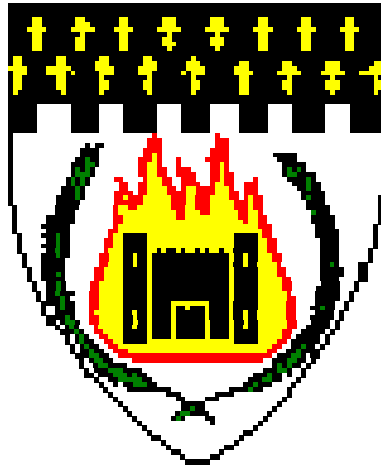


The Battered Blade

July AS XLII (2007 CE)



The Battered Blade is a publication of the Shire of An Dun Theine of the Society for Creative Anachronism (SCA), Inc. It is not a corporate publication, nor does it delineate SCA policies. All items herein are strictly the opinions of the credited authors.

From the Editor:

I have very little to report or write about, as home life has been quite the challenge this month. Hopefully I'll be a bit more loquacious next month!

In the mean time, stay cool, stay hydrated, and keep those submissions coming!

YIS,

Lady Ailleagan

July Calendar of Shire Events:

July 3 - no meeting

July 10 - business meeting

July 17 - Taunting class, to help prepare for Spamalot Beggar's Rebellion

July 24 - project night

July 31 -- dance



Announcements:

Ailleagan and I would like to take this opportunity to wholeheartedly thank our Shire for the support and goodwill offered to us after my accident. We particularly want to thank Aoibheann and Fearghus for watching our children the night it happened, Cydrych and Alys for loaning us hours upon hours of movies to distract us from the blur of days that followed, and Nuala for all her help in speeding my healing. The missives, gifts, and healing thoughts and energies from everyone who prayed or lit candles and incense on my behalf helped make an otherwise unbearable situation more survivable and have given me yet another reason to return the field of combat as quickly as possible.

From all of us at Clan Glenheather, we thank you.

DUGAL



Greetings Riders of Meridies,

Just a friendly reminder that the Northern Cavalry Practice will be held Saturday, July 28, in Mentone, Alabama. We have well-trained rentals available; for \$10 you get a horse for the day for any level of rider, from first-timers to the more experienced.

If you are interested in attending the practice, please email me at logansilveraxe@gmail.com so I can make arrangements for the horses.

Our general schedule will be as follows:

8:30 - 9:00 a.m. -- safety and risk management class for new people

9:00 - 10:00 a.m. -- mounted authorizations (open field for others, or open field if no authorizations)

11:00 - noon -- open field

noon - 1:00 p.m. -- lunch (Bring your own. If enough are interested, we can do a call-in order to Dessie's or Shorty's and send someone to pick it up. Bring cash, as neither place accepts checks or credit / debit cards.)

1:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m. -- open field, with possible HMC and Jousting if enough authorized riders and equipment show up

4:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m. -- Clean up the arean, then return the horses to the barn

5:00 p.m. -- Dinner (usually Cracker Barrel or Ruby Tuesday's in Ft. Payne)

Hope to see you there,
Logan



The Rusty Battered Blade

Or, Articles from old issues of The Battered Blade

This article comes from Volume II, No. 10, A.S. XXV, being October 1990 of the Common Era. Gaelan of Skye was the Associate Editor (or Ass. Ed., as he liked to refer to himself), but I echo his sentiments.

The Blade is Drawn

When last we saw *The Battered Blade*, the cover art was of our Fearless Leader, resident Viking and Man-About-Town, Lord Shadek sadly striding away from the Blade which he has so faithfully carried for 21 months as editor/publisher.

Lord Shadek's labour of love shall not be in vain.

For the time being, until the populace lynch me, the stars fall upon me, or Shadek himself comes to rescue this interkingdom missive from the great scribbled scribing of this mild mannered reporter for a great metropolitan newspaper, I, Gaelan of Skye, Apprentice Druid, Merchant, etc. to Shire and Kingdom of Meridies will attempt, WITH THE HELP OF ALL SHIRE MEMBERS AND READERS OF THIS AUGUST PUBLICATION (hint, hint, or else!), continue to present the news of days to come as well as legends-in-the-making for the information, amusement, and service to all readers of *The Battered Blade*.

<snip>

I want: News of past events attended, awards received, travel plans (if you want to share a ride to an event), items for sale/trade/wanted, recipes. Ale-to-Zanzibar nut Bread, Medieval trivia, fact, fiction, a combination of the two (war stories), sources for craft material. In short, anything that may be of interest to the populace and others.

<snip>

For that reason we seek to improve the content and volume of *The Battered Blade* with your gracious assistance.

My thanks,
Gaelan of Skye
Associate Editor

Excellent Small Cakes, a Recipe

by Lady Ailleagan nas Seolta

The original recipe is credited to Sir Kenelm Digby (1603 - 1665). I started with the redaction by Duke Cariadoc, then made a few modifications; some were to accommodate the ingredients I had on hand, some were to achieve results I desired.

I served these at the demo for the Age of Armor exhibit at the Huntsville Museum of Art. They were a huge hit with people of all ages, and most of the attendees were surprised that food in the Middle Ages wasn't terrible!

Cakes:

3 cups all-purpose flour

$\frac{3}{4}$ cup granulated sugar

$\frac{1}{2}$ teaspoon ground cinnamon

$\frac{1}{4}$ teaspoon ground nutmeg

$\frac{1}{4}$ teaspoon ground mace

$\frac{3}{4}$ cup butter, softened

$\frac{1}{4}$ cup milk or cream

1 egg yolk

1 $\frac{1}{4}$ cups raisins

Glaze:

$\frac{1}{3}$ cup powdered sugar

1-2 tablespoons water, or enough to make it spreadable

Heat the oven to 350 degrees. Line two baking sheets with parchment paper or treat them with nonstick cooking spray, and set them aside.

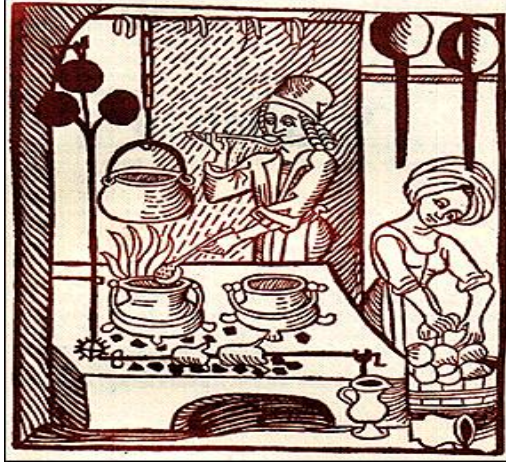
Toss the flour, granulated sugar, cinnamon, nutmeg, and mace in a large bowl. Blend in the butter, milk, and egg yolk until the mixture is smooth. Stir in the raisins.

Using a teaspoon (I use a #70 ice cream disher), form the dough into small balls. Place them on the prepared baking sheets and flatten them slightly.

Bake the cakes at 350 degrees for about 20 minutes. Set the cookies aside to cool.

In a small bowl, beat the powdered sugar and water together until it is free from lumps. Brush or spoon the glaze over the slightly-warm cookies, then let the glaze harden as the cookies finish cooling.

If you have any leftovers - I didn't have any after the demo -- store them in a tightly-covered container.



Garb? Where to begin...

by Lady Aoibheann an Einigh

You've decided to see what this SCA thing is all about, but you've read that an attempt at period dress is expected, and people keep mentioning this "garb" thing. Garb is what we wear. Calling them costumes implies that we are just playing dress up. Calling it garb says we are wearing a persona and truly donning the Middle Ages. As a shire we have a loaner closet full of clothes that can be borrowed when you are first starting out. Check with the Gold Key Officer, which happens to be the Chatelaine, which happens to be me: Christine Robinson. If you are more adventurous and want to attempt to assemble your own garb, here are a few pieces of advice that might be helpful.



- Men can wear pants and a tunic. You can dress it up with a tabard if you like <http://reddawn.net/costume/tabard.htm> .
- Look for cotton pajama pants in plaids or solids and in the winter you can wear flannel or even sweats.

- Choose cotton, linen, or as natural fabric as you can find for your tunics. Here are some links to simple tunic patterns. If you need more assistance, I'll be happy to help you get started.
<http://amtgard.com:8080/how2tunic.pdf> <http://garbindex.com/content/t-tunic.php>
<http://thescholarsgarret.com/northernshores/tunic1.html>
- Complete your ensemble with a belt in black or brown and a pair of boots if you can. Nothing says newcomer more than a pair of white tennis shoes. Sandals also work great in the summer.
- Do not wear belts of white, red, green, or yellow. These colors all signify an association or peerage in our kingdom.
- Women should wear either a tunic dress or a chemise (under dress) and a surcoat or overdress.
- Simplicity has several patterns that are good for beginning costuming: #8587, #3653, #8192, #8715, #8913, and #4795. Try not to use zippers or darts. Think simple when sewing. (*Burda #7977 is also good. -Ailleagan*)
- Make your under dress out of cotton muslin. It's inexpensive, durable and it looks very natural. Throw over a sideless surcoat (comparable to a modern day jumper) or an apron style dress and the outfit is complete.
- Ladies can wear sandals, slippers, or low-heeled boots. Shoes are generally hidden under the dress, so they are not as important.
- Do you want to wear something on your head? A straw or felt hat, a coif (<http://www.virtue.to/articles/coif.html>), or a veil (for women) is appropriate. Stay away from metal bands, as they are a symbol of titles.
- Look at local thrift stores for items that might be out of fashion by modern standards, but perfect for the middle ages. I've found cloaks, straw hats, metal belts, hoardes of fabric, silk thread, and wool blankets. Paying next to nothing is a lot better than ordering stuff on ebay or paying full price at events.

If you are still confused or completely overwhelmed, send me an email or give me a call. I will be happy to help find the right starter outfit for you. If you don't sew, I'll teach you. Do not let not having garb stop you from enjoying the fun of events or meetings.

In service,
Lady Aoibheann, Chatelaine
Christine Robinson
Cerobinson@mchsi.com 420-4850

Non Habeo Speculum? Or, Don't You have a Mirror?

The Commandments of Garb

By Lady Ailleagan and Lord Dugal



Normally, we are some of the last people to criticize a person's attempt at garb. We think it varies widely for reasons as different as a person's devotion to a hobby (which the SCA is), their pocketbook, and their sense of humor.

This being said, there are a few things which will make lots people snicker behind your back, if not flat-out laugh out loud. We won't criticize, but we will giggle furiously.

- 1.) Thou shalt not wear shiny spandex, acetate, bridal satin, or Naugahyde.
- 2.) Thou shalt not wear electric or neon colors. Unless, of course, there is a theme'd event that encourages such outlandishness-eth. (sp?) Or thou art Landesknecht.
- 3.) Thou shalt not recreate the Middle Ages of another planet or dimension. Likewise, thou shalt not wear thy Bluetooth at events, for thou art not Borg.
- 4.) Thou shalt not wear modern swimwear or underwear on the outside and call it Middle Eastern garb.
- 5.) Thou shalt not use ric rac as trim.
- 6.) Thou shalt not combine time periods in excess; that is, thou shalt not wear a leather bikini with an Elizabethan ruff or a Tudor hat.
- 7.) Thou shalt not wear pointed ears, fangs, fairy wings, or cat's eye contact lenses.
- 8.) Thou shalt not recycle that bridesmaid's gown into garb just because it happens to haveth a train.

- 9.) Thou shalt not openly question or criticize someone else's authenticity when thou art wearing something blatantly non-period.
- 10.) Thou shalt not wear a chain mail codpiece, *just* a chain mail codpiece, even if thou art Landesknecht.
- 11.) Thou shalt not tuck thy T-tunic into thy tights.
- 12.) Thou shalt not have a Norse/Samurai persona.
- 13.) Thou shalt not store food in the garb thou art wearing, then offer it to others. (Please don't ask, just trust me. . .)
- 14.) Thou shalt not carry a seven-foot sword on thy hip.
- 15.) Thou shalt not fold, spindle, or mutilate thy breasts in any way to fitteth them into thy bodice.
- 16.) Thou shalt not attempt intimidation by wearing black trewes, a black puffy shirt, a black leather jerkin, black gloves, black boots, and a black hood in August in Meridies. You don't looketh scary, you just looketh sweaty.
- 17.) Thou shalt not carry thy car keys, cell phone, Blackberry, and pager on thy belt. Buyeth a pouch or a basket, for Odin's sake!
- 18.) Just because thou canst, means not that thou shouldst. Unless, of course, thou art Landesknecht.