting is a little crowded, there may be changes coming.

Kappellenberg – just picked new classes, they should be on the website. Amongst others, Her Excellency will be doing a class on Tudor garb on December 8, Girard will be doing a 12th night class.

Nimenefeld – Currently every other week @ Milano's, but this may change.

Herald – the Pelican Queen of Arms has decreed that they will not be registering SCA-compatible (rather than actually used in period) names in the future – if you're planning on registering a name that might fall under this, you need to register it now (by November 1). James will post the list of names-that-will-go-away as soon as he has it. Award name and household names are also affected by this.

Chronicler – needs content.

Quartermaster – nothing to report.

Knight Marshal – Girard is not yet the KM, but hopes to be soon.

Rapier Marshal – Stabbing is fun, you should do it often, if you do, you should be a marshal.

A&S – the position is currently vacant, please consider doing it. KASF will be in MD, and don't forget Tempore Atlantia.

Web – after the holidays, the website will be revamped.

Chancellor of Minors – Elizabeth of Attilium will be stepping up as soon as her warrant comes through.

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Ymir: Please see Nikulai to sign up for staff positions. The deposit is made, and the site is reserved – the hall is new and gorgeous. One note: Bright Hills Baronial Birthday is the same note, we're going to suggest next year they consider moving it...

Mol – According to Kingdom, we cannot ask for duplicate waivers from people with blue cards.

New Business – An announcement: 2nd week of November, the Raleigh beekeepers will be holding a mead class by the 2 blue ribbon winners from the Fair.

Rapier Marshall Report:

Greetings good gentles,

You, yes you there, the one not fencing. You should start fencing! All the cool kids are doing it, and if you aren't, you should be. Because you're a cool kid. Right?

Hey... I wonder if this er... non-peer pressure thing really works. Let's try something else... YOU! Yes, you, the cool kid already fencing! You should be a marshal! All the REALLY cool kids are marshals, and you're really cool, aren't you? Of course you are! Contact your local Really Cool Kid to join the Really Cool Kid club.

Until next month,

Wistric

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Book Review:

To Rule the Waves: How the British Navy Shaped the Modern World

by Arthur Herman. Harper/Perennial, 2008 (\$15.95)

Once my desire to stab people is satiated, my historical obsessions/daydreams tend to wander away from the Valhalla-like sword melee of my inner thoughts and towards the more efficient killing machine that was the British Royal Navy under Nelson (I get the feeling, though, that a historical recreation society that included Nelson's flagship the *Victory* would be a little out of budget). Herman (also author of **How the Scots Invented the Modern World**) adds another title to the historical sub-genre of "Why X is Responsible for Modern Life" (See **Salt: A World History** by Mark Kurlansky), but this time about something I care about (one day somebody will write a book on "How the 35-inch Thin Steel Blade Shaped the World". One day).

To Rule the Waves charts the course (I couldn't resist) of England's navy from its earliest days as the fleet of Henry VIII (including a top-heavy flagship named the *Mary Rose*) up through Nelson's triumphs over France and on through to the modern British navy. Along the way, the tale lingers on just how roguish Sir Francis Drake was, just what makes Samuel Pepys's diary important, and just why a bunch of Massachusetts rum smugglers decided they needed to rebel. Also, that whole War of Jenkin's Ear thing? It finally makes sense.

While the bulk of the history takes place after the sixteenth century, the foundations of the navy in the 1500s are in no way glossed over, and the lives of John Hawkins, Drake, and Sir Walter Raleigh, the proto-admirals of the nascent navy, receive treatment almost equal to that given to Nelson. And though tactics, strategy, and ship construction are described in a place commensurate with their importance, the focus of the story is the people, the individuals and the British nation as a whole, who built, commanded, paid for, and manned the ships, whose tales are all laid out in a clear and captivating style.

Wistric

Greetings from the Exchequer!

The Barony netted \$362.75 from the Silent Auction at Midnight at the Oasis. We should thank Margaret Wolseley for volunteering to plan and organize it. The Barony also received a donation of \$103.16 from the remainder of the private Pennsic Camp fees. The money is to be earmarked for next year's Pennsic fund.

Currently we have \$13,192.30, of which \$6,468.13 is allocated and \$6,724.14 is unallocated. The allocations are as follows:

Allocated Fund	Purpose	Original Allocation	Balance
Baronage Discretionary Fund	Required by financial policy	50.00	50.00
Barony Emergency Fund	Required by financial policy	500.00	500.00
Ymir	Event, Nikolai autocrat	6,815.00	5,815.00
Pennsic fund	Pennsic	103.16	103.16
Total allocated funds			\$6,468.16

If there are any questions please contact me!

YIS,

Tréphine la Broderesse

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On Sewing and Project Development

Yesterday Hillery Brewer asked me, "How do you make your SCA clothing look so right?" First I want to say thank you for the wonderful compliment. As you all undoubtedly know by now I spent a lot of time on my projects and it's a combination of several different things that create the final result. After all, we are creating historical clothing, not just garb.

focus

My primary focus is late Elizabethan England, usually 1580-1603. Sure, there are other time periods and countries that spark my interest. I'm fairly certain that every time period has something that I really adore about it but Elizabethan England is my one great love. I know that many people really enjoy having something from every time period and country and I think that's great. However, I do think that having one primary focus or even a primary and a secondary focus goes a long way to really helping you get the look down. It's not just the clothes that make the man (or woman). The accessories play a major role in achieving the correct look and if you are focusing on one or two time periods it's a lot easier (and less expensive) to acquire them. The more you know about your time period and its fashion the more you know about which accessories are correct not only for your chosen period and place but also to your persona. The more you know about what you are looking for the easier it is to steer away from items that are not quite correct and build a wardrobe of accessories that fits your persona. Even if you are paying more per item it's far more economical to spend \$30 on a ring that's perfect than to spend \$10 on an item that you decide to replace in 5 years because it's not "right". Sure, you may need to slowly build your accessory wardrobe. Some items are expensive and some items take time to craft but in the end it's worth it.

Acquiring a good accessory wardrobe is not the only way that focus helps to achieve the correct look. Fashion does not happen in a vacuum. A country's own culture and its interaction other countries also plays a role but I think I will save this for a post of its own.

Research

I start every project with research. It's not just important to know that gown x is period but I need to know when it was worn, what materials were often used, what classes wore it, what are the differences between similar gowns worn by different classes, how was it worn and the variations within the style. I look for tons of pictures to determine what colors were popular for which classes, how the gown lies on the body, the visual structure of the garment, how things like seams lay. Then I look at sources like Janet Arnold's *Patterns of Fashion* for similar garments to learn more about possible construction techniques and the physical make up of the garment. The truth is the more research you put into a garment and apply to its construction the better the finished product will be.

As a side note to everyone out there, if you have not already done so, take some time to learn about the interlibrary loan system. Also, if there is a university or college in your area find out what you need to do to get a library card for their library. These two simple steps will open up a world of research opportunities. I have gotten several of Janet Arnold's old articles through the ILL system and thanks to UNC Libraries I have access to JSTOR and Early English Books Online. These are invaluable research tools that we don't use often enough and if there is any way at all that you can take advantage of them, do it.

Materials

Having the right materials really goes a long way towards making the garment and the look. Yes, it can be more expensive but that's where your budget comes in. Do you need to wait on beginning the project while you save money? Can you use linen instead of wool? Can you cut the cost of buttons and trim by making your own? Can I save money by ordering online instead of going to the local fabric store?

I work nearly exclusively in silk, linen, and wool. Not only are they appropriate to the time period I am working in but they consistently give excellent results. These materials can be expensive but if you take the time to shop around you can often find things on sale or good prices online. I also don't spend money stockpiling fabric. I order or pick up fabric for specific projects. Sometimes I may change my mind about what projects I use what fabric for but it almost always has a purpose when I buy it. If I begin to feel like I have too much fabric in my stash I will work almost exclusively from my stash rather than ordering more fabric. That may mean

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compromising on color or going with linen instead of wool but unless I absolutely have to have a certain fabric and color for a project then I will try to work from my stash and not order more fabric until I need to.

Time

Taking your time with a project is extremely important. I rarely give a project a specific deadline anymore because when I have I have not been as happy with the results. Something always goes wrong or doesn't turn out the way I want it to. When that happens I'll redo it over and over again until I'm happy with the result. And then there are the times that I'm just sick of looking at a project and I put it away until I'm ready to work on it again.

Taking your time to get the results you want will pay off. I can't tell you how happy I am to have a wardrobe that has lasted me for years and will last for many more. Sure, I still make new things but I have garments in my closet that are 6 years old and are still favorite staples of my wardrobe. Sure, the garments I've constructed more recently are better than the ones I made 5 years ago, but those garments from 5 years ago are still in excellent condition and I wear them quite often. When you have a wardrobe that you have spent countless hours researching and constructing you don't want to just throw things out. If you gain or loose weight you alter your clothes. If you tear a garment you patch it carefully. If you do decide to cull a piece you want to give it to a loving home.

Fitting, Proper Undergarments, and Correct Layers

When your clothes don't fit well you are more likely to be uncomfortable and your comfort in the garments really does come through to others. Part of what makes *The Look™* is being at ease in what you are wearing. Fitting things correctly takes time and it's a skill that you will continue to learn new tricks for even after you've been doing it a long time. Below are a few things to consider when you are patterning and fitting a new garment.

1. No matter how good or accurate a purchased pattern is you will nearly always need to make at least some adjustments to it to fit it correctly to your body.
2. When you are fitting always make a mock up out of a cheap fabric that is similar in weight to the fabric you plan to use for the final garment.
3. If you are making a complicated garment and working with a pattern for the first time consider making a proof of concept first. The proof of concept can still be made of nice fabric and be a high quality garment that you will be happy with but before you make your garment out of "the perfect fabric" that you paid \$50 a yard for try making it out of linen or a less expensive fabric that is similar to "the perfect fabric" of you dreams. We almost always make some fitting mistakes with a new pattern or find some aspect of the garment that we wish we had done differently and wouldn't it be better to learn that before you cut into "the perfect fabric"
4. Fit your garment over the correct undergarments. They really do change the line and you don't want to find out after you made your new French gown that you can't wear your bodies underneath it because you didn't pattern it correctly.

Foundation garments and wearing the correct layers for the style you are attempting to reproduce are major components of any fashion. Just look at the 1950's. You can be wearing the perfect Dior gown but if you aren't wearing the correct bra and a girdle you aren't going to get the same look. Foundation garments are just that, they form the foundation of the style upon which the outer garments are built. Let's say for example that you were interested in Burundian clothing. You can completely hand sew your gown, use all the correct materials and techniques, do all the research, allow yourself plenty of time, pattern the gown so that it is correct to a gentry impression from 1475-1478 but if you are not wearing the correct foundation garments and the necessary layers for the style your gown will not make the same impression.

Sewing Techniques

Probably the sewing techniques that I've noticed go the farthest towards giving garments *The Look™* is handwork and hand finishing. If you are interested in starting to hand sew your garments try starting with small projects first like a skirt or a hood. You will learn a lot from these projects and because they are smaller you will

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get the gratification of finishing the project sooner than if you were doing a larger project. The first completely hand sewn garment I made was a skirt. It took me a few weeks but I was very pleased with the way it came out. My blackwork coif was also completely sewn by hand but it took much longer. I have plans for a jacket next and I'm planning to start it either this spring or after Pennsic, depending on how my current projects progress. If you are not quite ready to completely sew your garments by hand or not interested work towards having no visible machine sewing. You can sew your buttonholes, eyelets, hem your garments and finishing necklines and sleeves by hand. If flat lining a garment or sewing a garment that is not lined try finishing your seams by hand either by flat felling or butterflying them. This gives you a very nice finish while still using the machine to sew the larger seams. I also often topstitch my seams. It gives a very nice finish to the garment and I've been very pleased with the results.

For me the hardest part of handwork is making my stitches small enough. My stitches are still a little big and I am constantly working on making them smaller. But when mending garments I've definitely noticed a big difference between my stitches now and my stitches 4 or 5 years ago. And my current, smaller stitches are much stronger. So if you find, like I do, that you have trouble making your stitches as small as you want to just keep working on it. They do get smaller eventually.

I've picked up a lot of great sewing techniques just from talking to people about their garments and how they made them. If you like someone's gown, talk to them. Ask them how they did it, what techniques they used, how they finished their seams. Maybe you really love how they trimmed the sleeves or patterned neckline. Ask them what they did to create that particular detail that you love.

There is so much that goes into *The Look*™. It's not just enough to have the right outer garments. It's how you make them, the research you put into them, how they fit, how comfortable you are in them, having the proper foundation garments and layers to go with them. Take your time, do your research. Every new skill you add to your repertoire and new fact you learn is another step toward getting the look and the clothes you love. For further reading Laura Mellin has a great article on her website entitled Extreme Costuming, or: How do you make the "impossible!" clothes you've always wanted?

(<http://www.extremecostuming.com/articles/extremethehowto.html>). It's a fantastic article on how to combine research, planning, and construction into creating projects that you thought you would only ever dream about. It's awesome. It has given me a lot of ideas since she put it up and I highly recommend if you are looking for ways to step up your sewing.

Baroness Rosalind Delamere

This article was originally published on my Livejournal Blog in two parts on March 20th and 26th, 2008. Some changes have been made to make the article more coherent.