



# The North Wind

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*Coronet at sunset in the Shire of False Isle*



# Baron's Column



The Kingdom of Tir Righ!

**A**t Sealion War, Their Royal Highnesses, Prince Steinn and Princess Gemma, broached publicly the prospect of raising the Principality of Tir Righ to Kingdom status.

The question is "Do we want this?"

This may not be the best time to do this with the economy the way it is but there really is never a best time to do anything. Sometimes, you just have to get the ball rolling.

We have the structure we need to become a Kingdom. That was one of the purposes of forming a Principality to mirror the Kingdom structure. There will still be some work but we have officers and laws and heraldry and a host of other things that we will need as a Kingdom.

What we really need right now is the desire to do this. There are benefits, but there are also costs.

The main benefit in my opinion is that we can concentrate our volunteer effort into the new Kingdom rather than spread it between Kingdom and Principality.

It will also make scheduling events far easier with some weekends freed up. Currently, we have to schedule around both Kingdom and Principality events and that is affected by all three Principalities in the Kingdom of An Tir.

The main cost is the loss of family we would get from leaving An Tir. To some, it may not seem that big a deal but too many, this is major reason not to form a Kingdom.

We are not deciding right now, but we do need to start the discussions.

What do you think? Are we ready? Do we want this?

Some quick bits since this is late:

Canterbury Faire went off with few visible hitches. Combining a feast with a day of A&S and Bardic seemed to work quite well. Kenzie did his usual great job. One of the reasons we renamed this event to Canterbury Faire was to move the emphasis a little away from the A&S and Bardic Defenders' Tournaments. They were still there and an important part of the event but we wanted to make sure there was something for those that didn't want to compete. People love to learn and the classes did well. We would love to see the number of classes increase over the years.

Congratulations to Her Ladyship Cerridwen, our new A&S Defender and Lady Asny, our new Bardic Defender.

Antioch was a bit of an experiment since it involved Baronial Defenders' Tournaments at a Principality Demo. We couldn't set the schedule but we certainly impacted it. However, it worked. As a demo, it felt a lot like an event. I think the Baronial Courts held to invest the combatants added to the colour and gave the spectators a better idea of what we do. There is interest in repeating this again next year. It was certainly nice to hold an event without an event fee.

Congratulations to Cadet Seamus McKinneach, our new Rapier Defender, Sir Thorwulf, our new Heavy Defender, and Archos David of Tiriane, our new Archery Defender.

Sealion War ended up in a tie but we all had fun under sunny skies. It was a little bit smaller than some past Sealions but fell within the predicted attendance. I will do my best to bring the Sunshine to TOA and SYGC as well.

Have Fun, Play Fair,  
Baron James



Death Rides a Lion  
Woodcutting submitted by Baron James Wolfden  
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# Editor's Letter



**D**emos! 'Tis the season for demos! Though the season is only just starting to warm up, (Or getting rained out again, whichever) we've had quite a few demos so far. Demos provide us with a way of recruiting newcomers into our society, and also an opportunity to show off to the public what we do and love best. But, as Antioch combined with Summer Defenders' proved, it doesn't mean we can't still maintain an event atmosphere, and have a lot of fun.

One page of photos in this issue is from a very small demo that Gareth Doiron, Dr. Carus and myself attended along with David Williams who organized it through a high school teacher friend of his. We entertained two blocks of grade 9 and 10 students at Hatzic High School. After we introduced ourselves, Gareth opened each session by 'killing' off over 2/3 of the class. He asked all the students to stand, and then asked the students to sit if they'd ever had chicken pox, measles, mumps, had the flu, broken a limb, wore glasses, etc. The first class was much more robust than the second class. There were very few chicken pox victims in the first class, yet nearly all the second class died from chicken pox and flu. Broken bones and myopia might not kill, but they could maim, cause deformity, or affect a person's ability to get and maintain gainful employment.

After that, Gareth picked the most likely lad of the survivors, and kitted him out to be a fighter with chain maille hauberk, coif and gauntlets, open-face nasal-bar helm, tabard, and sword. Meanwhile, I passed around my Titanium hauberk in progress. Even at a mere 15lbs, the students found it an incredible weight to imagine running around and fighting for their lives in. I also passed around examples of chain maille and Norse wire weaving jewellery.

Gareth continued with a brief overview of weaponry for the period, and then he and David Williams fought each other in full heavy armour while Dr. Carus and I marshalled. Finally, we broke the class into three groups for an interactive portion. Gareth manned a station where students had the opportunity to take a swing at his shield, David Williams kitted students in the fighter gear, while I kept an eye on the show-and-tell display and demonstrated making 4-on-1 chain maille, and Dr. Carus lectured and demonstrated his infamous quern.

All in all, it was a lovely and rewarding day, and we got some free lunch and some gift cards for our trouble. One thought that I use to motivate me when I do demos, is the idea that each person I talk to that day might be my future king or queen. That if I succeed in firing his or her interest sufficiently, they might one day go far in our fayre Society.

I've had a few occasions recently to note, that someone I'd thought of only as, "that guy I saw a few times at heavy practice," or someone I randomly showed kindness to, or who showed kindness to me, seems suddenly to be a more integral part of the Society, or my own life. For me, that's one of the gifts, one of the magics of our game. We're starting to weave our own sagas, our own history. Who knows where the grade nine student who thumped Gareth's shield, or took a turn at Dr. Carus' quern will be tomorrow. It's what makes demos so important.

I hope you enjoy this month's peak at some demos over the past quarter of the year, and have a chance to participate in some upcoming ones soon.

In Service to our Dream,  
Wymarcha Hektanah Doiron  
Chronicler for the Barony of Lions Gate

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# Sable Loat Speaks!

Good evening, your most puissant Excellencies Margaret (Gules, a dog rampant Or collared gules and on a chief Or three thistles purpure slipped and leaved vert) and James (no device found) of Lions Gate (Per pale sable and argent, two lions rampant addorsed counterchanged, and in chief a laurel wreath per pale Or and vert.). Good evening as well, my Seneschel Ladyship Caitrina inghean Aindriasa (Quarterly gules and sable, a winged fox sejant argent.), it is a great pleasure to address you, even via this poor missive and submit this report for your pleasure. A fair evening to the rest of the gentles here, especially Lady Asny Ravnsdottir (no device found), Sir Griffin ap Bedwyr (no device found), Her Excellency Caitrin ni Chionga (Quarterly azure and vert, a cluster of acorns pendant from a slip Or within a bordure engrailed argent.), my own lovely Lady Wymarcha Hetanah Doiron (device not yet submitted), the wise Lady Myrrim de Lancaste (no device found), and the well-written Ladyship Aelena Cordovera (no device found). It is a great pleasure to address you all, and all else who have wended their way here for the Council of Lions Gate (Per pale sable and argent, two lions rampant addorsed counterchanged, and in chief a laurel wreath per pale Or and vert.).

When Her Ladyship Caitrina inghean Aindriasa (Quarterly gules and sable, a winged fox sejant argent.) and her conniving husband Master Uilliam mac Fearchair mhic Gille Aindrias (Per chevron argent and azure, two chess rooks and a winged wolf statant counterchanged) mentioned to me that they needed a herald for Lions Gate (Per pale sable and argent, two lions rampant addorsed counterchanged, and in chief a laurel wreath per pale Or and vert.), I was somewhat overwhelmed. No, wait..conniving is not the right word. Subtle. Yes, Uilliam mac Fearchair mhic Gille Aindrias (Per chevron argent and azure, two chess rooks and a winged wolf statant counterchanged) is subtle. I kept looking over my shoulder to see whom they could be directing their baleful...no, wait, wrong word again..beneficent gaze upon. The only persons I saw behind me was their Excellencies Margaret (Gules, a dog rampant Or collared gules and on a chief Or three thistles purpure slipped and leaved vert) and James (no device found). I, knowing that it would be wrong for the Baroness Margaret (Gules, a dog rampant Or collared gules and on a chief Or three thistles purpure slipped and leaved vert), of course to hold two major offices in her own Barony Lions Gate (Per pale sable and argent, two lions rampant addorsed counterchanged, and in chief a laurel wreath per pale Or and vert.). I realized that I, Gareit Doiron (No device submitted), had to shoulder the heavy burden of speaking loudly and lifting heavy objects, when my normal behaviour was only to lift heavy objects.

I am duly thankful to have been allowed to try the position on for size (it's a medium, or lady's size 8) at the recent Baronial Banquet, combined with the Defenders of the Arts and Sciences of Lions Gate (Per pale sable and argent, two lions rampant addorsed counterchanged, and in chief a laurel wreath per pale Or and vert.). I believe I only mispronounced Her Excellency Margaret's (Gules, a dog rampant Or collared gules and on a chief Or three thistles purpure slipped and leaved vert) name once, which is a new record.

To this date, I have not managed to assist in registering any heraldic devices, I am afraid, nor consulted on any. This is likely for the best, as I am sure there is a surfeit of winged pigs or beavers juggling already in the realm. I have managed to speak loudly on a number of occasions, and am endeavouring to continue this practice into mundane life, although the traditional cry of "Cockles and Muscles, Alive Alive-O" sounds a bit off on the number eight Fraser (Quarterly: 1st and 4th Azure, three fraises Argent, 2nd and 3rd Gules, three antique crowns Or) bus.

There were no injuries to report, save to the pride of Lions Gate (Per pale sable and argent, two lions rampant addorsed counterchanged, and in chief a laurel wreath per pale Or and vert.), as the dastards from Seagirt (Per fess argent and azure, an orca naiant embowed counterembowed proper in chief a laurel wreath vert) heaped ignoble scorn upon such a simple thing as an apostrophe (or lack thereof). I do not demand revenge, or for them to think of the children (or the neeps...). For the first, I believe our unblemished record upon the warfield stands for itself, a shield wall indeed upon our shores. Should they care to cast themselves upon our rock, their tiny boats will be holed and sunk, with no hostile intent from us required. As for the second, it is a well documented fact that Seagirt (Per fess argent and azure, an orca naiant embowed counterembowed proper in chief a laurel wreath vert) only thinks of children when dinner time rolls about and there is no raw fish at hand.

I look forward to seeing you all at Sealion War.

In humble, but well enunciated service,  
Gareit Doiron (No device submitted), AOA

# Chatelaine Nouveau

Greetings to the Populace of Lions Gate,

In the past month I put my name in to volunteer for the office of Chatelaine. Her Ladyship Vivian also volunteered and I was pleased to hear she had been accepted. I was equally pleased to accept the office of Gold Key. When Vivian had to bow out I was offered the office of Chatelaine and agreed to step in. I am looking forward to the office and indeed, am already enjoying emailing several newcomers. I am also unhappy that Vivian is unable to do it at this time, since she is the perfect Chatelaine, having the experience as well as the kindness and grace that makes new people feel so welcome. In any case, if Vivian feels ready at some point during my future commitment, I am perfectly willing to step aside or perhaps deputy for her, I simply want to give service to the Barony in any way that suits my skills.

That said, I am finding I need a little more information to be an efficient chatelaine. At least one (relative) newcomer has asked about fighter practice. I directed him to the Cloverdale practice which is a bit far for him. He lives on the North Shore and is already building up a collection of armour. Does anyone drive out to Cloverdale that he could carpool with? I'm also wondering if any of the informal fighter practices I heard tell of in the past are still going on. Finally, who would be the best heavy fighter contact(s) to point newcomers to?

So far I am able to manage the chatelaine email and hold monthly Newcomers meetings. I am moving the meetings to the common room in my building, so if anyone asks, have them contact me for the address and buzz code ect. It is my hope and plan to invite experienced members of the populace to Newcomers meetings for introductory talks and lessons about various aspects of our society according to their needs and interests. If anyone would like to volunteer, bless you. Otherwise, you may find me on your (proverbial) doorstep with a recruiting gleam in my eye.

Another volunteer opportunity is gold key. So far I've been fortunate to have gracious help from gate and managed to follow the trail of green tabards and give newcomers my official welcome to the barony (while chasing after my 8-year-old). However, if anyone wants to help out with or take on the Gold Key office, that would be lovely.

My thanks for your attention.

Your new Lions Gate Chatelaine in these current middle ages,

Lady Tamsyn le Rous

--

Per chevron throughout Or goutty azure, and argent, in base a crequier vert.

# Lions Gate Calendar of Events

| June-2012 |    |    |    |    |    |    |
|-----------|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| S         | M  | T  | W  | T  | F  | S  |
|           |    |    |    |    | 1  | 2  |
| 3         | 4  | 5  | 6  | 7  | 8  | 9  |
| 10        | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 |
| 17        | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 |
| 24        | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 |
| 1         | 2  | 3  | 4  | 5  | 6  | 7  |

## Event Listings for June-2012

| Date  | Branch | Event  |
|-------|--------|--|
| 28    |        | <a href="#">Baronial Council</a>   |
| <hr/> |        |  |
| Tue   |        | Cloverdale Practice <a href="#">5</a> , <a href="#">12</a> , <a href="#">19</a> , <a href="#">26</a> |
| Thu   |        | Rapier Practice <a href="#">7</a> , <a href="#">14</a> , <a href="#">21</a> , <a href="#">28</a>     |
| Mon   |        | Archery Practice <a href="#">4</a> , <a href="#">11</a> , <a href="#">18</a> , <a href="#">25</a>    |
| Thu   |        | Archery Practice <a href="#">7</a> , <a href="#">14</a> , <a href="#">21</a> , <a href="#">28</a>    |
| Fri   |        | Newcomers Information Session <a href="#">1</a> -  |

| July-2012 |    |    |    |    |    |    |
|-----------|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| S         | M  | T  | W  | T  | F  | S  |
| 1         | 2  | 3  | 4  | 5  | 6  | 7  |
| 8         | 9  | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 |
| 15        | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 |
| 22        | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 |
| 29        | 30 | 31 |    |    |    |    |

## Event Listings for July-2012

| Date  | Branch | Event   |
|-------|--------|---|
| 26    |        | <a href="#">Baronial Council</a>  |
| <hr/> |        |   |
| Tue   |        | Cloverdale Practice <a href="#">3</a> , <a href="#">10</a> , <a href="#">17</a> , <a href="#">24</a> , <a href="#">31</a> |
| Thu   |        | Rapier Practice <a href="#">5</a> , <a href="#">12</a> , <a href="#">19</a> , <a href="#">26</a>                          |
| Mon   |        | Archery Practice <a href="#">2</a> , <a href="#">9</a> , <a href="#">16</a> , <a href="#">23</a> , <a href="#">30</a>     |
| Thu   |        | Archery Practice <a href="#">5</a> , <a href="#">12</a> , <a href="#">19</a> , <a href="#">26</a>                         |
| Fri   |        | Newcomers Information Session <a href="#">6</a> -   |

| August-2012 |    |    |    |    |    |    |
|-------------|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| S           | M  | T  | W  | T  | F  | S  |
|             |    |    | 1  | 2  | 3  | 4  |
| 5           | 6  | 7  | 8  | 9  | 10 | 11 |
| 12          | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 |
| 19          | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 |
| 26          | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 | 31 |    |

## Event Listings for August-2012

| Date  | Branch | Event   |
|-------|--------|---|
| 3-6   |        | <a href="#">Tournament of Armies</a>  |
| 17-19 |        | SYGC Trials   |
| 19    |        | North Wind Content Submission Deadline  |
| 23    |        | <a href="#">Baronial Council</a>  |
| <hr/> |        |   |
| Tue   |        | Cloverdale Practice <a href="#">7</a> , <a href="#">14</a> , <a href="#">21</a> , <a href="#">28</a>                  |
| Thu   |        | Rapier Practice <a href="#">2</a> , <a href="#">9</a> , <a href="#">16</a> , <a href="#">23</a> , <a href="#">30</a>  |
| Mon   |        | Archery Practice <a href="#">6</a> , <a href="#">13</a> , <a href="#">20</a> , <a href="#">27</a>                     |
| Thu   |        | Archery Practice <a href="#">2</a> , <a href="#">9</a> , <a href="#">16</a> , <a href="#">23</a> , <a href="#">30</a> |

| September-2012 |    |    |    |    |    |    |
|----------------|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| S              | M  | T  | W  | T  | F  | S  |
|                |    |    |    |    |    | 1  |
| 2              | 3  | 4  | 5  | 6  | 7  | 8  |
| 9              | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 |
| 16             | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 |
| 23             | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 |
| 30             | 1  | 2  | 3  | 4  | 5  | 6  |

## Event Listings for September-2012

| Date  | Branch | Event  |
|-------|--------|--|
| 27    |        | <a href="#">Baronial Council</a>   |
| <hr/> |        |  |
| Tue   |        | Cloverdale Practice <a href="#">4</a> , <a href="#">11</a> , <a href="#">18</a> , <a href="#">25</a> |
| Thu   |        | Rapier Practice <a href="#">6</a> , <a href="#">13</a> , <a href="#">20</a> , <a href="#">27</a>     |
| Mon   |        | Archery Practice <a href="#">3</a> , <a href="#">10</a> , <a href="#">17</a> , <a href="#">24</a>    |
| Thu   |        | Archery Practice <a href="#">6</a> , <a href="#">13</a> , <a href="#">20</a> , <a href="#">27</a>    |
| Fri   |        | Newcomers Information Session <a href="#">7</a> -  |

# Upcoming Events

## *Who will win the right to be called Warlord of Lions Gate?*

The Barony of Lions Gate invites [all disciplines](#): Heavy, Rapier, Archery, Arts and Science, Heraldry, Bardic and Service, to [A TOURNAMENT OF ARMIES](#), from August 3 through August 6th.

If you want to be named Warlord of Lions Gate, **you** must gather all the disciplines to build your own army and enter the Tournament. Be mindful that your army must be able to withstand attacks on all fronts: classic battles on the war field as well as battles of wits and skill.

Who will flock to your banner to support you? Who will inspire you to support their quest for the title? Sharpen your swords and your wits and be ready to display your prowess and declaim your glory before all!

*...only one can be victorious.*

### **Pre-Registration:**

Pre-reg form are available on our website

- \$20 per person, \$10 per youth, \$45 mundane family cap

### **Site Fees at Gate:**

- \$25 per person, \$15 per youth, \$50 mundane family cap

\$5 NMS in effect, please make cheques payable to "Barony of Lions Gate"

**Event Steward** : Lady Johanna van der Velde ([johannvandervelde@gmail.com](mailto:johannvandervelde@gmail.com))

**Co-Steward & Marshal In Charge**: Oberst Luther Magnus ([luther\\_magnus@hotmail.com](mailto:luther_magnus@hotmail.com))

**General Questions**: ([toa.lionsgate@gmail.com](mailto:toa.lionsgate@gmail.com))

## **2012 Barony of Lions Gate : Sergeant, Yeoman, Gallant, Courtier trials**

Date: Aug 17, 18 & 19 2012

Co-Stewards: Courtier Tiarna Cáemgen mac Garbith & Sergeant Miles FitzHubert (Stormy2@telus.net)

Come support those members of Lions Gate's populace as they challenge for the rank of Sergeant, Yeoman, Gallant, or Courtier. There are a number of challengers this year, they will appreciate your kind word, piece of pie, or readiness to be lead. Challenge yourself with the questions each candidate must know for heraldry, strategy, games, dance! These are our future, or current leaders, join them in a truly formative experience. Or just enjoy a day, perhaps with games, archery, or a picnic with good friends. Bring a song or story to share around the Bardic fire! Learn a dance!

The Grene Wode is a delightful location for our Barony to gather and share a pivotal moment in people's lives. Rainbows, sunshine, quiet joy, and riotous fun can be had by all camping for the weekend.

Candidates:

All Candidates Must Attend Opening Court Saturday Morning bring your device! The Baroness should already have your written application in hand.

Testing for some areas will be done by designated testers, but the input of the populace is important and welcome. Combat testing will welcome participation by heavies, rapiers and archers. Dancing is better with greater numbers, and a bardic test without an audience is a shame.

Members of the populace will be heard in the Sunday morning circle discussions, as the personal qualities of the applicants are examined. Or contact the Baroness directly if you can not attend.

Merchant space will be available no charge - bring your own tables please. Contact the Stewards.

Fees: Adults \$15. Youth (12-18) \$8. Children (12 and younger) free. \$5 NMS applies to all adults who do not have proof of membership. Make cheques payable to "Barony of Lions Gate"

Kids under 12 Free , Family Cap \$25 ( immediate family only! 2 adults 2 youths or younger)

# Upcoming Events

Site Owner's Rules: **NO PETS**, smoking only within designated areas (this does not include your encampment), beware of farm equipment, animals, and water hazards (this is a working farm).

Tentative Timetable\*\*:

Friday

5:00 pm Site Opens

Saturday

9:00 am Wake-up Call

10:00 am Opening Court

10:30 am Armour Inspections and testing

11:00am War scenarios and Command Archery range opens (subject to change)

6:00 pm Sergeantry Meeting at the Baronial Pavilion

7:30 pm Dance Testing

8:00 pm Bardic Circle (or immediately following dance testing)

Sunday

9:00 am Wake-up Call

10:00 am Courtesy Meeting

11:30 am Etiquette Court

1 pm closing court

3:00 pm Site closes (everyone off site)

Site Info:

Name: Donatello's Farm (The Grene Wode)

25133 Zero Ave.

Aldergrove, BC V4W 2H4

Directions to Site:

Last Event's Directions:

From the East: Make your best way to HWY 1. Take HWY 1 West. Get off at 264, heading South. Turn Right at 0 Ave. Event is on your right hand side after 256 St and before 248 St.

From the West: Make your best way to HWY 1. Take HWY 1 East. Get off at 264, heading South, follow directions above.

From the South: Make your best way to Guide Meridian (WA539, Meridian St. or exit 256 on the I5.) Cross the Border at Lynden/Aldergrove crossing. Turn left at 0 Ave. Event is on your right hand side after 256 St and before 248 St.

# Ask Our Alchemist



Photo by: Ylas Anasdoter

Dear Dr. Carus,

Oh, wool is me! Drop spinning may be portable, but it's so slow! I got myself one of those new fangled spinning wheels, but every time I prick myself, I delay my A&S project by a hundred years! When did we switch over to these infernal things, who invented them, and will I ever have enough wool for a skein or two to knit up my ravelled sleeve of care?

Sincerely,

Fit to be Dyed

Dear Fit,

Truly the Book of Proverbs says (31:10,19,31):

*Who can find a woman of worth? Far beyond jewels is her value.*

*She puts her hands to the distaff, and her fingers ply the spindle.*

*Acclaim her for the work of her hands, and let her deeds praise her at the city gates.*

Now imagine how much more acclaimed you'd be if you were to increase your spinning productivity by up to TENFOLD with the **new improved** Pray-Tel Spinning Wheel™! (c/o Burn Abbey – Brother Operators are standing by to take your order) With

this extra household income, you'll soon be "spinning flax into gold" – wealth through value-added product, the dream of Alchemy!

The allegation of narcoleptic hazard supposedly comes from the following story (Charles Perrault "La Belle Au Bois Dormant / The Beauty of the Wood Sleeping" in *Contes de Ma Mère l'Oie / Tales of My Mother the Goose*, 1697, tale 1; Jakob & Wilhelm Grimm "Dornröschen / Briar Rose", in *Marchen / Fairy Tales*, 1812, vol 1, märchen 50). Fairies gathered at a princess' christening bestow gifts (surely from Germanic myth – Snorri Sturluson *Prose Edda*, 1220, part 1, sec 15 – of spinning goddesses who assemble to order the life of a human at birth: called Norns, equivalent to the Greek Moirai and Roman Nona: the Fates), one being a curse that the girl will someday prick her finger while spinning and die, which another fairy tempers to enchanted sleep. Yet, these labour-saving devices, in their latest version complete with treadle and separate spindle (that twists the yarn) and flyer (that winds the yarn about the bobbin), and in regular use from the 15<sup>th</sup> - 16<sup>th</sup> into the early 20<sup>th</sup> C (see Exhibits A & B below), have in fact no actual sharp bits on which a finger may be pricked!

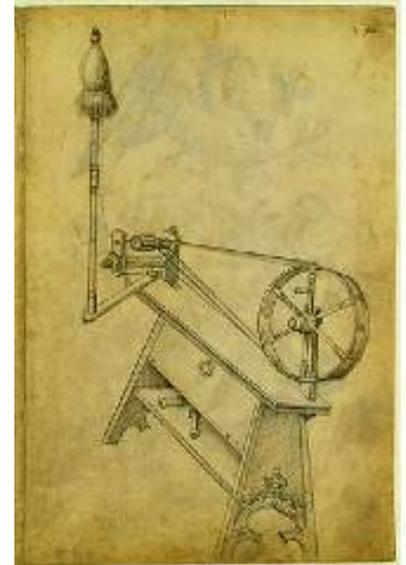
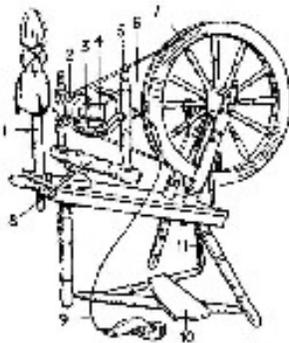


Exhibit A: Anonymous, *Mittelalterliches Hausbuch / Medieval House Book*, ca 1480. Another spinning mechanism with bobbin & flyer appears in Leonardo da Vinci *Notes*, about 1490. The treadle was added in 1533 by Juergen of Watenbuettel in Brunswick to give the more-or-less modern "Saxon Wheel": PJ Rehtmeyer, *Chronicle of Brunswick-Luneburg*, 1722, p 879.

**spinning** n. ~geny, spinning-machine with several spindles; ~wheel, simple spinning-apparatus in which spindle is driven by wheel worked by hand or foot.



SPINNING WHEEL.

1. Distaff. 2. Flyer or spindle wheel. 3. Hackle. 4. Bobbin. 5. Mauduit. 6. Spindle. 7. Wheel. 8. Mutter-of-all. 9. Yarn. 10. Treadle. 11. Footman.

Exhibit B: parts of an "antique", from an illustrated English dictionary, 20<sup>th</sup> C (<http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~norway/SpinningWheels.html>).

Though later potted translations and illustrations talk about deadly spinning wheels (see Exhibit C below) – so that Walt Disney's scurrilous *Sleeping Beauty*, 1959, even has the princess prick her finger on the end of one's distaff, from which is drawn the unspun roving or tow: a point that is utterly, er, pointless – it is the earlier drop-spinning spindle, relatively unfamiliar to modern audiences, which narrows towards one or both ends that it may twirl the faster when spun between two fingers, that is specified in the original versions of the tale (Exhibit D below). And one can indeed get dead or disabled from a spindle-prick: tetanus is Period (Hippocrates, *Aphorisms*, 5<sup>th</sup> C BC, book 5, aphorism 6), though it involves more rigid spasm than relaxed coma. As for sleep or other "enchantment" (besides occasional yet complete recovery from the above): in the precursor to Perrault, Giambattista Basile's horrific and Definitely Not For Children "Sole, Luna, e Talia / Sun, Moon, and Talia", *Pentamerone*, 1634, the etiology is given as an injected bit of either flax or hemp (*Cannabis*) – possibly relating to the narcotic action of certain extracts of the latter.

# Ask Our Alchemist



Exhibit C: Anne Anderson "Aurora pricked her finger on the witches spindle..." in *Old, Old Fairy Tales*, 1919.

Exhibit D: The true culprit in *Sleeping Beauty*: the drop-spindle did it! Alexander Zick, *Dornröschen*, 1875.



Is then the wheel entirely irrelevant? Not necessarily. The very first kind of spinning wheel, called the Great or Walking Wheel (Exhibits E & F below), similar to the *chahrka* famously worked by Gandhi while he preached Revolution (and that India's flag recalls today), and that probably appeared in Persia around 1200, had a hand-cranked big wheel & belt merely spin a sharp spindle, alternately from whose end thread was twisted then on whose side thread was wound: conceivably this could drill a pretty hole into an unwary hand in no time flat, with a variety of unfortunate consequences. Interestingly, in China, a water-driven version was developed by the 14<sup>th</sup> C, four centuries before Europe, but then was forgotten because labour there was so cheap, forestalling an Eastern Industrial Revolution (Mark Elvin "The high-level equilibrium trap: the causes of the decline of invention in the traditional Chinese textile industries" in W. E. Willmott, *Economic Organization in Chinese Society*, 1972, p 137-172, <http://tinyurl.com/76rbml>). It was eventually displaced by the multi-bobbin spinning jenny after 1764, but it is a lasting legacy of the spinning wheel that, wherever and in whatever form it had appeared, spun & woven textile quickly became so inexpensive that enough linen rags were available to remove an important bottleneck in the manufacture of books, and encourage their mass production through printing: not mass sleep, but a Great Awakening, was its gift to the world (C Marchetti "A Postmortem Technology Assessment of the Spinning Wheel: The Last 1000 Years," *Technological Forecasting and Social Change*, 1978, vol 13, p 91-93, <http://www.cesaremarchetti.org/archive/scan/MARCHETTI-079.pdf>).

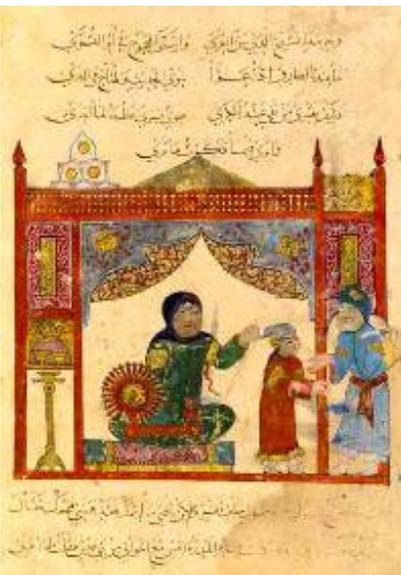


Exhibit E: Earliest known spinning wheel, Baghdad, 1237, <http://lhresources.wordpress.com/workroom-textile-skills/history-and-gallery-spinning-2/>.

Exhibit F: Spinning Wheel = Sex Appeal. *Smithfield Decretals*, ca 1400, book 4, folio 139.

**Further Reading:**

Lady Siobhan nic Dhuinnshleibhe / Heather McCloy, *A History and Evolution of Spinning*, 2000, <http://kws.atlantia.sca.org/spinning.html>.

FM Feldhaus "Ancient History of the Spinning Wheel", *The Melliand*, 1929 Sept, vol 1, n° 6, p 945-947, [http://www.cs.arizona.edu/patterns/weaving/articles/fmf\\_spin.pdf](http://www.cs.arizona.edu/patterns/weaving/articles/fmf_spin.pdf).

Frances & Joseph Gies *Cathedral, Forge, and Waterwheel*, 1994, p 175-176.

AP Usher *A History of Mechanical Inventions, Revised Edition*, 1954, p 267-273.

Dr. Carus answers your questions on Medieval Science & Technology in every issue of the North Wind: email them to him at [darlingg@activematerials.ca](mailto:darlingg@activematerials.ca), or to the Chronicler.

# Science World Demo



Top Left: Griffin sits the Lego Throne

Top Right: Caitrin takes a turn on the chemical energy wheel.



Middle Left: Baron James Wolfden demonstrates a bow to a young girl.

Middle right: Two fighters spar while Griffin marshals.

Bottom Left: Caitrin takes aim as a formidable predator.



Bottom Right: Caitrin in the Lego Throne.



Photos by:  
Sarah ferch Griffon  
and Ylas Anasdoter

# Antioch & Summer Defenders



Garet Doiron is anointed during the swearing in ceremony for Sable Loat



The candidates for Rapier Defender are sworn in.



Photos by:  
Wymarcha  
Hektanah  
Doiron

# Hatzic High School Demo



Top: Display of chain maille and a cloak.

Left: Dr. Carus demonstrates his quern.

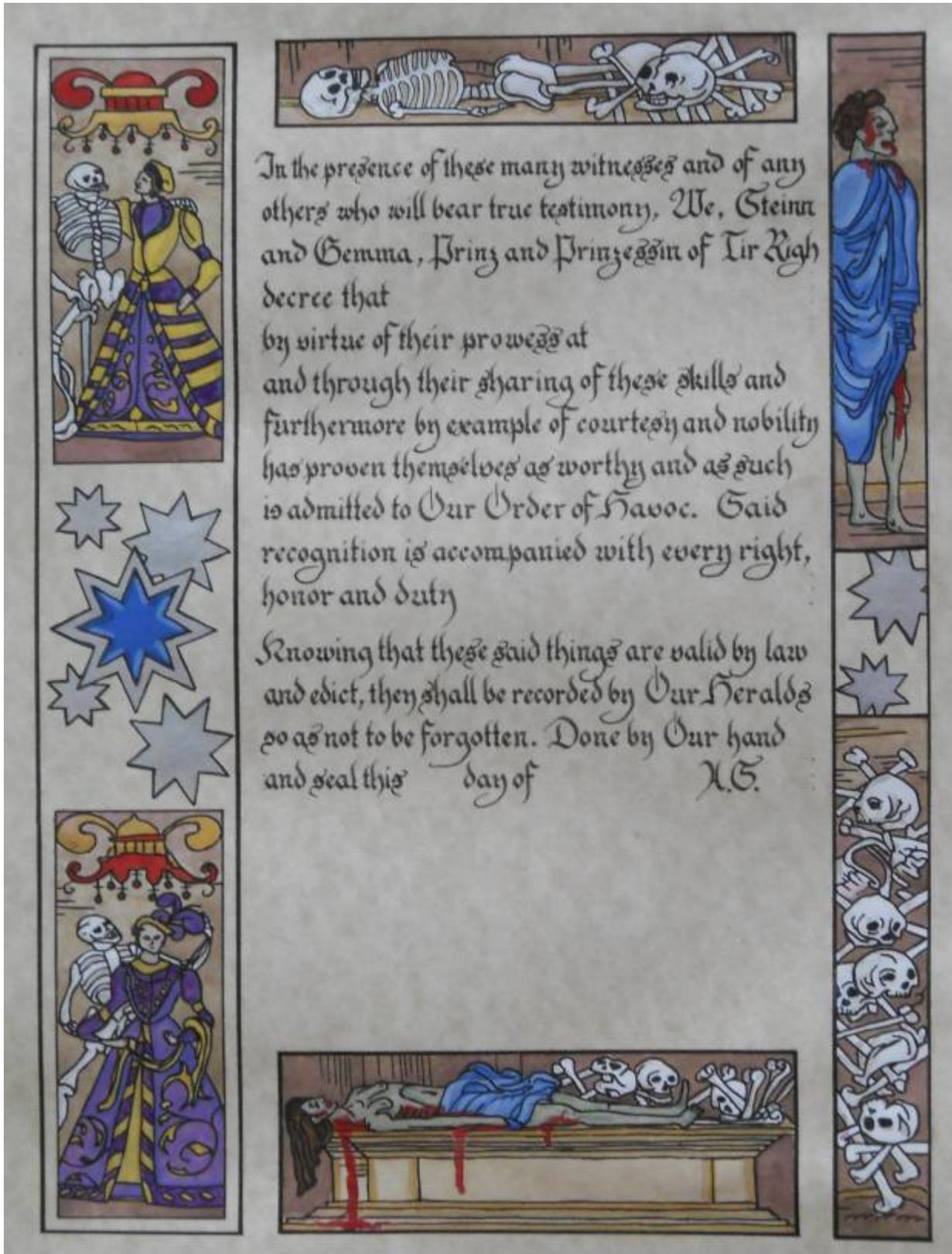
Right: David Williams kits out a student.

Bottom: Display of tabards and tunics.

Photos by: Wymarcha Hektanah Doiron



# Scroll of the Month



In the presence of these many witnesses and of any others who will bear true testimony, We, Steinn and Gemma, Prinz and Prinzessin of Tir Righ decree that by virtue of their prowess at and through their sharing of these skills and furthermore by example of courtesy and nobility has proven themselves as worthy and as such is admitted to Our Order of Havoc. Said recognition is accompanied with every right, honor and duty

Knowing that these said things are valid by law and edict, they shall be recorded by Our Heralds so as not to be forgotten. Done by Our hand and seal this day of X.S.

The so-called "ZOMBIE HAFOC", for THs Steinn & Gemma, Designed by Eireann Deerslayer, Painted by HL Sionann in Ui Fhlaithbheartaig

# Crown



Their Royal Majesties of An Tir - Ieuan and Gwyneth  
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Their Highnesses of Tir Righ - Steinn Vikingsson IV and Gemma Delaroché IV  
([prince@tirrigh.org](mailto:prince@tirrigh.org), [princess@tirrigh.org](mailto:princess@tirrigh.org)).



Baron & Baroness of Lions Gate - Their Excellencies James Wolfden and Margaret Hamilton  
([baronandbaroness@lionsgate.antir.sca.org](mailto:baronandbaroness@lionsgate.antir.sca.org)).

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