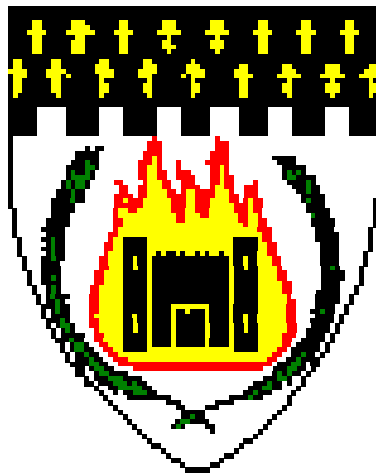


The Battered Blade

November AS XLII (2007 CE)



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Letter from the Editor:

Aah, can you feel that breeze? Smell that rain? Did you notice that you aren't sweating the second you step outside? Fall is finally here, my friends, and not a moment too soon.

Unchained Doom XX was a good time. Of the people in attendance, I saw nothing but smiling faces. It will be remembered as a great time - gorgeous weather, excellent fighting, and lots of food surrounded by friends new and old. On a mundane level, the WoW camp people were apparently **very** pleased with the way we treated the site, both coming and going. They were even kind enough to mail me the mascot that I had accidentally left behind.

On a Personal Note of Doom, I would like to thank everyone that pitched in to help. My kitchen staff was beyond awesome - and the happiest bunch of workhorses I think I've ever seen! I would be thrilled and honored to share a kitchen with any of you again. And while I may not have witnessed it, I know there were several people working outside the kitchen that made the event work nearly flawlessly, from the marshalls and list mistresses to the "general laborers". How many other groups can say they have a site cleared by 10:00 a.m. on Sunday? Huzzahs all around!

YiS,
Ailleagan



Shire Schedule for November:

Fighter practices continue to be held on Thursdays at 5:30 on the lawn near the UAH Student Center. I do not know of any archery practices scheduled this month.

All meetings begin at 7:00 p.m. and are held in room 126 of the UAH Student Center unless otherwise noted.

November 6 - business meeting

November 13 - project night

November 20 - class - Lord Fearghus will be teaching us how to make leather mugs

November 27 - dance

Announcements:

It is time to get the directory out for the new year. If you are new to the group and would like your information included, please send it to me now. I need at least your everyday name and your SCA name (if you have one), and whatever information you're comfortable with, such as address, phone number, email, etc. If you have any changes, such as a modified name, if you moved, whatever, let me know. If you have new awards, let me know.

And speaking of awards in the directory, it's a subject I've thought about quite a bit. I've decided that I'm only going to print the awards that bear weight when someone is considering submitting an individual for another award, whether at the Shire or Kingdom level. This directory is for reference only among our group, so that is the information I will include.



The Shire Social at Lady Nuala's house was much fun. After a good bit of socializing and gullet-stuffing, she gave out Shire awards. If I have forgotten anyone, please let me know.

- *Lord Fearghus received an Ivied Flame for his brewing.
- *Robert received a Shadowed Gauntlet for his interest in all things martial, moving from fencing to archery to heavy weapons. While not an official Shire award, he also received the Tears of Doom from Lady Ailleagan, for his willingness to chop the ludicrous number of onions in the kitchen.
- *Baroness Rhiannon received an Ivied Flame for her artistic heraldry. (And Lady Nuala noted her disappointment that there was no "everything" category in the Ivied Flame.)
- *Lady Aoibheann received a Golden Bear for her dedication to helping newcomers.
- *THL Moira received an Ivied Flame for her enameling.
- *Aeonghus received a Shadowed Gauntlet for his devotion to archery.
- *Lord Dugal received both the Everlasting Fortress for his many years of service to the Shire, and the Seneschale's Delight for his active role in the shire, no matter what his personal circumstances or what tasks were asked of him.
- *Lady Ailleagan received a Silver Sentinel for something about Shire service. (I was

too surprised to hear what she said!)



PICTURES OF DOOM!

Thanks to Fhina and Lord Dugal for the photos.



Pancakes of Doom! Yes, they were some rib-sticky pancakes – Dugal had to literally mix the batter by hand!



The kitchen can be a fun place – ask Lady Ailleagan and THL Moira!



Meat flowers and cheese leaves for the Royal Lunch



Lady Nuala, Baroness Rhiannon, and Gwynnedd wait patiently for feast.



Lennox and Lord Connor at feast



Eoghan and Lord Ricart (Hawk) present Lord Matheus with the fencing prize.



Aeonghus presents Eoghan with the archery prize.



Lord Dugal presents Sir Thomas Blackmoore, already wearing the Cloak of Doom, with the Brotherhood of Doom championship ring.

Irish Lesson 1

submitted by Lady Nuala, copyright 1997 The Irish People, reprinted with credit

With this issue we begin the rerun of our study course in Irish. The purpose of the course is to give Americans, whether of Irish descent or not, a working knowledge of the Irish language. This course begins with the basics and is entirely self-contained. We have planned it especially for persons who are studying alone or in small groups without a teacher, books or recordings. To keep your past study lessons handy, each week remove the lesson from the paper and paste or staple it into a notebook, so that you will have the lessons available for review or reference.

Pronunciation and study methods are important for you who are learning Irish in this way. We will say a few words about these two subjects first.

Pronunciation

Americans studying Irish have always learned pronunciation from either an Irish speaker or from one of several recordings accompanying textbooks. Because we will not be able to teach pronunciation in these ways, we will give you a simple pronunciation guide system and then extra instruction from time to time. If you have the chance to listen to a native speaker, however, do so. There are differences in regional pronunciation in Irish, as in other languages, but if the speaker talks slowly and clearly, you should have little trouble in understanding the words you know.

The pronunciation given in the guide for this lesson series is not based exclusively on any one region of Ireland. Where the differences are significant, we will give you some of the other pronunciations and usage, to make it easier to talk to all speakers.

Study Method

1. Learn the pronunciation guide system and do the practice work for English words that we will give you.
2. For each Irish word, phrase, or sentence, first look at the pronunciation guide (which will always be in parentheses) and say the word or words several times out loud. Then look at the Irish word and pronounce it several more times. After you have gone over the lesson in this way, write the Irish words, copying them from the lesson and saying them out loud as you copy them.
3. Each time you say an Irish word or phrase, try to form a picture in your mind of the meaning. Although this is difficult with some single words, persist and it will become easier as the phrases and sentences become longer.
4. Translation is the next step. Read the Irish word or phrase out loud and then translate it into English. Do this several times, until you are sure that you know it. Then translate the English into Irish several times. If you are learning Irish with others, each person can give another a word or phrase to translate and can take a part in the conversation in the lessons.
5. In the conversation exercises, look first at the pronunciation and meaning, then look up from the lesson before you say the Irish words out loud. Work phrase by phrase at first, until you can memorize entire sentences. If you study with others, take turns in reading what each character says.

In the conversation exercises, you will see words and phrases that will seem difficult at first. Memorize them and don't worry about the grammar. It will be explained later.

Pronunciation guide system

Most of the symbols are letters and letter groups for sounds common in familiar English words. If you pronounce them in that way for the first few lessons, you will be close enough for a beginning. We will gradually correct you and improve your pronunciation as you advance, so that you will soon have a genuine Irish pronunciation.

For most consonants, such as b, d, f, g, h, l, m, n, p, r, s, and t we will use the letters themselves as pronunciation symbols. In the lessons you will get instructions on how to pronounce these sounds in the Irish way. Nearly all these consonants have two sounds in Irish, depending on what vowels are next to them. (English "c" and "g" also have this characteristic. Notice how you start to pronounce "king" and "coat", and then "give" and "go".)

The vowel symbols may need some explanation, so here are the symbols and description of their pronunciation:

Symbols and pronunciation

(ah) as in English "ah-hah".

(a) as in English "at".

(aw*) as in English "tot". but held for a longer time

(ay*) as Irish pronounce English "say" without a trace of (ee) as in English "mean".

(i) as in English "pin".

(eye) as in English "eye".

(oh) as in English "toe", but without the trace of (oo) sound at the end as in English "food".

(oo) as in English "food".
(u) as in English "put".
(uh) as in English "but".
(ou) as in English "shout"

We will capitalize the letters in the accented part of the word or phrase. We will use asterisks, as in some symbols above, to indicate a sound fairly different from usual English sounds.

Remember, too, that many Irish sounds are not exactly like their English counterparts. Some English sounds, such as "z" and "th" are not in Irish.

Now try these English words as practice in using the pronunciation guide system:
(boht) (HAM-muhr) (kin) (KUH-stuhm-ayr-ee) (de-LIV-uh-ree) (giv) (trans-LAYT) (ad-MEYE-uhr) (ful-FIL) (fuhn-duh-MENT-uhl) (wohnt) (wawnt) (tawnt).

The actual English words for these are: boat, hammer, kin, customary, delivery, give, translate, admire, fulfill, fundamental, won't, want, taught. These sounds are not always exact, as you can see, but are close enough to be understood.

