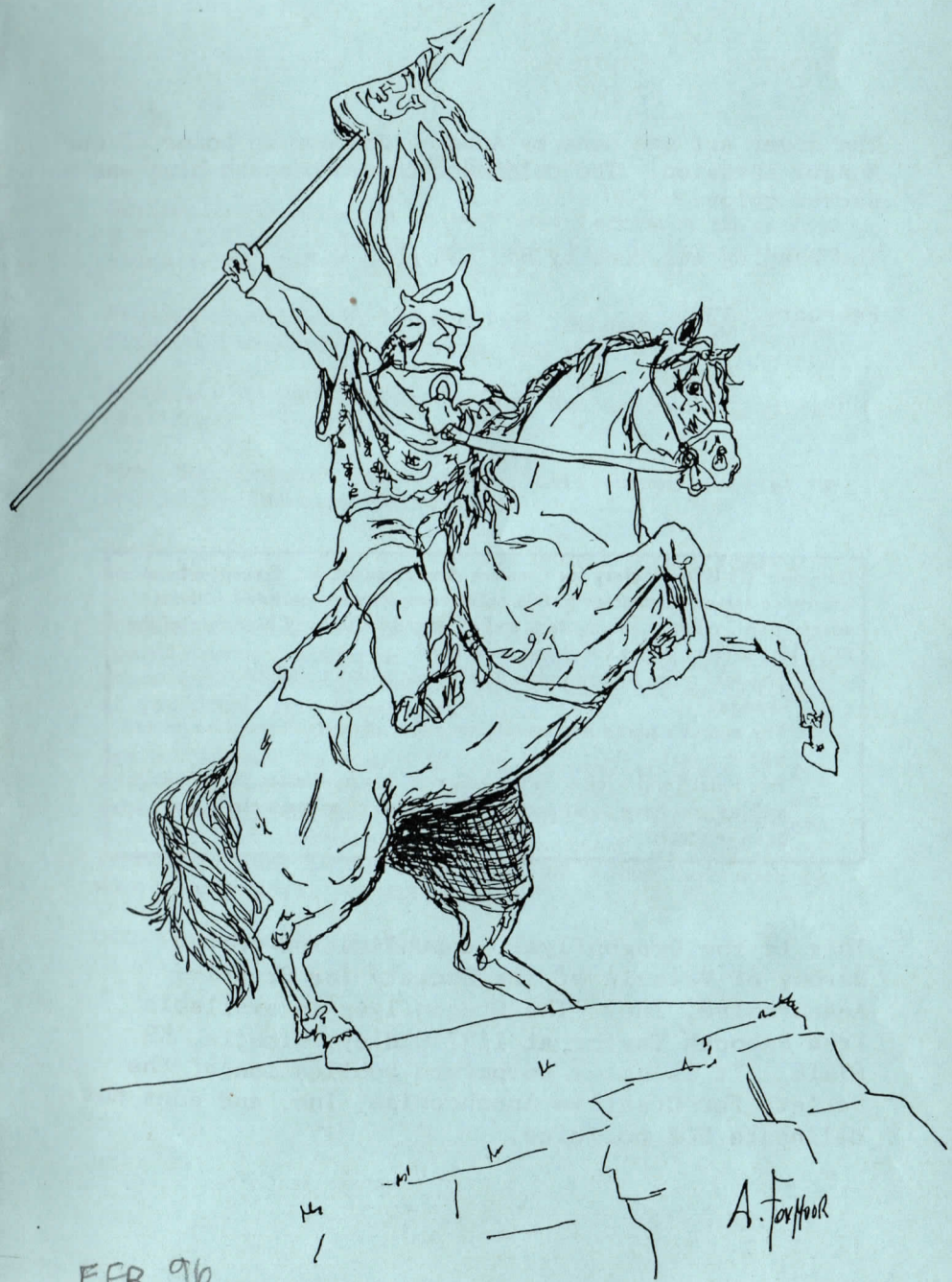


# Dragonflyre



FEB 96

The Dragonflyer c/o  
Deborah Taylor  
1137 Gidley  
Wichita, KS 67216



The cover art was done by Anne of Foxmoor in honor of our Mongol invasion. The color was chosen because blue was a sacred color.

The heading was done by Her Ladyship Marie

February, 1996

Copyright (c) 1996 Society for Creative Anachronism, Inc. 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:

- ❖ The text must be printed in its entirety, without additions or changes.
- ❖ The author's name and an original publication credit must be printed with the text.
- ❖ You must send a letter to the editor of this newsletter, stating which articles you have used and in which publication the material has been reprinted.

This is the Dragonflyer, a publication of the Barony of Vavavia of the Society for Creative Anachronism, Inc. The Dragonflyer is available from Deborah Taylor at 1137 Qidley, Wichita, KS 67216. It is not a corporate publication of the Society for Creative Anachronism, Inc. and does not delineate SCA policies.

#### CALENDAR

**Scribes & Illuminators** to meet starting March 12 at 7:30 p.m. at Aislin's house. Address: 922 W. Dayton. Home phone # 269-0999. Bring a chair.

**Fighter practice:** S. Linwood Park, Sunday, 12:00 on days with good weather (40 degrees, not wet).

**Archers** - do you wish to try your bow against the winter challenge? Call Michael von Berger for details.

For the use of the **Armory**, call Baron Gabriel @ 269-3853. Tuesdays encouraged!

**Dance** is at St. John's Episcopal Church (3rd & Topeka on Wednesday at 7:30.

**Desperate Plea:** Eleanor loaned out/left her red, spiral-bound notebook at January populace. She desperately needs it back. Please call her at 685-8510 if you found it. Thank you.

Again, I want to thank all those stellar gentles for assisting with Demos. Never forget that you are ambassadors from the Current Middle Ages to the Modern World. Your behavior and presentation is the first impression many people receive of us. Your hard work is much appreciated. Vivat!

Odindisa the Grim, Chatelaine



OFFICERS' MEETING February 6, 1996

18 members attended: 14 officers/deputies/champions, 4 members of the populace

The meeting started with the budget. The budget analysis for the last year and the proposed budget for the coming year were presented. Each item was covered and discussed. Related issues of procedures, reallocations, and 'guild' operations were covered. It was reported that the Society fiscal policy has undergone massive revisions recently. The budget, budget operations and budget issues may need to be revised after the new policies come out. This will be covered at Calon Con March 9th.

The next Moot will be February 8th on bardic and folk subjects. Possible subjects for the March meeting were considered. It will be announced at populace. The arts and sciences champion is sponsoring a costuming day February 24th. Basic garb will be covered in the morning; later period garb in the afternoon. The location will be announced. The calligraphy interest group will have its first meeting March 12th. Contact Aislinn for details.

The Herald has two proposals to send on. He should be getting the results on the last letter of intent in the near future. The need for volunteers for evening demonstrations was brought up.

The new Knights' Marshall announced that the next indoor practice would be February 25th at Stanley Alley Park beginning at noon. Fighting related activities and positions were discussed --water bearers, list mistress, churgeon.

Progress on the Mongol event was presented. The different fighting scenarios were covered. The prizes were discussed. Alternate activities for inclement weather are planned. Advertising the event was covered. Fliers are going to Estrea. The Ren Faire autocrat reported on the current planning progress for this annual major demo. Possible changes and new activities were discussed. Materials, supplies, inventoried items and the storage locations were requested.

The Baronage reminded officers to get copies of their reports to their superiors to the Baronage. They need to know what has been done in order to better serve the group.

#### COSTUMING SEMINAR

It was the ladies turn at last! We had waited patiently for an event we could attend to be inspired, educated and entertained, and last but not least, Party! I love this event. I don't do much beyond basic costuming, but I can go and see new things, some of which I might actually use. (Not to mention my favorite part, inspecting the guys clothes. You can get up close and personal and they think you're really looking at the clothing, poor dears.) While there are many classes, the ones I took were of particular interest to me. The first was a class on Viking garb, I learned a lot, the instructor was very knowledgeable and quite happy to pass things on. If you are interested, give me a call and I will share the hand out. The second class was dressing a fighter. You didn't get hands on training in this class (darn!), or even have to own a fighter, but the ideas were different and worth trying. Give Gawayne a few months and ask how his pants work out. That's (one) of the best thing about costuming, you meet people with different approaches to any given problem, and they might have an answer you hadn't thought of.

If the only reason you go to the event is the History of Costuming Parade, it's well worth your time. I think most people enjoy seeing costuming change throughout time right before their very eyes. I (yes me, the costuming challenged) have even been in the parade a few times. I wore my Viking garb a few times, and my Ropa others. One of my favorites was when Ecerck wore his blue, late period garb. He looked very handsome indeed.

The very best part was what I did with the rest of my time. I got to talk and visit with my friends the rest of the day. Countess Mistress Elisabeth du Rosignal was there with three friends from Antir, and it was enjoyable to meet people from out of kingdom. Especially David, who slept on the autopsy table. I guess you just had to be there. Everyone gets together at someone's house and we relax and trade stories. Oy! The stories I could tell, but this is a family paper, and those will have to wait. (If you bring me chocolate, I might spill a few details) Unfortunately, we didn't get to stay up very late. Everyone was tired, what with all the teaching and learning, and learning and teaching, so we had one beer and were in bed by 11 p.m. Honest. I swear.

Brialen



To the Populace of Vatavia from Her Ladyship Phillipa de Lloyd Tarifia

Greetings from Aislin your new Minister of Children.

I'm really excited about becoming Vatavia's MoC and I have lots of plans for upcoming events. I have been a baronial MoC at Wiesenfeuer for 4 years and Northern Ansteorran Kingdom MoC for 2 years, at the same time. I realize Santa has come already but I have looked over the MoC box and it really needs some TLC. If the kind people of Vatavia will, when you clean out your hobby areas, please check on the items listed and let me know. I can most usually be found at dance or populace.

Thank you  
Aislin  
Home phone # 269-0999 (6-9:30 please)

Wish List

color markers	scissors
craft glue	useable pieces of cloth/trim
stapler & staples	hole punch
small bells, baubles, beads and thangs	
all colors of crochet yarn	

Greetings to the fair Mongol populace of Vatavia from Brialen, your chronicler.

The cover of this issue was done by Anne of Foxmoor, and a very good job she's done. We have several good articles this month, something for everyone, I think. Thanks to all of you who have been supporting the Dragonflyre, my job has been so much easier. I have always known that we had talented people in this group, and now I hope all of you know it too.

I hear that our Mongol fighters in the Barony are about to be invaded, and of course that promises to be entertaining. Please remember that the autocrats, and feastocrats will need all of our help, since we are throwing a party for several hundred of our closest friends. Offer to help, and you will have made a friend.

*Brialen*

The biggest demo of the year for Vatavia is the last weekend (ed. note - the last WHOLE weekend) in April, and now is not too soon to plan for it. 1996 of the Common Era, A.S. XXX, marks the 19th year Kansas Newman College has had a Renaissance Fair. As the RenFair has grown, so has the SCA's participation in it. As our audience has become more aware of the Renaissance, and of RenFair itself, the SCA has attempted to become more varied in its offerings, more educational as well as entertaining, and more authentic in its presentation.

The year's biggest demo is attended by as many Vatavians as one of our events, sometimes more. But many of us may not realize it's much more than just a demo. More money has been reaped from this demo than from many events we have held. It is one of our largest fundraisers.

Several people have joined us after seeing us at RenFair, so it's known as a recruiting demo. Several of us participate on Friday -- Education Day -- and try to give the thousands of kids wandering the grounds one tiny piece of information that may possibly spark their curiosity to know more about us, about the Renaissance, or about history. We are an educational group after all.

RenFair is also one of our very few chances to do public relations for the Society for Creative Anachronism, Inc., and the Barony of Vatavia especially. More people will see us at this demo on this one weekend than at any other time during the rest of the year, including all the other demos we do. It is vital we give them the best impression we can.

To give the best impression we can means work. We have to know our stuff, and we have to show our stuff. And, we have to be right. I was asked once, by a spectator, why I wore glasses. Did I not realize they didn't exist in the Renaissance?

I didn't have an answer to that; eyeglasses in period is not my area of interest. I was saved by another Vatavian; she proceeded to inform this gentleman that eyeglasses were ground as early as the 1300's, how they were fastened on to a person's head, and a few references where he himself could find this information. And she showed him that we know whereof we speak when we speak of our history. How many of the rest of us can do this?

One of the things we insist on at RenFair is the wearing of Renaissance clothing. We open up the Renaissance to 1400 to 1600 A.D., so there are 200 years to find clothing in. This is a time-specific demo we are doing; we should all look like we belong in this time period. Your garb for this demo does not have to fit your persona . . . it has to fit the demo. Dressing appropriately is the first step to showing we know what we're doing.

Some of us in the SCA think that we in the SCA are the experts on the time period and cultures we cover. If we're the experts, we still have to prove it. RenFair is the demo where our mouths are.



## SCOPE OF THE SOCIETY: PERIOD AND CULTURE

The Society is based on the landed nobility of the European Middle Ages and Renaissance. Their dress and music, their literature and sports, and above all the chivalric ideals of their period, all serve to unify our events and activities. Our regional and local organization sets aside the modern pattern of elected representatives to give us a sense of what it was like to live in the world of court and castle, so that our studies can go beyond literature and artifacts into the emotional reality of former times.

Our activities range very widely, including a much broader span of time and culture than most groups in the "living history" movement try to sample. The people we've chosen for models were fond of play-acting and pageantry; they would happily base tournaments and revels on ancient history and distant lands, so we can use themes from outside medieval and Renaissance Europe as long as we keep our main period as an anchor. They also reached remote parts of the world, despite the limits of their technology, and people born to other civilizations travelled too, so we can allow for individuals and information from almost anywhere. The task is to weave all this together, so that the events we sponsor are recognizeably our own.

For Society members, most of the world can serve as a source for personal research. However, the further afield you go, the less the environment we offer will resemble what someone of your time and country would find natural or homelike. The Society's organized activities reflect the courtly life of the Middle Ages and Renaissance. If we hold a Roman games, the participants are assumed to be period Europeans playing at ancient Rome; you can try to act like a real ancient Roman, but you can't complain if the atmosphere is not what you regard as authentic. Likewise, you can be an Asian or African guest at a European court, but you cannot recreate your homeland outside your own household - like any long-term visitor in a foreign land, you are the one who will have to adapt to the customs you find around you.

Since members have free choice of what areas they will explore, it follows that Society branches can not specialize. The choice of a single time and place for a branch would make it hard for members there to pursue other interests of their own.

People who wish to study one period of history in a group setting can band together in households for the purpose, and such households are free to organize themselves without interference from the Society at

large. However, if a household wishes to hold a theme event and use the Society's resources for publicity and the Society's name and place in the community to assist in getting a site, its members must work with and through a branch of the Society and follow the Society's regulations for the conduct of events. And when a household attends a Society event as a group, its internal ranks and regulations can not be used in place of those created by the Society.

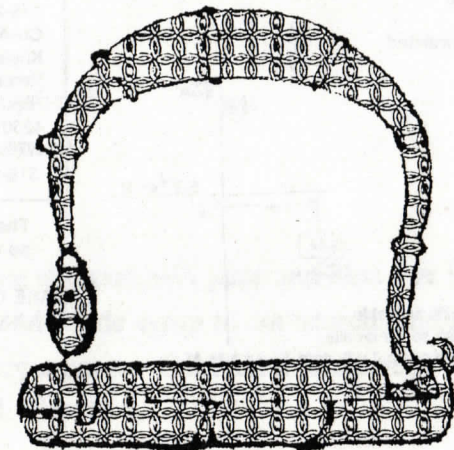
Our regulations are designed to protect the Society's legal standing and its reputation, and to support the reality of the kingdom structure. Within those limits, however, it is possible to work out a way to accommodate a very wide variety of interests. We recognize that there are some things, even in Western culture in the time period the Society studies, that can't be made to fit, but this is the focus we have developed over the years since the group was formed. As in any art form, the limits are a source of strength.

If the Society's approach doesn't cover your interests, you have many options. Other organizations large and small play with all sorts of corners of history, and if you can not find one to suit you, you can always start your own. The Society administration will be happy to advise you in your search, or on what to do to get started. There's plenty of room for everyone - just not all on the same field at the same time. . . .

Reprinted from Corpora.

*Herald's  
nightmare  
#17*

fetter-chainy





# MONGOLS RULE!



March 23-24

Camp Hiawatha  
1701 W. 51st ST. North  
Wichita Ks. 67204  
(same site as Valor)



Site opens at 6 pm Friday and closes 3 pm Sunday.  
Site fee: \$5.00 for members; non-members add \$3.00  
Kids under 12 are free  
The site is dry

THE GREAT KHAN OF THE FALCON HORDE WISHES TO SEE HIS LANDS TO THE WEST. MAKE WAY FOR HIS TOUMANS AS THEY RIDE TO THE LANDS CALLED VATAVIA. WE HAVE LEARNED YOUR EUROPEAN WAY OF LIFE. NOW YOU WILL LEARN OUR WAYS! COME PAY TRIBUTE TO THE KHAN. IF HE IS PLEASED, HE MIGHT SPARE THESE FAIR LANDS FROM THE RAVAGES OF HIS ENDLESS ARMIES. IF HE IS NOT PLEASED, THE SKIES OF YOUR CITIES WILL BE DARKENED BY OUR STORM OF ARROWS.

The day's events will include:

•MONGOL MELEE MAYHEM!

Fighting will occur regardless of the weather, we have space indoors if needed.

Outdoor activities will include a hunt, boushkashi, melees, combat archery, dual warford list (Mongol and European) and more melees!

•ARCHERY

Barrel shoot - sit on a barrel and shoot.

There will also be an axe throw.

In case of bad weather, there will be a dart throw inside.

•A&S

Hal - Any medium; Documentation is required.

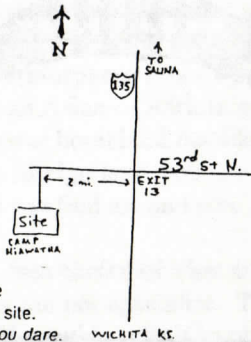
Best Mongol "thang"

•denotes prize awarded



There are cabins available as well as crash space on site.

Bring a tent and camp if you dare. WICHITA KS.



AUTOCRAT:

BATU

Tom West

1918 E. English

Wichita, Ks.. 67211

316-263-1079

Co-Autocrats:

Khulan(cabins and crash space)

Kerare(Feastocrat)

Rick & Carolyn Haddaway

4230 E. Boston

Wichita, Ks. 67218

316-686-6893

The feast is limited to 100,  
so make your reservation.

MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO:  
SICA INC.- BARONY OF VATAVIA

## FRUMENTY

Broth and meat scraps from a boiled ham.

Remove scrappy meat from bones and chop. Strain and defat the broth, salt to taste.

3 cups cracked wheat

8 cups ham broth

Bring broth to a boil, add wheat. When it comes to a boil again, reduce heat, cover tightly and steam 10 to 15 minutes, or until wheat is tender.

Chopped meat from the ham

2 cup chopped onion

2 cup chopped celery

2 cup cooked carrots

2 to 3 tablespoons dried parsley

Add onion, celery, carrots and parsley, simmer 10 to 15 minutes until flavors are well blended.

4 eggs, beaten

12 to 15 threads saffron

Beat eggs until light, add saffron. Add hot wheat mixture to eggs slowly until egg mixture is hot, add egg mixture to remainder of frumenty in the pan. Cook, stirring constantly, until the mixture is thick and the eggs cooked.

## CHERRY FRUIT SOUP

1 (1lb.) can pitted sour red cherries (undrained)

6 whole cloves

1/2 C. sugar

1 t. lemon juice

1 orange (sliced)

1 (1lb.) can peaches (sliced)

1 (2 inch) stick cinnamon

1 T. cornstarch

In saucepan, combine cherries with juice and next five ingredients.

Drain peaches and add a little syrup to cornstarch; add remaining peach syrup to cherry mixture. Cook until thickened. Add peaches.

Serve warm or cold. Serves 6.

I took this to a potluck several years ago, and someone has asked for the recipe occasionally ever since. Thanks for that!



# THE FLAGONDRYER

## JERUSALEM

by Cecilia Holland

Cecilia Holland is one of the undisputed masters of historical fiction. With such novels as *The Firedrake*, *The Earl*, *Two Ravens*, and *The Kings in Winter*, she has opened a door on history to give a view such as few writers are capable of. If you are looking for sumptuous descriptions of costly raiment, fiery-tressed maidens, or Victorian sensibilities run amok, don't read her work. If, on the other hand, you are seeking a cup of ale coupled with a loaf of maislin bread, the feel of cold rain as it drips from your helm, or the fragrance of blood and roses that is peculiar to the Middle Ages, Holland is a skilled guide.

Jerusalem is a glimpse at the Palestine of 1187, seen through the eyes of a hard man, a vicious man, a Knight Templar. Rannulf Fitzwilliam is such a vigilant and pure member of the order that he owns the nickname 'Saint.' For this matchlessness some love him; for this more hate him, and for his low birth and rough ways. Such a character might be utterly unsympathetic, but Holland creates him as a man easily identified with. In one of the book's finest passages, we see his conversion from wickedness. An excommunicant, he stops at a forest chapel on a whim, and meets a girl tending the altar.

She took hold of his calloused hands and laid them palm against palm, and then wound a chain of daisies around his wrists, all solemn, as if by such a means she could actually bind a man like him.

He trembled with lust; he wanted to throw her down and violate her, to see her weep, to see the blood mottling her white thighs. The flowers shackled him like iron. The child ruled him like a king. She looked into his eyes and said, 'Now you must ask God to save you.' He knelt beside her and repeated the Credo with her, and for the first time he heeded the words; then it was he who wept; blinded by shame and guilt and terror and sorrow, he cried for hours. When he returned to himself, the child had vanished. (J/30)

Holy City though Jerusalem is, it is also a hive of temptation. At every step, pride, lust, covetousness, and wrath beckon to all. We see the snares of the temporal world catch everyone: the lionhearted leper King of Jerusalem, King Badouin; his beautiful sister Sybilla, who is his heir; the Master of the Templars; and Rannulf's best friend. Ultimately even Rannulf himself is not proof against the sins he swore to abandon. And yet beyond sin is, still, God.

No doubt all of this makes *Jerusalem* sound like a tract. Holland's historical sensibility and writing skill save it. Imbued with the religious feeling of the time though it is, *Jerusalem* is written in her lively but spare style, where energy suffuses every action, be it a clash between Christian and Saracen, or a confrontation in a royal garden. She is one of the few historical novelists working in the medieval period who can sustain a long and detailed battle scene, with no squeamishness. Here Rannulf's friend young Stephen experiences the horror of his first battle against the Saracens:

... Stephen remembered their training and pushed sideways to cover Pedro's flank, and then from the little Spaniard's other side a spear struck Pedro so hard it bore him up in a fountain of blood out of his saddle and and into Stephen's lap.....Pedro's body was sprawled across him, getting in his way, and the lance came at him; he never saw the man wielding it, only the long three-winged blade and the haft all covered with blood, Pedro's blood, and that he remembered forever. He struck at the lance with his sword, and missed, and then the lance caught Pedro again, and jerked him away into the morass, the din, the chaos. (J/80)

There's a lot of blood in this book. There's a lot of blood in all of Holland's books. That's why I like her. It's too easy to sugarcoat the Middle Ages, to get caught up in the whole Robert Young/Errol Flynn/darts-in-your-bodice image of King Arthur's court. And yet she balances the awfulness with her characters' nobility of soul, shining through the horrors like grace itself.

"When the battle starts--" The King swallowed. A longing rose in him so strong and sweet it made him groan. "I want to lead the first charge. Swear this to me, that you will obey me in this. If you have to tie me to a horse. If Saladin but gives me the opening, I will die like a man."

"Sire," Mouse said.

"Swear it," the King said.

"We swear," they all said, together. (J/205)

If *Jerusalem* is a tract at all, it is of chivalry.

Odindisa the Grim

## Fish Filets with Lemon Stuffing Almondine

4 pound fish filets	3/4 to 1 cup lemon juice
1 cup butter	16 cups bread crumbs
2 cup chopped onion	Paprika
1 cup slivered almonds	

Melt butter in saute pan, add onion and cook until clear. Add almonds and saute until golden brown. Remove from heat, stir in lemon juice. Pour over bread crumbs, add enough water to moisten the bread, if needed. Place the fish in a single layer in a greased baking dish, spread stuffing evenly atop the fish. Place another layer of fish atop the stuffing. Sprinkle the fish with paprika. Cover and bake at 350 deg until the fish flakes.

The recipes for Frumenty and Fish Filets were from the most recent Perfectly Period Party, the Herald's Nightmare is from Lenny the Squid



## PUTTING OUR BEST DEMO FOOT FORWARD ELEANOR FERCH RHIWALLON

Continued from last month's "Immunity"

So how do we best present ourselves at demo? Garb is the obvious first step. After all, people will see you before anything else. Now this doesn't mean you have to wear corsets and hosen and other uncomfortable clothing unless you like that stuff. It does mean being consistent within the guidelines of the demo and using that range to suit you. Let's look at a specific instance.

The upcoming Kansas-Newman Renaissance Faire's theme is pretty apparent - - the Renaissance. So do we all go around dressed like Richard III? Of course not. As an educational organization, we can take advantage of the vast resources around us (friends, books, costuming on Feb. 24 - see Eleanor for details, etc.) and use that to identify a Renaissance clothing style that fits our personal tastes and needs. In my case, I need a clothing style that allows me to wear jeans underneath my garb without them showing. Therefore, I wear an Italian gown that's very loose from the mid-ribs on down. It's a perfectly acceptable dress for the time period we are re-creating and allows me the modern convenience of my pockets and pants legs. What are your clothing needs and desires? How can you fit these into the Renfaire mold? If you'd like help from around the barony, you can't beat Annys, Ala, and Phillipa amongst others as good contacts (and to think, you can talk with them at costuming on Feb. 24 - see Eleanor for details). In rounding out your appearance, can you wear a hat instead of sunglasses? How about a discreet watch like Demetrios or Rhianwen has? Ever considered whacking the fringe off those boots (If you want real cool boots, go talk to Eirik/Batu)? Now's the time to think it all out and get started.

Another way we can further enhance our presentation to the public is how we talk. I confess to great difficulty with this (Cool! being my favorite expression), but it's really not that hard. It means staying away from certain topics like computers and movies, and using period terminology when talking near or to the modern folk ("Good day, my lord" as opposed to "Que pasa, dude?", "Your Ladyship Marie" as opposed to "Your Ladyship Square Marie"). Now, this doesn't mean you should be able to do the introduction to *Canterbury Tales* in the correct Middle English, just simply be cautious about what you say and how you say it. One further note, unless the accent comes naturally (as in the case of Niall), I wouldn't try it. It usually comes off fake sounding unless you are really, REALLY good at impersonations. Allow your courteous words and gentle forbearance to sell the image to the public.

Speaking of gentle forbearance, how we act is the final step in completing the picture of the perfect setting. It means courtesy and chivalry to one another and the public at all times. Do you offer a hand to someone with a heavy load? Do you take a few seconds to invite someone under a pavilion to take a closer look at what you are making? How about a few extra minutes with the child of 30,000 questions? The "doing" is the biggest part. It's what convinces the people around you that you believe in what you are re-creating and are willing to share it with those around you. It's what convinces people that the Barony of Vatia is something they want to be part of - exemplifying the best of these current Middle Ages.

<b>BARON</b> Gabriel ap Morgan ap Hywel David Cooper	Boy Duke
<b>BARONESS</b> Rhianwen ferch Bran ap Gruffydd Joan Struer	269-3853
<b>SENESCHAL</b> Eckerich Rothvalken von Stromberg John Platz Chatelaine Odindisa the Grim	684-1953 269-9354
<b>CALTROP</b> Leonhard Von Lowenstrum Jim Purkey	682-1669
<b>TREASURER</b> Maeve Kelley de Navarre Terry Thorndyke	682-4468
<b>CHRONICLER</b> Brialen Ulfs dottir Vikings Debbie Taylor	524-0917
<b>KNIGHT MARSHAL</b> Fergus Rob McMillon	681-0268
<b>MINISTER OF ARTS AND SCIENCES</b> Kerare de Joreses Carolyn Haddaway Minister of Children Aislin	686-6893 269-0999
<b>ARCHER MARSHAL</b> Michael von Bergen Michael Hornbaker	721-1955
<b>SERF LINE</b>	264-7373
<b>A&amp;S Champion</b> Eleanor ferch Rhiwallon Wendy Donaldson	685-8510
<b>Bardic Champion</b> Jovan Greyhawk Henry Jennings	682-2346
<b>Fighter Champion</b> Duncan McCrakin Vaughn Weaver	686-4170