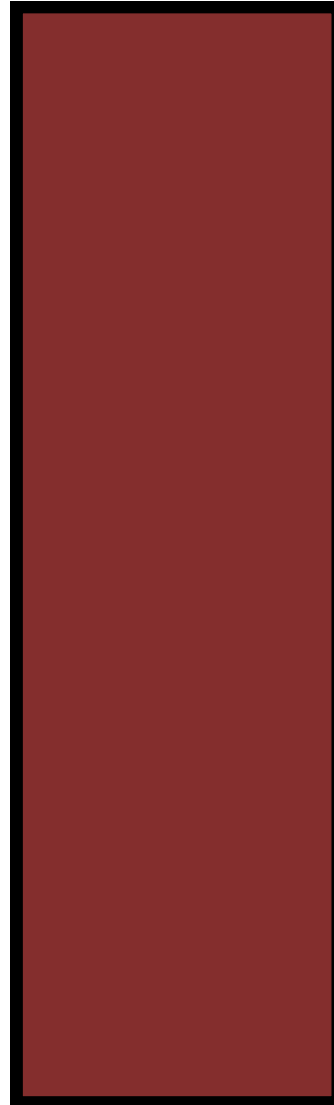
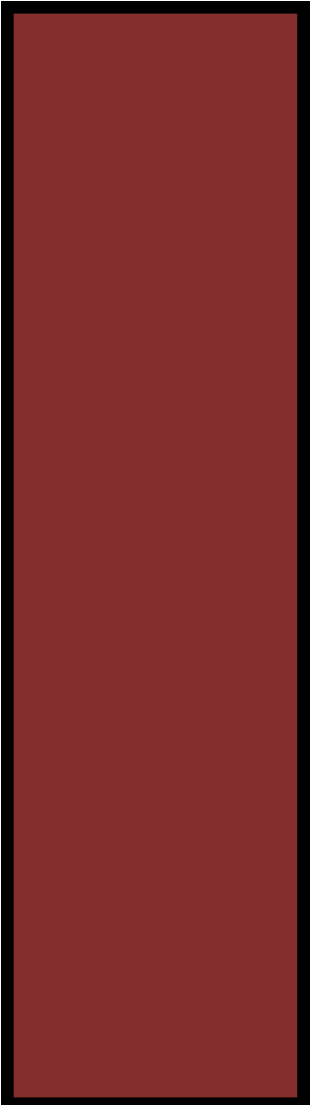


Seasons

#18 Summer A.S. LXI (2026)





Greetings from the Seasons Editor

Greetings to All!

This is the eighteenth issue of the (not so new anymore) SEASONS. We now are in our fifth year of publication, and we continue to hope you are enjoying the current format and content of this magazine.

We welcome Original Cover and Filler Art; Instructional/Educational Articles;

Articles introducing people to new fields of activity, Original Poetry and Songs; Photos of A&S Entries, Tourney Winners, and Vigils; and Information on Future Elevations (all with permission to reprint).

We hope to continue celebrating, in this magazine, the talents, achievements and merits of our Meridian subjects, and showcasing their creations, and we invite you to join our readership, to contribute to our content, and to be a part of our efforts.

In continuing Service....

Meistres Bronwen o Gydweli
Seasons Editor

Upcoming Events This Season

According to the Kingdom Calendar at the time of this publication, the following Events and Virtual Gatherings will be held (in the stated formats) during what remains of the Spring of A.S. LXI (2026):

- * Skirmish at the Loch (Loch Cairn) May 29th-31st
- * Giants Dance (Nant-Y-Derwyddon) June 12th-14th
- * Wardens Challenge VIII (Easaraigh) June 20th

Summer will start out with

- * Royal University of Meridies (Bryn Madoc) July 18th
- * Daggers and Hemlocks (Phoenix Glade), August 21st-23rd
- * Borders Without Walls (Nant-Y-Derwyddon) August 28th-30th
- * Menhir (Rising Stone) August 29th
- * Vices and Virtues (Phoenix Rising) September 4th



Ongoing Weekly Activities Online

- **TUESDAY NIGHT SOCIALS** are held and hosted by Mistress Ellen de Lacey on ZOOM at 7:00pm CST/8:00pm EST. These also feature Classes, Guild Meetings, Group Meetings, Pennon Decision Meetings, opportunities to talk to some
- **FRIDAY NIGHT BARDIC** hosted on ZOOM at 9:30pm EST, hosted by Mistress Roheis de Ravenscroft and THL Davoc Walkere, and they have also posted a rather extensive calendar of Bardic Activities and Classes — to be seen at the Friday Night Bardic group on Facebook.
- **HERALDRY AFTER HOURS** on-line Herald's Point is hosted by Lord Magnus von Lubeck every Tuesday at 8:00pm CST/9:00pm EST in conjunction with the ZOOM Social. *Lord Magnus has asked to start this earlier, at 7:00pm CST, but prefers to limit consultations to one submitter at a time per consultant (2 max) to avoid confusion.*
- **MERIDIES HERBAL GUILD** meets monthly on 4th Tuesdays at 6:30pm CST/7:30pm EST on ZOOM.

There are likely other regular on-line gathering not included on the list above, that are being held on ZOOM, or on DISCORD — and possibly also on Instagram and TikTok.

If you know of such a regular social or class event, or are hosting one that might interest our populace, please considering sharing the information with others here by sending the details to seasons@meridies.org





Spring Event Highlights

During the Spring of A.S. LX-LXI the eventing schedule sped up again as the weather warmed, and Meridians had more events to attend!

- **Meridian Challenge of Arms (Meridies) February 27th-March 1st**

This was the Kingdom Level Rapier event for Meridies, held at River Hills Retreat, Hayden, AL, and (aside from lots of fighting) promised two breakfasts and an Italian Feast. This sounded great, and by all accounts we found seems to have fulfilled its promise, with some excellent tourneys and with the Chalice tourney (won by Danial Garrison) raising \$350 to benefit Thistle Farms in Nashville, TN.

- **GULF WARS (Glenn Abhann) March 14th-22nd**

As everyone knows, or ought to know, this is a huge annual war hosted in the Kingdom of Glenn Abhann and taking place at King's Arrow Ranch in Lumberton, Mississippi. The War lasts for a week, and draws Scadians from all over the globe to camp, take classes, shop until they drop, and — oh, there's also a LOT of fighting, pageantry, fighting, other martial activities, fighting, equestrian, archery & live weapons, fighting, revelry, and more Fighting. The battles are epic, the courts and grand, and the tales to tell later will be many. As a result, many made the trip and enjoyed themselves enormously.

- **Dreamstone (Bryn Madoc) March 27th-29th**

This event was hosted at A,H. Stephens Park in Crawfordville, GA and was a celebration of the 50th Birthday of the Barony of Bryn Madoc!!! The hosts scheduled both Heavy and Rapier Tournaments, Live Weapons, A&S Classes, a Brewing Competition, a Maypole, Salons & Solars, and Open Tavern/Travelers' Faire, a Feast and a Revel!! Well done, and Happy 50th Birthday, Bryn Madoc!!

- **Fool's War (Tir Briste) April 2nd-5th**

Word is that this event was very well-attended and (as usual) was a LOT of fun. There were many fighting scenarios offered, and a wealth of other fun activities, plus an impressive turnout of Merchants to tempt attendees with their various wares. Fool's War also saw the first (as far as we know) Chariot Archery competition with archers firing from moving, horse (or pony) drawn wagons. Regular Archery and Live Weapons competitions were also held, fund-raisers held, and silliness encouraged. Thank you Tir Briste!!!

- **SPRING CORONATION/Iris Faire (Glaedenfeld) April 17th-19th**

The event combined Glaedenfeld's traditional Iris Faire A&S event/competition with Spring Coronation, so we not only had a lot of impressive Arts & Sciences entries to impress us but also had the opportunity to watch the Golden Iris Tourney and to belong Their Royal Majesties Chinua and Jacqueline step down from the Thrones and Their Royal Majesties Randver and Arianne step up — we hear this changeover also involved Spectral Entities, Valkyries, and possibly The Blues Brothers, but you know how rumors can fly, right? There were also four Vigils and Peerage Elevations: Iain Mac Arthur to Pelican, Eoin mac Cana to Knight, Katerina of Soroya to Mark, and Ricard of Glaedenfeld to Mark, so it was a busy event to say the least.

- **Black Axe (Iron Mountain) May 1st-3rd**

This year Black Axe was held at Dalwhinnie Fields in Marion, AL. This event traditionally features A&S, Fighting, and the Nine Lives Tourney, raising impressive sums of money to benefit a local Cat Shelter. This year, we understand that the event in general was highly successful, and that the Nine Lives Tourney managed to raise \$5000.00 for the shelter. We understand that four Peerage writs were also issued: to Rose Rennel (Pelican), to Elena Carlisle (Pelican), to Hagan das Wilderkind (Knight), and to Brennan Rennel (Knight). Congratulations to Iron Mountain!

- **Golden Lily (Beau Fort) May 8th-10th**

This event was held this year at A.H. Stephens State Park in Crawfordsville, GA. The event featured a “Meat Church” on Friday evening (hosted by Duke Lochlainn), and on Saturday both rattan and rapier tournaments. Arts & Sciences classes, and Youth Activities, and Royal Court were also held, and lots of fun was promised. Thanks, Beau Fort, for a fun event!

- **ARTSY CROWN (Easaraigh/Vulpine Reach) May 23rd**

This Kingdom Level event combines Spring Crown Lyst with the Kingdom Arts & Sciences Faire, and runs for four days. This year it was held at the White County Fairgrounds Ag Building in Sparta, TN as a one-day event. This event featured the annual Kingdom Arts & Sciences Faire (amazing entries!!), Armored Combat, Arts & Sciences, Classes, Court, Dancing and a Feast — and, of course, gave us new Heirs to the Meridian Thrones in **Syr Conrad vom Schwarzwald and Baroness Genevieve Alaiz d'Avignon**. Huzzah, and congratulations to **TRHs Conrad and Genevieve!!!**



Combatants for the Crown included:

Lord Mongo Blackheart on behalf of THLady Ceri Adain

Lord Arthur Von Eschenbach on behalf of Capellán Ignacio Javier Cortés y Galeño natural de Santiago de Compostela

Baroness Mairghread Wilson on behalf of Baron Piers Simmons

Barônos Eurykrôn Lykaiou on behalf of Baroness Arnora Karlsdottir

Syr Conrad vom Schwarzwald on behalf of Baroness Genevieve Alaiz d'Avignon

Sir John Mailer on behalf of Sir Griffin O'Suaird

Graf Ulrich von Brandenburg on behalf of Gräfin Katerina von Brandenburg

Sir Xenos Theodrikes on behalf of Lady Etain of the Ulaid

Sir Iastreb Desislavich on behalf of Mistress Marianna Cristina Tirado de Aragon

Count Robert Glendon of Auk and Countess Aelfifu Haraldsdottir

Sir Caleb Hogger on behalf of THLady Caitriona Inghean Ui Loinsigh

Viscount Valeric the Blackheart on behalf of Baroness Mairghread Ingen Cannech

Baroness Song Qingzhao on behalf of Lord Benjamin de Hatfield

Lord Engenulf d'Evreux on behalf of THLady Genovefa de Hareflot

Sir Hrothgar of Mercia on behalf of Baroness Kata Alarsdottir

• Skirmish at the Loch (Loch Cairn) May 29th-31st

This event was held at the Coffee County Fairgrounds in Manchester, TN. Guests were invited to come and help them defend the Loch! For non-fighters, they promised classes, live weapons, a bardic circle, and a wonderful feast to celebrate! Unfortunately, this event was held right at Issue Deadline, so details are not available at this time.

Spring Events Still On The June Calendar and Held After Deadline

- Giants Dance (Nant-Y-Derwyddon) June 12th-14th**
- WAR COLLEGE/FIGHTERS COLLEGIUM/Wardens Challenge (Easaraigh) June 20th**



Announcements:

- Congratulations to **Fynlo MacCane** on being named the newest King's Huntsman at Black Axe!!
- Congratulations to **Jurgen der Vielfrass** and to **Isadas Naevius** on their induction at Black Axe into the Legion of the Bear!!!
- Congratulations to **Hagen das Wildenkind**, **Etainingen Chonchobhair** and **Cecily du Chinon** on their Gulf Wars inductions into the Order of the Velvet Owl!!
- Likewise, congratulations to their inductions into OVO at Black Axe to **Genovefa de Hareflot** and **Simon del Frumos!!!**
- Congratulations to **Ceri Adain** on being inducted into the Order of the Bough at Spring Coronation/Iris Faire!
- Congratulations to **Brennan Rennel**, **Kol Rhonnarrson**, and **Jurgen der Vielfrass** on being inducted into the Order of the Sable Sword at Gulf Wars!
- Congratulations to **Ysabel de Sainte Croix** on being named Queen's Arts & Sciences Champion at Kingdom A&S!!

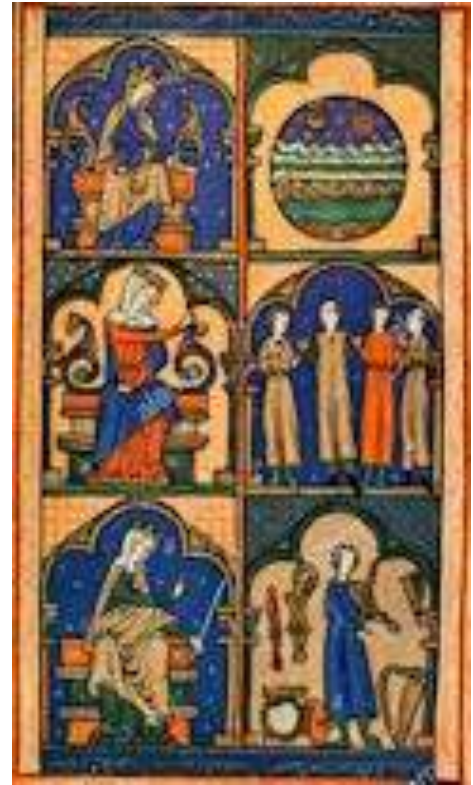


Photo Credit: Baroness Rose Rennel

Hail unto **Their Royal Majesties Meridies, Randver and Arianne!!!**

Hail also to **Their Royal Highnesses, Conrad and Genevieve.**

As usual, the Royal Heirs stand ready to step forward should any *totally unexpected and unprecedented* tragedy ever befall their current Majesties Randver and Arianne.



Photo Credit: Mistress Doe Flynn

Winner of Golden Iris Tourney

Our congratulations to Baron Eiríkr Pálsson who was victorious in the traditional Golden Iris Tourney at Spring Coronation/Iris Fair hosted recently at Montgomery Bell State Park by the Barony of Glaedenfeld over the weekend of April 17th-19th A.S. XL.

We have it on very good authority that the angle of his Baronial Coronet can be best defined as “jaunty”.
Congratulations Baron Eirik!



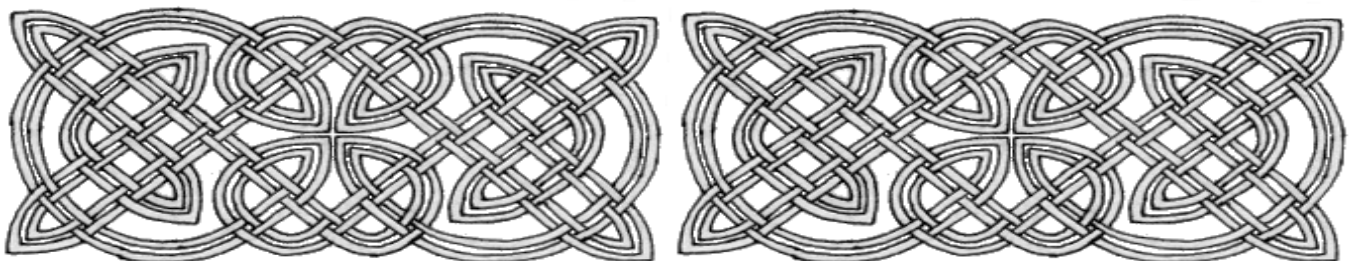
Photo Credit to: Cassia Bint Mansour



Photo Credit to Mistress Ellen de Lacey

Setting the Vigilants on Vigil

Also from Spring Coronation/Iris Faire, His Majesty Chinua sets Iain MacArthur (to Pelican), Eoin mac Cana (to Knight), Katerina of Soroya (to Mark) and Richard of Glaedenfeld (to Mark) on vigil for their Peerage elevations. Yes, we have more new Peers, and congratulations to ALL of these noble worthies. May they spread their knowledge widely, and lead their future minions wisely.



Participants in the Nine Lives Tournney

Thanks to these worthies \$5000 was raised this year at Black Axe to support Kitty Kat Haven. Well Done, once again!!!



Photo Credit—Sir Eirik Martel, Knight of Kittens

Their Royal Majesties Randver and Arianne will be attending: Kingdom War College/Fighters Collegium/Warden's Challenge (June 20th); Menhir (June 11th); Royal University of Meridies (Jul 17th-19th); Pennsic [OOK] (Aug 2nd-7th); Borders Without Walls (Aug 28th-30th); Vices & Virtues (Sep 5th-7th); Haustblot (Sep 19th); Meridian Grand Tournament (Sep 25th-27th); Bacon Bash (Oct 2nd-4th); and Fall Coronation (Oct 9th-11th).



Their Royal Highnesses Conrad and Genevieve will be attending: RUM (July 18th-19th/PR). Daggers & Hemlock (Aug 21st-23rd), Menhir (Aug 29th/PR), Vices & Virtues (Sep 5th-7th/PR), Heroes & Heroines (Sep 11th-13th/P), MGT (Sep 25th-27th/P), Fall Coronation (Oct 9th-11th).



Peerage Elevations in the Spring



Please join with us to congratulate the following nobles who, by virtue of their achievements, were elevated unto the Peerages during the past Season (and three earlier elevations that we missed):



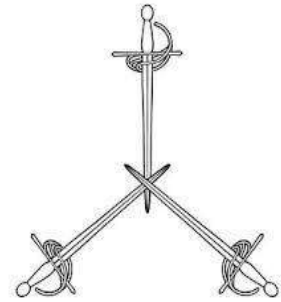
Nathri mac Conaill to Ranger of the Mark — March 28th (at Dreamstone)

Eoin Mac Cana to Knight—Apr 18th (at Spring Coronation/Iris Faire)

Iain MacArthur to Pelican—April 18th (at Spring Coronation/Iris Faire)

Katerina of Soroya to Mark—April 18th (at Spring Coronation/Iris Faire)

Ricard of Glaedenfeld to Mark—April 18th (at Spring Coronation/Iris Faire)



Planned Future Elevations Unknown

Additional Announced Writs:

Elena Carlisle to Pelican

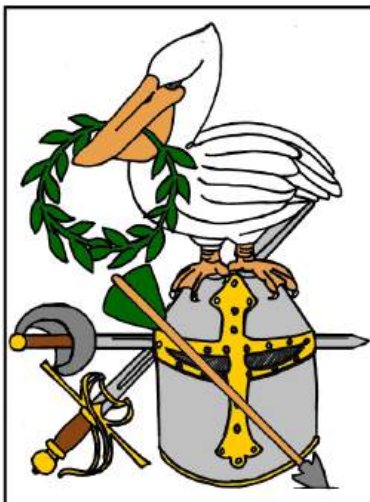
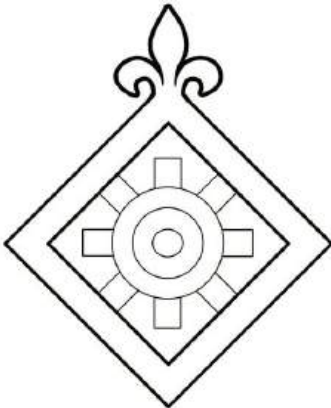
Rose Rennel to Pelican

Hagen das Wildenkind—to Knight

Brennan Rennel—to Knight

Rodrigo Luis de Albuquerque to Laurel

Lawrence of Ashana—to Mark



Great effort is made to keep up with all Peerage elevations in our Kingdom, but if we somehow have missed mentioning any Peerage elevations and/or dates in the section above — or if we have missed notifying of any writs issued, and/or any dates set for future elevations — please feel free to notify the Editor at seasons@meridies.org so that these can be mentioned in the Summer Issue, due out at the beginning of June A.S. LXI.

Guilding the Lily?

Are you familiar with the Various Meridian Guilds? Do you have an interest in a particular subject. Is it listed here on the page. If not, please let someone know.*

Guilds are a vital resource for our members. It allows like minded individuals come together in the research and teaching of subjects that were practiced by our ancestors. To discover new ways of doing something.

Scribal Guild

Cooks Guild

Courtesans Guild of Meridies

Saltare (Dance Guild)

Arachne's Web (Lace Guild)

Gaming Guild

Iron Bow Guild

Paynters Guild

Historic Martial Arts Guild

Herbal Guild

Grand Chefs of Meridies

Minstrel's Guild

Coursing Guild

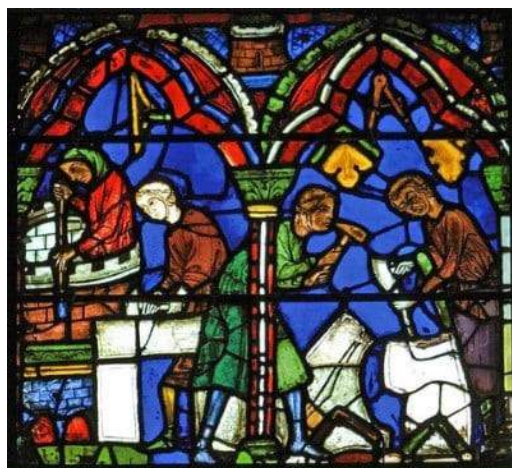
Royal Foresters of Meridies

Embroidery Guild

Moniers Guild

Accademia Degli Eccentrici

Writing Guild



*Tradesmen Window
Chartres Cathedral 13th Century*

Full links and current contact information can be found on The Guilds of Meridies at Meridies.org

The Meridian Herbal Guild has recently been meeting fairly regularly on Tuesday nights in conjunction with the Tuesday Night Socials on Zoom, so if you have an interest in herbs, their cultivation and their uses, you might consider checking in on some of these and meeting some of the other members.

We will gladly mention meeting schedules for other guilds here also, on request!

**List of Guilds Updated from the web page 17 Mar A.S. LIX (2025)*

Honeysuckle Tea

Baron Oengus mac Gilla Dubain

Mead update: Honeysuckle "tea" to be used in the Spring mead of the Making Mead Like A Viking experiment.

We gathered about a cup or so of the blossoms -- hard pickin's as the vines have basically stopped producing -- then steeped it in 160° water for about 8 hours. Poured the mixture through a strainer, and we've got a very fragrant roughly 8oz batch of "tea" now sitting in the fridge, waiting for the new batch of mead to take off.

This mead was made with 32oz -- roughly 2 3/4 lbs -- of what tastes like clover honey but could be wildflower (nothing to identify it on the label), topped up with 88oz of spring water, leaving 8oz in the full gallon for the honeysuckle "tea."

After vigorous aeration with the magic wand in the open air of my back deck, I remembered to take the Initial Gravity -- 1.102 -- and now it sits on the deck, hopefully.



Hopefully, Baron Oengus will treat us to another step in the process of making Honeysuckle Mead once this step is completed to his satisfaction!!

By the way, this is a not-so-sly hint. ;-)



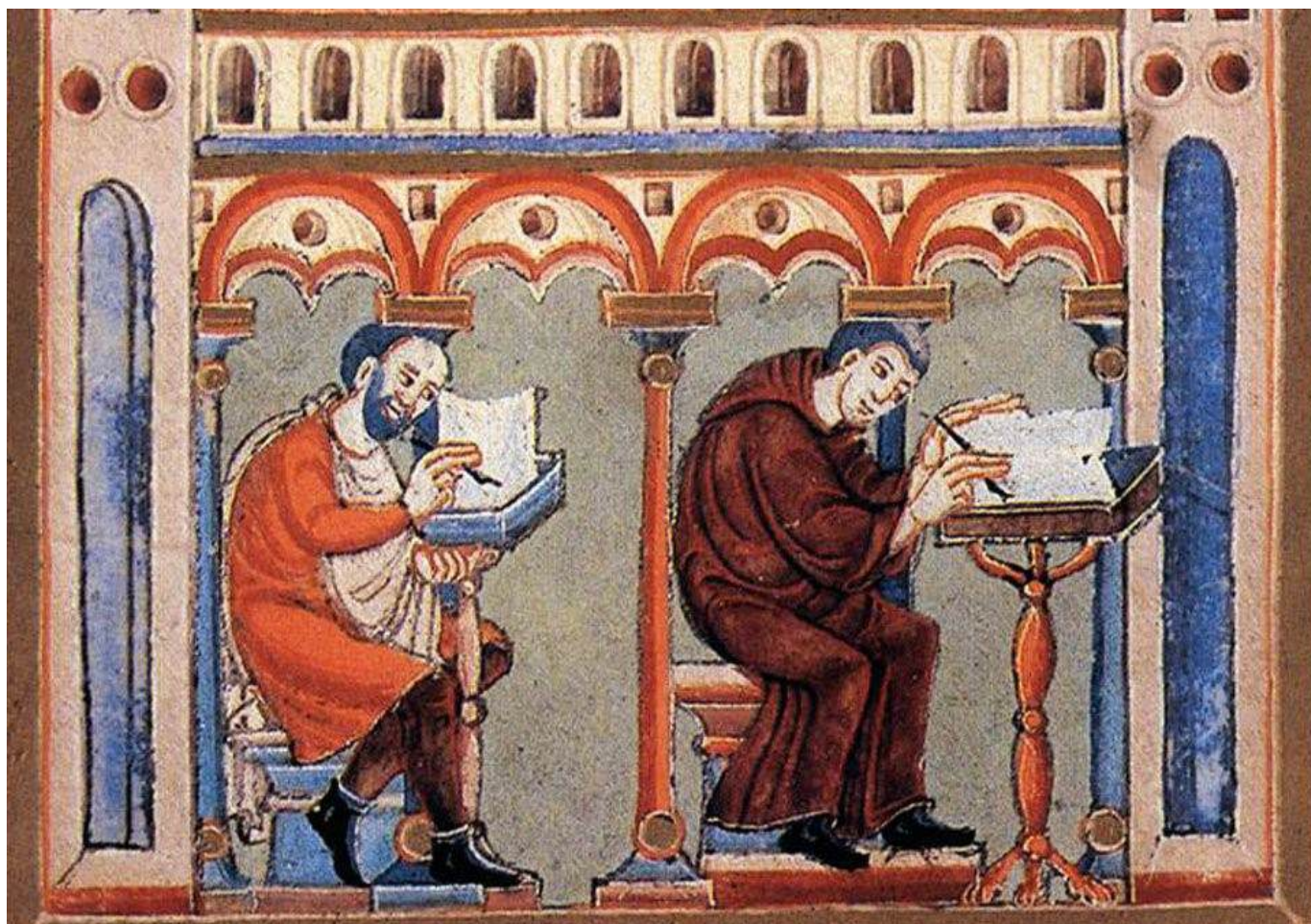
Photographic Credit—Mistress Derbail inghean Conchobar

Laurel Writ!!!

A writ to the Order of the Laurel was presented to **Don Rodrigo Luis de Albuquerque** at Spring Crown Tourney/Kingdom Arts & Sciences in May.

Congratulations are offered to Don Rodrigo, and we will be including information, when it becomes available, on the date and event of his future elevation unto the Order!

Again, Congratulations, Don Rodrigo!



Spring Heraldic Registrations



The following information will probably already have been posted Officially on Social Media or published in Popular Chivalry by the Pennon Herald, and was taken from SCA College of Arms Letters of Acceptance and Return, found at <https://heraldry.sca.org/loar/>

Congratulations!! The following heraldic submissions completed the process during the past Season, and most (those listed as Acceptances) are now officially REGISTERED with the SCA College of Arms:

January 2026

Acceptances

- * **Alys Wallas.** Reblazon of device. *Sable, on a pile inverted bendwise vert fimbriated, in bend two ferrets statant counter-statant palewise Or.* Blazoned when registered in July 2002 as *Sable, on a pile issuant from sinister base vert fimbriated, in bend a ferret statant and a ferret statant contourny Or*, we are reblazoning this to clarify the orientation of the ferrets and simplify the blazon of the pile, and taking the opportunity to update the blazon to current standards.
- * **Chad le Marsechall.** Name. Submitted as *Chad _ Marschall*, this name is identical in sound to the submitter's legal name. This is explicitly disallowed in the Administrative Handbook III.A.9: Protected Items. Additionally, all the alternate spellings of the byname that the submitter approved were identical in sound, meaning that the changes the submitter had stated were acceptable did not allow us to register this name. After consulting with the submitter, we have made the smallest possible change to allow registration, and changed this name to *Chad le Marsechall*.
- * **Chad le Marsechall.** Device. *Azure, a pale wavy sable fimbriated Or, overall a wagon wheel argent.*
- * **Emeric de Rammesburi.** Device. *Per pale azure and purpure, a pair of smith's tongs Or.* The submitter has permission to conflict with the badge of Geörg Stauffer, *(Fieldless) A pair of smith's tongs Or.*
- * **Eurykr{o-}n Lykaiou.** Name change from *Eiríkr Pálsson*. Submitted as *Eurykr{o-}n Eu{o-}nymosphan{e-}s*, the submitter requested a theophoric name based on the name *Euónymos*. Usually, Greek theophoric names arise as a result of a cult based around a given deity. We could find no evidence of any such cults of *Euónymos*, thus we are unable to form the desired theophoric name. The submitter stated in this case, that a theophoric name based on *Apollo Lykaios* would be acceptable. We have therefore with the submitter's permission changed this name to *Eurykr{o-}n Lykaiou* for registration.

- * **Galli Wyn of Ansteorra.** Device change. *Or, on a bend dovetailed vert between a closed face helm reversed azure and a mullet of five greater and five lesser points sable three quatrefoil knots palewise Or.* There is a step from core practice for the use of a mullet of five greater and five lesser points, which we direct Palimpsest to add to SENA Appendix G. The submitter's prior device, *Argent, on a bend dovetailed vert three quatrefoil knots palewise Or, in chief a closed face helm reversed azure,* is released.
- * **Guntram von Köln.** Household name *Fellowship of the Comb.*
- * **Lucien Antoine de Mantes.** Device. *Per fess sable and argent, a mullet of eight points within a crescent gules.* This badge was pended on the October 2025 to await the outcome of the October 2025 Letter of Pends and Discussions about charges within charges. The central mullet is entirely within the crescent, and is thus the primary charge group, surrounded by a secondary crescent.
- * **Seán Maguire.** Device. *Per bend azure and sable, a bow and a woodcarving knife Or.*
- * **Tarlan Lewyngstoun of Iona.** Badge (see PENDS for other badge). *Azure, in cross four Bowen knots argent.*

Returns

- * None

Pends

- * **Tarlan Lewyngstoun of Iona.** Badge. *Azure, a sheaf of three arrows inverted between in cross four Bowen knots argent.* This badge is pended to redraw it with larger arrows. The submitted emblazon blurs the line between secondary knots and co-primary knots. This was item 5 on the Meridies letter of November 1, 2025.

February 2026

Acceptances

- * None

Returns

- * None

Pends

- * None

March 2026

Acceptances

- * **Ása Kolbrún.** Device. Argent, two sheep rampant sable and in chief an arrow fesswise reversed azure, a base wavy vert.
- * **Brigid O'Cassidy.** Name and device. Azure, a winged opossum rampant maintaining a scepter, a chief invected argent.
- * **Cúan of Cork.** Name and device. Azure, a stag's skull argent transfixated through the eye sockets by an arrow fesswise Or.
- * **Elior of Guildford.** Name and device. Argent, a maple leaf fesswise reversed gules and a tierce sable.

- * **Emeralds Gate**, Shire of. Branch name and device. Sable, in pale a laurel wreath Or and a wall throughout issuant from base argent gated vert, on a chief argent three step-cut emeralds vert.
- * **Gwenhwyfar verch Ydeyde**. Name change from Rhys Faber.
- * The submitter's prior name, Rhys Faber, is released.
- * **Subutai the Tiger**. Name and device. Per bend gules and purple, a bend dovetailed between a compass star and a natural tiger rampant argent marked purple.
- * **Tarlan Lewyngstoun of Iona**. Household name House of Lewyngstoun.
- * **Pyra gandr**. Name and device. Per bend vert and sable, a fox rampant, in base a sheaf of three arrows argent.
- * **Ulrich Guotman**. Name (see RETURNS for device, household name, and badge).
- * (to Meridies acceptances) (to Meridies returns)

Returns

- * **Ulrich Guotman**. Device. Per chevron azure and sable, a chevron between two owls rising, wings displayed, and a wolf's head cabossed argent.

This device is returned for conflict with the device of Terrell al-Qassab, Per chevron azure and sable, a chevron between two cleavers in saltire and a lotus flower in profile argent. There is a DC for the type of secondaries, but the owls cannot be in saltire, so the change in arrangement of the secondary charge group is forced and thus not worth a second DC.

Pends

- * None

Meistres Bronwen o Gydweli, Lambent (Commenting) Herald Meridies

BRONWEN



Period Woodwork

For any artisan interested in trying to reproduce period accessories, the graphics below, used courtesy of the Metropolitan Museum of Art's Open Access Policy [The MET Open Access Policy: As part of the Met's Open Access policy, you can freely copy, modify and distribute this image, even for commercial purposes], show some beautiful period (and pre-period) woodcrafted items.



Game of Hounds & Jackals—
Middle Kingdom ca. 1814-1805
B.C.



St. Anthony Abbott—
Mikolaud von Hagenau—
German ca. 1500



Panel with Horse Heads—11th
Century



Seated Bishop—Tilman
Riemenschneider—German
Ca. 1495



Kurtz Violin—Andrea Amati—
Italian c. 1560



Enthroned Virgin & Child—
French ca. 1130-1140

Categories of Fencing

From the Fencing Marshal's Handbook

4. Categories of Fencing

4.1. There are three categories of Fencing in the Society for Creative Anachronism. These are:

- 4.1.1. Light Rapier
- 4.1.2. Rapier
- 4.1.3. Cut & Thrust Combat (C&T)

4.2. The table below summarizes the key differences in the three categories. Refer to the remainder of the rules for further clarification and details.



Fencing Category	Blades Allowed	Other Weapons and secondaries	Types of Blows Allowed	Armor Requirements
Rapier	No foils, epees, flexible daggers, or similar blades. All blades must be made of steel and meet the Greater Flexibility standard in ta-	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sword • Dagger • Defensive object • Spear 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Thrust • Tip cut • Push cut • Draw cut 	Standard
Cut & Thrust	No foils, epees, or similar blades. All blades must be made of steel, and meet the Lesser Flexibility standard in table 3.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sword • Dagger • Defensive object • Spear 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Thrust • Tip cut • Push cut • Draw cut • Percussive cut 	Standard + Abrasion Resistance on limbs, Back of Head Protection, Elbow Protection, Additional Hand Protection
Light Rapier	Steel Foil, Epee, or similar variant (such as a double-wide epee or musketeer blades) from an established commercial Manufacturer. Must meet the Greater Flexibility stand-	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sword • Dagger • Defensive object • Spears may not be used in this category 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Thrust • Tip cut • Push cut • Draw cut 	Standard + Abrasion Resistance on limbs, and puncture resistance on throat (not rigid)

Table 1. Overview of differences between the three categories of SCA Fencing. Refer to the remainder of the rules for specifics.

4.3. Except where noted rules apply to all categories of Fencing in the SCA.

4.4. The different categories of Fencing may not face one another in any type of combat



MAKING AND USING A STROP

[Aka Keeping ye olde woodworking tools sharp]

By THL Gaius Nautius Maximus

A strop is a very useful tool for a woodworker to have in the toolbox, and they are staggeringly inexpensive and easy to make. It is a piece of leather glued to a stiff surface, with a mildly abrasive compound applied to the top of the leather.

So, we will need to gather a few things before we begin construction.

Materials List:

- Piece of scrap wood, at least 2.5” wide by 8-10” long
- Piece of leather to cover the wood (or at least 6” of it)
- Glue (nearly any glue. Wood glue, E6000, hot glue, etc.) \
- A knife to cut the leather
- Green polishing compound (sold many places, including Amazon and Harbor Freight.



Quickly assess how you plan to fit the leather to the board with the smooth side facing up. We will be gluing the rough side to the wood base. Apply the glue to the board and press the leather to it. If you are using wood glue or another glue that takes some time to cure, set the assembly aside overnight with some books on it for weight.

Now that the leather is firmly glued to the board, flip it so that the leather side of the strop is facing down, and use a sharp knife and a surface you don't mind cutting on to trim the leather to the shape of the base.



With the leather trimmed to fit, it looks spiffy! Now, we take the green polishing compound bar and apply it to the leather in a manner not unlike using a crayon :) Neatness is not important, nor is bearing down hard as that will leave dark green streaks on the leather which won't hurt anything but don't help, either.

To use the strop, you simply drag your chisel across the strop, with the sharp edge trailing so that it doesn't dig in to the leather. Basically, the reverse of the direction that you'd use the chisel to cut wood. 4 to 6 passes down the strop will restore a nice sharp edge to your chisels and keep your tools sharp and easy to work with. I keep a strop in my kit with my carving chisels and strop them every 15-20 minutes of use. This makes a significant difference in the ease of cutting and carving, and makes for cleaner cuts as well. Make a strop today and give it a try :)



-Gaius

Newcomer Tokens Needed

As we work to grow our Kingdom, we are welcoming Newcomers into the SCA at nearly every event, and have made it a custom to present each of them with an identifying “newcomer token” such that other members of the populace will know who they are, and be inspired to welcome them.



However, we hear from the Kingdom Chatelaine, **THLord Thorfinnr langskeggr Eiriksson**, that they are constantly in need of Newcomer tokens to pass out, and they definitely would welcome the assistance of the Kingdom in stockpiling these for present and future use. If you, or your Barony, Provence, Shire, Stronghold, Port, College, Canton, Riding or Household might be willing to make and to donate Newcomer Tokens for Kingdom use, please make yourself known and consider doing so.

These are belt tokens, made of blue fabric, roughly 3” wide and typically long enough to loop over a belt while still displaying the newcomer symbol seen above. This symbol can be painted, stamped, or stitched on the fabric in white.



Poetry Corner

The Legend of the Fedex Guy Lady Úna inghean Thámhais

Gather around ye young and ye old,
I'll tell you a story, it's one to behold,
Of a man who's daring, and dashing, and bold
And one who delivers parcels.

They say that one day, to them he appeared,
To work by the reveling happening near,
He came, he saw, and he disappeared
This man who delivers parcels.

At first he was clothed in purple and black,
But then he donned on his plunder's slacks
The people exclaimed when did come back
Tis the man who delivers parcels.

He spoke to the crowd, then off yond he went,
To perform his deeds impossible quick
The people rejoiced, and some even wept
For the man who delivers parcels.

The king's gratitude, that day he did win,
He claimed he'll return and then gave a grin,
The people then wondered who he had been,
This man who delivered parcels.

They speak of his tale in whispers and song,
And wonder if he will be traveling long
The legend still stands and we sing along
Of the man who delivers parcels.

This man who deceivers parcels.

Gentle scadians, let me your ears. For I have a tale for thee,
nay Tis a legendary saga I have for you. I'm speaking of
course, of the legend of the FedEx guy. Yes! Tis the story about
one of our very own folk heroes. A mysterious man who in-
stantly earned himself a great reputation.



His legend begins in the shire of Glen Re during the day of a most joyous celebration. No one knows where he came from, and many disagree on how he arrived. Some say he emerged from the mist piloting a ship that roams the land. Others say he burst forth on a golden chariot drawn by flaming horses. The only detail that people can agree upon is that his vessel had the words “FedEx” inscribed on it.

Now he came to greet the people and asked about their merriment. The people told him of their celebration and invited him to join. But it was for naught. For you see this man is no ordinary man. Nay I tell you! He is much more than that. Similar to Saint Nickolas, the FedEx guy roams the land delivering important parcels to individuals. And with out him performing his work, Meridies, nay the known world, would collapse.

He bade the people farewell and went about his important task. All who attended that day thought they would never lay eyes upon him again. The people then wept.

That is until a few hours later he appeared once again! Like lightning itself, he quickly delivered those precious parcels in record breaking time. This a feat that no mere mortal could have accomplish. And when he came back, he was no longer dressed in black and purple, but he was dressed in the finest garments of a swashbuckling rogue. The people rejoiced at his return.

He then spent much time among the populace. Including time in the kitchen cleaning after a feast. This earned him notice from non other than the king. Yes, king Barthamu was so impressed with his deeds that he bestowed upon him a token of his favor.

The people made merry that day like merry was never made before. All thanks to the FedEx guy. And sadly as all things do, the celebration came to a close. And the FedEx guy had to be on his way. For you see there are always more parcels that need to be delivered. And without his important work, the known world would crumble.

Yet, he told all that were there that day that he will return and help the people to make merry once again. Some say that they have seen him in passing, in the distance on his golden chariot or land ship. Others say that he walks in our mist, even now. May we all wish to be so lucky as to encounter this legendary figure.

Now his deeds and actions have been memorized in verse.



Act of Chivalry

Phorfinna Masdottir

I wanted to share a small story of chivalry I experienced on the Rapier field at Gulf Wars 2026. It was Friday at the Ravine Fight. A very dear fight to me. It was the second of two battles in the Ravine. The middle of the field was being held strongly by Meridian fighters under the Ansteorran flag. I heard the call. "We need fighters on the left side!" I am still an improving fighter, but I can provide defense and distraction. I answered the call. Up the hill I went to the flag pole that was already starting to fall. I approached the line, sword and dagger ready. Three opposing fighters approached. Then two allies came from behind me, one to my left and one to my right. We engaged. A sword hit my dagger. I lost my grip, and sword took my dagger to the ground. I planned to fight without that dagger until my "death." Instead, a truce was called between the six of us. My opponent picked my dagger up, brought it to me, and handed it to me. We stood there for the ten seconds in the middle of a fight as my dagger was retrieved, handed to me, and my opponent returned to their line. I "died" thirty seconds later, but that moment has been impressed on me.

I am not sure which kingdom my opponents or allies were from, but for that ten seconds we were just SCAdians on the field. I wish all the best and amazing things in life for them. Thank you for making the dream awesome!



Cover Art & Articles Needed

For all those aspiring, or established, Artists and Authors of Meridies, SEASONS is always on the prowl for Cover Art, and we would very much like to showcase Original Artwork done by our own talented Meridian Artists rather than using photographs. We also need articles on subjects of potential interest to Meridian subjects!!

If you have period-style, or period-themed, or SCA-themed drawings in your portfolios — or still waiting impatiently to be drawn — please consider submitting them for use as Cover (or Filler) Art for use in this supplement. If you would be willing to submit an article, we would definitely welcome that as well!!

An Artist or Author Release Form will be required — the link to which can be found at <https://meridies.org/home/royaltyandofficers/chronicler/>

So let's see — and share — your work!!!



WOODCUT FROM THE TITLE-PAGE OF THE "GRETE HERBALL" (1526)

Herbs for Summer

Summer Gardening Hints from Divers Sources

Meistres Bronwen o Gydwelli

They say most herbs will grow equally both in raised beds and containers. Therefore you can grow and enjoy them even if you have only a deck or a balcony available for your gardening needs. Herbs also are some of the easiest plants to grow, and so they tend to be ideal and relatively fuss free for a new gardener. They also tend to be resistant to most pests and disease.

However, Most herbs need a lot of sunlight, so when planning where your herb garden will be located you should keep this in mind. To grow well, most herbs need at least six hours of direct sunlight per day. A few, such as cilantro and thyme will tolerate some amount of shade, but most love the sun, and the more sunshine, the better they will flourish.

Otherwise, herbs can be flexible. They are tolerant of poor soils, including sand, so you don't really need to add fertilizer before putting them in. However, they don't much like heavy clay or sopping wet conditions, so make sure the area drains well -- and working compost into garden beds will

improve soil consistency and drainage.

Also, be aware that many herbs can proliferate like weeds in their ability to thrive. I can tell you from personal experience that you may want to keep some herbs, like mint and oregano for example, in containers just to keep them from taking over your entire garden. Trust me on this one, because I'm belatedly considering a separate mint bed!!

Also note that there are two main categories of herbs: annual and perennial.

There are lots of great perennial herbs, which you'll be able to harvest for years after planting. Some of these are mint, tarragon, oregano, sage, lavender (though I've never had much success with that for some reason), thyme, and chives. Rosemary, at least in my area, is also a perennial, but I'm told that in the north it's considered an annual.

Annuals like cilantro, basil, summer savory and dill (though my dill and fennel come back every year) usually need to be replanted every year, and I've had parsley plants (these are considered biennials) that lived for three to five years without being replanted.

There are advantages to purchasing seedlings, because mostly they are available in nurseries and will give you a head start when you plant them in mid to late spring. To plant a seedling, just dig a hole about twice as wide as the root ball, backfill the soil, and tamp down to remove air pockets. Then water well. If you haven't had rain for a week or so, poke your finger into the soil; if it's still wet, wait another day or two to recheck before watering.

They tell me some herbs, such as basil, dill, and cilantro, are easy (and much cheaper)

to grow from seed. and you can start seeds indoors before the year's last frost. However, I have had almost ZERO luck with seeds over the past few years. Most have not germinated at all, regardless of soil type, lighting conditions, temperature, watering or any other conditions. I'm told I was probably sold old seeds, but whatever the reason I've been tempted to give up entirely on buying seeds and starting them indoors.

Outdoors, most herb seeds apparently need soil temps in the 60s and 70s to germinate. Some, basil for instance, won't tolerate cold at all, so you should wait until all danger of frost has passed before planting either basil seeds or seedlings outdoors.

Once you've planted seeds, keep them slightly moist until the tiny plants emerge, then thin them for spacing about 6 to 8 inches apart. If you don't have a ton of space, it's fine to crowd a few into one pot. They're pretty forgiving about being close together. But, as mentioned earlier, give your mint its own bed or container so that it doesn't choke out everything else. I love mint tea made with fresh mint, but it's a bully. Seriously.

Here's another hint I really just found out. At least some herbs should be allowed to flower. I'd always been told that I needed to pinch off flower buds so that the herbs didn't bolt (start to grow quickly) and lose their full flavor, and so that they would be filler and bushier. Apparently though, that's only good up to a point, because if you don't allow at least a few of your herbs to flower, they will not attract pollinators like bees and butterflies. Many herbs, an example being sage, have beautiful flowers that these insects (and hummingbirds) absolutely love. Also, while those plants might no longer make great herbs, they WILL go to seed, and the seeds can be collected and

used the following year. I've had better luck. By the way, germinating seeds gathered from my own garden than with seeds I've purchased.

Here are some tips I found on how best to harvest herbs:

One of the best things about growing herbs is that you can keep harvesting them all summer long. Start picking leafy herbs when a plant is at least 6" to 8" tall. Snip here and there to keep the plant even all around, and don't cut off more than a third of the plant at a time.

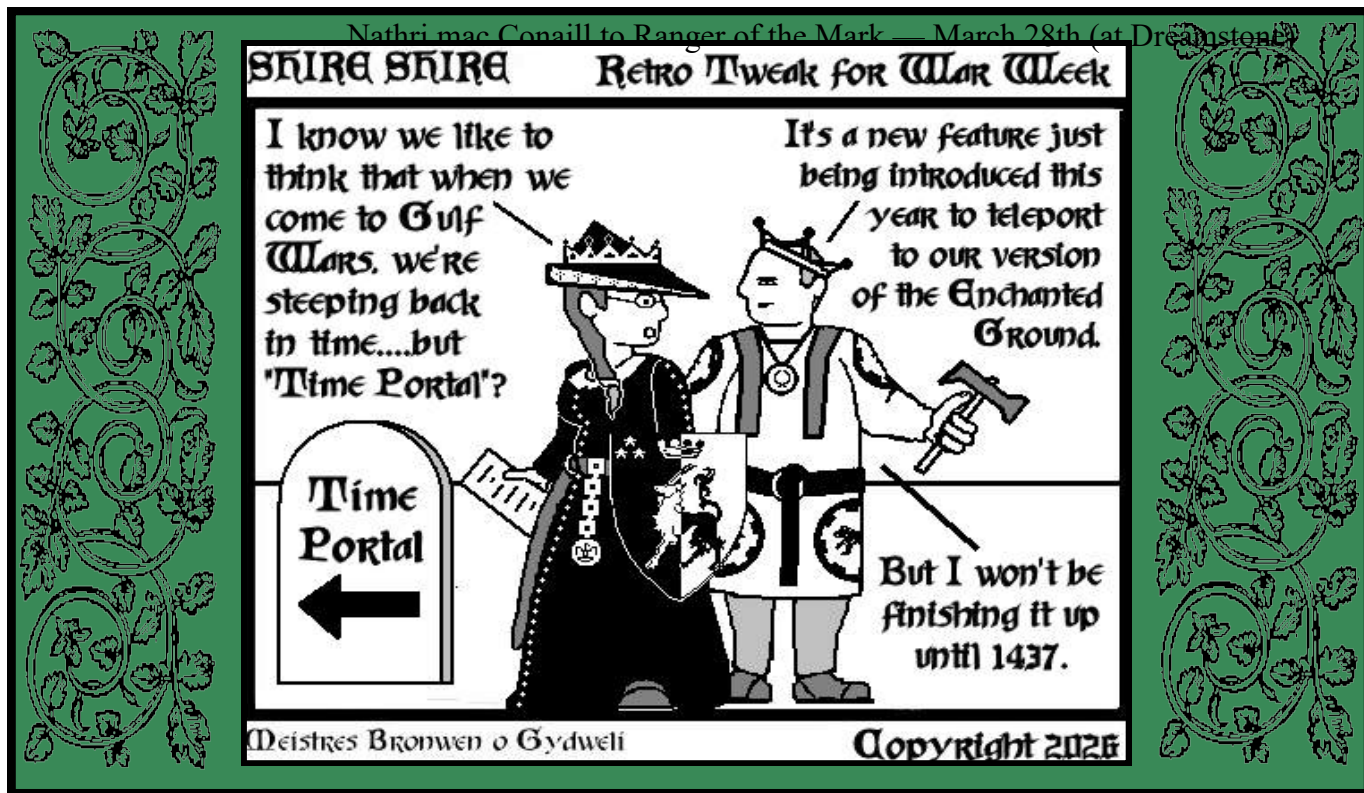
Also, while most herbs are grown for their leaves, some, such as chamomile or calendula, are grown for the flowers. Dill and cilantro are used fresh and also harvested for their seeds once the flowers dry out. Cilantro seeds are known as coriander, by the way.

Here's another hint I found. Herbs can be preserved, as we all know, by drying, but you also can dry or freeze leaves and seeds so you'll have plenty to use all winter long. Or (and this is one I'd never heard) basil can be blended with a little water or olive oil and frozen in ice cube trays.

My gratitude to various members of the Meridian Herbal

Guild for their on-going assistance as I learn more about this subject, and if you'd like to check out their Facebook page it can be found at **SCA Meridian Herbalists** <https://www.facebook.com/groups/439743532715252/>





Acknowledgements and Thanks

Thank you to **Danielle Byrd** for this issue’s Cover Art, and to **The Metropolitan Museum of Art** whose Open Access Policy allowed us freely to reprint images of objects from their Open Access Collection to this periodical.

Thanks to **Baroness Rose Rennel**, to **Sir Erik Martel**, to **Mistress Ellen de Lacey**, to **Mistress Doe Flynn**, to **Cassia Bint Mansour**, and to **Mistress Derbail inghean Conchobar** for permission to use their photos.

Thanks to **Baron Oengus mac Gilla Dubain** for his short article on “Honeysuckle Tea”, to **Lady Úna inghean Thámhais** for allowing the reprint of her verse “The Legend of the Fedex Guy”, and to **THLord Gaius Nautius Maximus (aka Einarr knýtir)** for his article “Making and Using a Strop”. Thanks also to **Lady Phorfinna Masdottir** for her short tribute “Act of Chivalry”!

Special thanks also to the Kingdom Chronicler **THLady Alis Talemache** for her patience and her assistance, and to my Deputies **Lord Leopold Gutmann** and (less officially) **Mistress Christianna MacGrain** for their ongoing assistance and their contributions to this issue. (Christianna). Forgive me for using one of my own poems again in this issue when I’d rather use those of others — but if you are a poet PLEASE consider sending in some of your period style work occasionally. It would be most appreciated.

In Gratitude..... **BRONWEN**





Submissions for SEASONS (and we definitely invite them) should be sent directly to the Editor at seasons@meridies.org, and accompanied by any graphics (in .JPG format) and by an appropriate Creative Release Form. These forms can be found on-line at <https://meridies.org/home/resources-and-reports/> under “Chronicler Resources”. The deadline for submissions to the Fall Seasons will be September 1st

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Articles submitted to SEASONS should be short to moderate length, and deal with topics of interest to the populace. Artwork should, ideally, be at least 300 dpi and deal with period or SCA subject matter, or be presented in a period style. The deadlines for submissions are (Spring) March 1st, (Summer) June 1st, (Autumn) September 1st, and (Winter) December 1st.