



The Claymore

The Newsletter of the Shire of Misty Highlands, Kingdom of Æthelmearc

A.S. 53, Quarter 3

A Letter from the Seneschal

Greetings to the great Shire of Misty Highlands from Arias, seneschal!

Many of us were able to attend the great Pennsic War, and I hope those of you who were enjoyed the time there as much as I did, although next time we could do without the humidity! For those of you who did not, whether your pursuits are martial or artistic, there are events for you in the near future, and some are nearby. Take time to peruse the guide on the kingdom website for more details on those events.



We are a growing shire, and we continue to reach into other areas of the shire to find people, and some of this is thanks to the effort in events and demos; this year's asylum muster is indirectly responsible for adding at least one person, and perhaps more in the future; who's to say?

We continue to be a shire that I think is unified, and I hope you feel the same! Let's not rest on these laurels, then: I ask everyone now to consider something we can do new, or different, or something that can be revived from the past, on any scale, whether planning a new or revived event, or searching for new demo or practice opportunities. We all approach things from different angles, and I am eager to hear what you may have in mind!

Word of the hospitality of events in our region is spreading, and I would hope we can find ways to give that life. With your help, I think we can do so!

Yours in Service,
The Honorable Lord Arias Beltran del Valle, Seneschal

Artisan's Corner

Bits and Pieces: On Knitting

By: Isabetta Simona da Murano

In simplest terms, knitting is the controlled tangling of yarn or thread to form a soft, stretchy fabric. Done with two or more needles, it can create an amazing range of textures and patterns using two basic stitches, the knit and the purl.

The earliest examples of knitting in the archaeological record are 11th century CE Egyptian cotton socks, which were of a very fine gauge and stranded using white and blue threads. The colorwork present in these socks is in a complex pattern, with multiple colors of thread used. Some extant examples have short-row heels, which would necessitate the use of the purl stitch, which is thought to be a more advanced stitch. Surviving items dated prior to this are almost all done with nalbinding, a one needle technique done with shorter lengths of thread, which produces fabric very similar to knit fabric. However, knitting is



thought to have been an improvement in technique, as the thread could be knit directly off the ball or spindle, rather than needing to be cut into smaller pieces, as with nalbinding. Due to the complexity of the earliest knit socks, it is almost certain that knitting was a mature craft by the time these socks were created.

From the Muslim world, knitting seems to have spread to Europe through Spain, where examples have been found in ecclesiastic tombs of cushions and gloves,

dating to the latter part of the 13th century. In addition, a knitted fragment of what appears to be a mitten was found in a tomb in Estonia dating to a similar time frame. From there, knitting became more popular, and seems to have been more popular, at least in Western Europe, as a domestic craft. In the 14th century, we begin to see what have been termed the "Knitting Madonnas," paintings of the Virgin Mary shown using 5 double pointed needles to knit garments in the round. With this popularity, knitting guilds began to form. According to one source[1], the first knitting guilds were active in Paris by 1268. However, it was not until the early part of the 16th century that the prestige of the craft had increased to the point where they were a force to be reckoned with. However, in the intervening time, knitting guilds spread throughout Europe, including in Germany, the Netherlands, and Barcelona, Spain.

As with any guild, a long period of apprenticeship and journeyman status was required before being certified as a master. To be certified as a master, several different items were required. Stockings, felted caps, and embroidered gloves are examples of items required of potential masters. In addition, a large knitted carpet or wall-hanging would have been required to demonstrate the skill of a potential master.



During the latter part of the 16th century, the knitting frame was developed in England, which was the fore-runner to the modern knitting machine. Its use gradually spread, despite the opposition of the hand-knitting guilds[1]. Indeed, it was after the invention of the

knitting frame that the gradual decline of the hand-knitting industry occurred, leading us eventually to our current state, where most knit garments are made from machine knit fabric.

[1]: Turnau, Irena. "The Knitting Crafts in Europe from the Thirteenth to the Eighteenth Century"
http://www2.cs.arizona.edu/patterns/weaving/articles/nb82_knt.pdf

Artisans Wanted!

Have you been working on a big project? Starting something new that you'd like feedback on? We'd like to hear from you! Bits and Pieces will be a regular feature of The Claymore and will feature a different A&S project from the populace each issue. Email [isabetta.sdm at gmail dot com](mailto:isabetta.sdm@gmail.com) for more information!

Misty Highlander of the Month

An Interview with Lord Oláf Steinabrjótr, Knight Marshall

Isabetta Simona da Murano: How did you get involved with the SCA? Why did you decide to stay?

Lord Oláf Steinabrjótr: I got into the SCA roughly in 2011 when I met people through D&D and a longtime friend introduced me to some people that were already in. I ended up meeting another person by chance at a public park that so happened to be in the SCA. It was fate.

My First event was Tournament of the White Hart and it was the best thing I had ever done. Friendly people and all the Pageantry planted the seeds in me to want to live the dream.

ISDM: Where was your first local group? What are some of your favorite memories of that area?

OS: My first group was the Shire of Port Oasis. I grew up in Hurricane WV and this was the group I started in. Alongside the Barony of Blackstone Mountain I formed great lasting friendships with a lot of good and lovely people. As far as memories.....been hit in the head too many times, they all seem to be my favorite.

ISDM: What is your favorite event? Why?

OS: Tournament of the White Hart. See next question.

ISDM: What is one of your favorite SCA memories?

OS: When I was able to propose to my Lady after we won the Tournament for her the previous year. It was wonderful. Second would be our Wedding at Blackstone Raids. It was crazy and hectic and wonderful.

ISDM: Why did you decide to get involved in Marshalling, and becoming an officer?

OS: The lack of marshals at the time in southern West Virginia was the main reason. There was a need and I have the ability.

ISDM: Is there something (that you're comfortable sharing) that people might not know about you?

OS: I'm a pretty open book.

ISDM: What do you hope to accomplish in the Society in the future?

OS: Live the dream and make sure the dream is alive for everyone else!

If you have a suggestion for an interview, please email [isabetta dot sdm at gmail dot com](mailto:isabetta_dot_sdm@gmail.com).

Upcoming Events

Known World Comedia – Sep
21 – 23

Shire of Ballachlagan - Tomlinson Run
State Park in New Manchester WV

<http://aethelmearc.org/event/known-world-comedia-2018/>

Do you love to laugh? Do you wish you could go to an event when laughing is what it is all about? Do I have a deal for you. Æthelmearc's own Shire of Ballachlagen will be hosting Known World Commedia Symposium. Not only will there be commedia troupes from all over the known world, but the weekend will be a celebration of Renaissance Italian Culture, with classes on Italian dance, fencing, mask making, and more! There will be an authentic period Italian feast, and of course PERFORMANCES! So many performances you might just want to have an extra chair just for all the sitting and laughing you will do!

Announcements

Shire Business meetings occur the second Sunday of each month at 4pm at the Elks Lodge in Morgantown, WV (1138 Chestnut Ridge Rd, Morgantown, WV).

Fighter Practice is each Sunday at 4pm at the Elks Morgantown unless otherwise noted. Wednesday evening fighter practices are held at Count Gareth's house – watch the Misty Highlands website for announcements/changes. For more information, please contact our Knight Marshal, Lord Oláf Steinabrjótr at [hdp247 at hotmail dot com](mailto:hdp247@hotmail.com).

Rapier Practice is each Sunday at 1pm at the Elks Morgantown, subject to change. For more information, please contact our Fencing Marshal, Lord Ragnar Gunnolfsson at [wes_stump1996 at yahoo dot com](mailto:wes_stump1996@yahoo.com).

The deadline for Newsletter submissions for the Q4 2018 edition of The Claymore is September 30, 2018. Questions, suggestions, or submissions may be emailed to [isabetta.sdm at gmail dot com](mailto:isabetta.sdm@gmail.com).

Do you have pictures or artwork you'd like to share? Want to write an article that the entire Shire will see? We need pictures and artwork not only for the Claymore, but also for the website! Contact the [isabetta.sdm at gmail dot com](mailto:isabetta.sdm@gmail.com) for more information.

Shire of Misty Highlands Facebook group may be found at: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/185926754780840/>

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