

In A Nutshell

Official Newsletter
of the Incipient Canton
Gleann nam Feòrag Dubh

Beltaine Issue
May, AS XXXIX
Volume 1, No. 5



Enter

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Web Site

Meeting minutes and other Canton information:
<http://www.pennib.net/feoragdubh/index.asp>

Newsgroups

Canton discussion list:

<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/dubhfeorag/>

Canton announcements:

<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/dubhfeorag-announce/>

Submissions

Submission guidelines:

<http://www.pennib.net/FeoragDubh/Nutshell.asp>

Or contact the Chronicler at:

canton_chronicler@yahoo.com

Hears Around the Canton: "Next year, we burn a truck!"

This is *In a Nutshell*, a publication of the Incipient Canton of Gleann nam Feòrag Dubh of the Society of Creative Anachronism, Inc. (SCA, Inc). *In a Nutshell* is available from Kaly White, 201 W Chester Pike, #5, Ridley Park, PA 19078. It is not a corporate publication and does not delineate SCA Inc. policies. Gleann nam Feòrag Dubh is an Incipient Canton of the Barony of Bhakail, East Kingdom. This newsletter is environmentally friendly: no nuts were harmed for its distribution. It is free and primarily an electronic publication, available on the Web at <http://www.pennib.net/feoragdubh/index.asp>.

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Canton Officers

Seneschal

Lord Keegan MacNaughton
mka Mike Porter
LordKMacNaughton@aol.com

Exchequer

Fiona Villon
mka Beth Barlett
Home: (610) 892-3975
Work: (610) 627-9622

Chatelaine & Gold Key

Lady Eleanora the Tilemaker
mka Ellen Leone
114 Ferguson Avenue
Broomall, PA 19008
Home: (610) 356-9176
Work: (610) 529-0763

Deputy Chatelaine

Lady Suba al-Hadid Jamilia al-Bhakailia
mka Penni Bachelor
571 Mount Alverno Road
Media, PA 19063
Home: (610) 565-6661
Cell: (610) 209-2101
jamilia@pennib.net

Deputy Chatelaine

Magdalena

Herald

Deiniol ap Gwrgwst
mka Daniel W. Farrow, IV
dwfiv@dca.net

Deputy Herald

William Fitzwater

Web Mistress

Lady Jamilia al-Bhakailia
mka Penni Bachelor
571 Mount Alverno Road
Media, PA 19063
Home: (610) 565-6661
Cell: (610) 209-2101
jamilia@pennib.net

Chronicler

Lady Katrine Lyndesay
mka Kaly White
201 West Chester Pike, #5
Ridley Park, PA 19078
Home: (610) 362-0208
canton_chronicler@yahoo.com

Mistress of the Arts and Sciences

Lady Melodie de l'ours blanc
mka Gina Porter
300 West Baltimore Avenue, 3rd Floor
Media, PA 19063
LadyMelodieMOAS@aol.com

Marshal of Fence

Lord Geoffrey Gryphon
mka Jefferson Stephens
201 West Chester Pike, #5
Ridley Park, PA 19078
Home: (610) 362-0208
Work: (215) 365-4007, ext. 18
geoffreygryphon@yahoo.com

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Populace Missives

From the Chronicler
Happy New Year!

With May, the SCAdian New Year begins: it is now AS XXXIX. Here in the Canton, the year begins with the Beltaine Brew and Brawl, and this issue of the *Nutshell* focuses on that event.

The event went very well, thanks to the many volunteers who gave so much of their time, to the great company and stories, and to the weather!

This issue features two photographs of the Beltaine *Car-B-Q*, from Deiniol ap Gwrgwst; a report on the event from Sayidata Suba al-Hadid Jamilia al-Bhakailia; another account of the event from me; a sonnet commissioned by Lord Geoffrey Gryphon to honor the Baron and Baroness, read in Beltaine Baronial court; an article on dressing for the field for waterbearers, by Lady Danae of Athens; a *Nuts and Bolts* edition from Master Rashid on the tunic and pants of a Nubian bishop, circa 1375; and a *Fireside Chatter* interview with Master Rashid. To all contributing gentles, my thanks and then some.

A special note: Lady Sabine, Baronial Mistress of Arts and Sciences, is compiling a book of Bhakaili literary works. I'm excited about this project and hope to see some Canton talent there. Consider submitting stories, songs, poems, or prose (inquire about length) to Sabine at arts@bhakail.eastkingdom.org.

Katrine Lyndesay

From the Feastocrats at Beltaine

First, it was a pleasure being volunteers and seeing the attendees enjoy the event. The efforts we applied were worth it. Second, thank you to the helpers specifically: Cellach, Lydia of Settmour Swamp, Violet, Corwyn, and Angino, the Baroness's heavy weapons champion. Thank you God for keeping the rain away.

Fiona and Lord Bilgisayar

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Canton Meetings, Practices, and Workshops

Canton Meetings

Canton Business Meetings are held the first Monday of each month. The Canton welcomes members, friends, and visitors of any age to all meetings.

The next Canton meeting will take place at 7:30 pm, Monday, June 7th, 2004, at the home of Lady Eleanora the Tilemaker:

**114 Ferguson Avenue
Broomall, PA 19008
(610) 356-9176**

Directions:

Take your best route to 476 (the blue route).

Exit at Route 3 and go West on Route 3.

Once you have cleared the 476/Route3 interchange, take the 3rd right turn (the 1st street after the 1st light) and turn right onto Ferguson Avenue. (If you pass a Pathmark, you went the wrong direction on Route 3.)

The house is after the first stop sign, 6th house on the left.

Please bring:

Snacks (veggies and dip, cheese and crackers, fruit, etc.)

Datebook and/or notepad

Garb not required

Canton Practices

Middle Eastern Dance Classes are held from 7:30 to 9:30 pm, the third Friday of each month, at the home of Baroness Scheherazade Al-Zahira:

**3900 Ford Road, 5G
Philadelphia, PA 19131
(215) 878-7721**

allouyna20@aol.com

Directions:

From Rt 95, take your best path to Rt 76W.

Go to City Line Ave, which is a left hand exit.

Go 4 lights and make a left on to Bellmonte, at the Mobile station.

Take the very next left, Ford Rd.

Go 3 blocks, 2 lights, and look for the high rise on the right.

You can park in the parking lot on the right, just before the high rise, going thru the toll gate. There is no toll going in - take a token from the bowl on the way out. Scheherazade is in apartment 5G.

You will need to tell the guard at the security desk you are there to see her.

Please bring:

Sash or coinbelt (loaners available)

Garb not required; loose clothes or dance/exercise clothes recommended

Middle Eastern Drumming Classes are held at 7:30 pm, the second Friday each month, at the home of Lord Bilgisayar Tajir al-Hisoon:

69 East Old Baltimore Pike

Media, PA 19063

(610) 892-3975

Bilgisayar50@yahoo.com

Directions:

Take best passage to Rt. 476 exit 3, the old exit 2.

If traveling north on 476, turn left at the bottom of the ramp, toward Media on East Baltimore Pike.

If traveling south on 476, turn right at the bottom of the ramp, toward Media on East Baltimore Pike.

Once you get past all the lights at Exit 3, travel straight, all the way thru town.

The 4th light, which will be Manchester Ave, is where Dunkin Donuts is.

Do not turn here, instead keep going for another 1.7 miles.

Once out of town, you will go down a long big hill, and up the other side.

You will see a flashing yellow light, turn left at this light.

Go to the T, and turn right.

The house is about 100 vrds futher on the right hand side. just past

the yard flag with dog.

Please bring:
Drum (loaners available)
Paper/pen for notes
Garb not required

Fencing Practices will be held locally on Tuesday nights once we can establish an indoor site. For now, Canton fencers are encouraged to visit nearby practices. The Shire of Iron Bog holds practices on some Tuesday nights. For details, visit the Shire Web site at <http://www.ironbog.eastkingdom.org/> (look under Meetings). For practice on Thursday nights, 7:30-10:30 pm, visit the Bhakail Baronial practice in Northeast Philadelphia. Details on the Bhakail practice are available on the Tadcaster Militia Web site at [http://www.smidgeonink.com/tadcaster militia/](http://www.smidgeonink.com/tadcaster_militia/) (look under Directions).

For more information, contact the Canton Marshal of Fence:
Lord Geoffrey Gryphon
mka Jefferson Stephens
Home: (610) 362-0208
Work: (215) 365-4007, ext. 18 (ask for Jefferson)
geoffreygryphon@yahoo.com

Please bring:
List-legal armor and weaponry (loaner gear may be available -- contact the Canton Marshal of Fence)
Plenty of water to drink
Garb not required

Canton and Other Workshops

Embroidery Guild Workshops take place from 7:30 to 9:30 pm, the fourth Wednesday of each month. Guild members come from all over the region to meet, share ideas and research, and work on group projects.

The location of this meeting varies by month, so contact the Head of the Embroidery Guild for directions and other information:
Baroness Scheherazade Al-Zahira
(215) 878-7721

allouyna20@aol.com

Please bring:

Sewing/embroidery projects, or other paraphenalia

Garb not required

Garb Workshops are run by Master Rashid, master of garb and millinery, from 6:30 to 10:00 pm on Wednesdays at the home of Lady Eleanora the Tilemaker (address below). Children of all ages are welcome.

Workshops are scheduled on a weekly basis, so please contact Lady Eleanora at tilemaker65@hotmail.com, or Master Rashid at unclrashid@aol.com, to confirm the date and project. Additional project information is available on the Canton Web site at <http://www.pennib.net/feoragdubh/GarbWorkshops.asp>.

114 Ferguson Avenue

Broomall, PA 19008

(610) 356-9176

Directions:

Take your best route to 476 (the blue route).

Exit at Route 3 and go West on Route 3.

Once you have cleared the 476/Route3 interchange, take the 3rd right turn (the 1st street after the 1st light) and turn right onto Ferguson Avenue. (If you pass a Pathmark, you went the wrong direction on Route 3.)

The house is after the first stop sign, 6th house on the left.

Please bring:

Snack/beverage to share

Fabric, trim, fasteners, etc., for that evening's project

Sewing machine (optional)

Paper/pen for notes

Garb not required

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Event Announcements

Demeter's Return II

**Hosted by the Shire of Buckland Cross
May 22nd, 2004
Silver Lake Nature Center
1306 Bath Road Road
Bristol, PA 197007-2813**

**Site Opens: 11 am Saturday
Site Closes: 5 pm Saturday**

The Shire of Buckland Cross invites you to come and celebrate the glorious return of spring with us. Winter has finally lost its harsh grip on the land and we've planned a day of fun in the sun to welcome the return of the nice weather.

We have once again designed a day of fun to explore the ties between medieval life and nature, what better place to hold this event than Silver Lake Nature Center with 235 acres of nature to explore?

Being an event and demo we have an opportunity to have fun and share our medieval world with our modern cousins.

We invite you to take walks with local guides and learn to identify herbal plants and endangered specials in the wild. Come to the amphitheater and experience a gorgeous outdoor stage. Not into walking? We will have a variety of classes and other activities planned for your enjoyment.

Sir Gabriel of Maccuswell is plotting a devious tourney for those of you who are martially inclined.

If you are not interested in taking any classes or walks, bring a project and enjoy a gorgeous (We hope) day and share your knowledge with others. Interested in teaching a

class? Please contact the autocrat.

Website: <http://www.silverlakenaturecenter.org>

Cost:

\$5 per adult, \$10 per family. (Fees are charged by the Silver Lake Nature Center, not the SCA.)

Feast Information: There will be food available on site, at this time we don't know exactly what we are charging as the menu is still being worked out, I can promise you it will not be expensive.

Autocrat Information: Lady Sidonia Zardinia (Mka Beth Meade) 7805 Hampton Drive Morrisville, PA 19067 (215) 460-5576 (No Calls after 10 please) bmeade123@comcast.net.
Deputy Autocrat: Steingard Ryanbowen@verizon.net.

Reservations: No reservations are being accepted for this event. We ask that if you are planning to partake of the food on site that you email the autocrat so we can plan for the proper number.

Other Contact Information:

Merchants are most welcome at this event and they should contact the autocrat or deputy autocrat for more information.

Make Checks Payable to: SCA Inc, Buckland Cross

Directions:

From the North: Take your best route to PA I-95 South. Take the Bristol Exit (40) The Exit will loop around.

*Once you hit the straightaway, get into the right hand lane and make a right onto route 413. Get into the left hand lane and follow the signs to Rt. 13 south (about 4 blocks). At light make a left turn onto Rt. 13 north. Go 2 lights and stay in the right hand lane. You will need to use the jug handle to turn onto Bath Road. This will take you around the Golden Eagle diner onto Bath Road. The Nature Center is one mile on the right.

From The South: Take your best route to Interstate 95 to the Bristol Exit and proceed from *

From the east/west Take the Pennsylvania turnpike to the last exit in Pennsylvania (First from NJ) follow exit to Rt. 13 south proceed on Rt. 13 south till you see the Golden Eagle

diner on the left, at this light make a right turn and the Nature Center is a mile down the road on the right.

If you need assistance with directions please contact the autocrat.

Barren Sands War

Hosted by the Shire of Barren Sands

June 11th-13th, 2004

Camp Grice

Aldine-Daretown Road

Elmer, NJ 08318

Site Opens: 5 pm Friday

Site Closes: 3 pm Sunday

Barren Sands gave up a reason to hold their annual war years ago. We just do it because it is fun! And so.....

Good gentles! Sharpen your swords! Dust off your portable dwellings! String your bows and prepare your quills! Barren Sands is hosting its annual War. The Southern Regional Earl Marshall, Sir Magnus Bloodax has confirmed that the Barren Sands War is a Southern Regional War Practice as well as a stop for consideration for the Unbelted Champions. For the less martially inclined, we are including a Schola. We will be gathering at Camp Grice in Elmer, NJ for a weekend of fighting, fencing, archery, shopping, bardic fires and classes. We are also planning another bardic swap, so bring a tape recorder and some music to share.

The site features plenty of room for camping and lots of shade, flushing toilets (plus numerous outhouses), and showers with HOT water!

As the site is a Boy Scout Camp, it is BONE DRY and no pets are allowed on site. Please contact the autocrat if you need information about handicap accessibility.

Merchants are welcome and are desperately needed. If interested please contact the autocrat in advance. Merchants will be charged a fee of \$5 which will be donated to the Kingdom Travel Fund.

Anyone interested in teaching a class should contact the autocrat as soon as possible. Class list will be available by email only. For a class list. please email the autocrat. and as

soon as the list is finalized, it will be forwarded to those who have requested it.

Cost:

Please send reservations to the autocrat by June 1, 2004. Preregistration fees for adults spending the weekend will be \$15, those spending the day, a mere \$8. At the door, these prices will increase to \$17 for the weekend, and \$10 for the day. Children aged 3-13 are half price, children under 3 are free. A family discount of ten percent will be given to parties of four or more immediate family members.

A surcharge of \$3 will be added to the cost of all attendees over age 12 who are non-members. Please send a copy of your membership card with your reservation & bring it with you when you check in, to avoid this surcharge and to speed checkin.

ALL HEAVY FIGHTERS- who wish to fight that day are asked to send in their Fighter Authorization Number with their pre-registration. If you are unable to pre-reg, please email the Marshall with your number at SweetWench918@comcast.net This is to facilitate check-in the day of the war.

Feast: There will be no feast.

Autocrat Information:

Maida Bebbington (mka Clare Bebbington)
6600 Harding Highway
Mays Landing, NJ 08330
(609) 625-2186 (before 9pm)
maidabebbington@hotmail.com

Send reservations to:

Clare Bebbington
6600 Harding Highway
Mays Landing, NJ 08330

Please make checks payable to: SCA,Inc.- Shire of Barren Sands

Directions:

Take your best route to the Pole Tavern Circle, at the intersection of Routes 40 and 77 in Elmer, NJ. If you enter the address "749 Route 40" in Elmer, NJ onto Mapquest, it shows where the intersection is (and hopefully gives accurate directions from there)

Basically, Route 40 meets Route 77 between where Route 40 meets Route 295 and Route 55, so you can take 295 to 40 east, or 55 to 40 west. Once you find your way to the Pole Tavern Circle, take Aldine-Daretown Road, which is the road between diner and the white municipal hall building. You will be on this road for a few miles. You will pass one lake, which is not the lake on the site, and approximately a mile and a half down the road, you will pass the Daretown Presbyterian Churches. Past the second church, there will be a bend to the left in the road. From the bend, you are approximately two miles from the site. The entrance to the site is a dirt road on the left hand side, just before the second lake. If you pass the second lake, you've gone too far. SCA signs will be posted to mark the route. (Please note, the above mileages are only approximate!)

Something Fishy This Way Comes

**(Lord of the Rivers VII, Rampart Riot VI Tournaments,
Bhakail Baronial Champion III)**

Hosted by the Bailiwick of Iveyinrust

July 10th, 2004

Fort Mifflin

Fort Mifflin Road (no street address)

Philadelphia, PA 19153

Site Opens: 10 am Saturday

Site Closes: 4 pm Saturday

We have once again obtained historic Fort Mifflin for a fun and relaxed day.

Activities planned are: 2 heavy weapons tournaments (Lord of the Rivers will be a double elimination heavy weapons tournament and The Bhakail Baronial Championship will feature both the selection of the Baronial Champion and the selection of a Ladies Champion of Bhakail, who will be chosen by the damsels present.)

For our Fencers, we will again have "Rampart Riots". Come out and have the opportunity to test your skills on actual ramparts, gates and bridges. Weapons inspection is scheduled for 11am.

As the site is open to the public this will also double as a demo and we would also like to plan a day of A&S activities along the theme of "Period Sea Faring". These can include

both displays and lectures.

The Fort has requested that we submit a formalized schedule of activities no later than May 1, 2004. Those wishing to participate in this area should contact the Bailiwick's A&S officer, Lady Tiphaine de Montaigne at 215-382-5472 / tiphdmont@ucwphilly.rr.com. (No calls after 9:00 PM.)

A hearty luncheon will be available at 1pm. It will consist of cold meats, breads, butters, cheeses and fresh fruits. But "Beware", there are a few additional surprises in store. More than enough to fortify those participating in the day's marshal activities. Any questions or request regarding dayboard, please send to Lady Shannon at shannon@gallowglass.org. (Note, this is Not an off board meal to all. *Please see fee structure below.) As the site has limited facilities our alchemists have been hard at work developing disposable feast gear which will be provided. There are also a number of fast food eateries on Island Ave, a short distance from the site.

Site Rules: Please be aware the site is Bone Dry. Scadians of the four-legged variety are welcome but must be on leashes at all times.

Merchants are most welcome to ply their trade at this event. We have arranged for easy access to the fort inner grounds. There will be no separate merchant's fee. Please contact the autocrat for details.

Cost:

Adults: \$6.00, Children under 12: \$3.00 . (For non-members: Adults: \$9.00, Children under 12: \$6.00)

Feast Information: The luncheon is an additional \$5.00.

Those participating in the lunch must send an advance reservation with a SASE to receive a Fort Pass. (The pass will also serve as your ticket for lunch.) Day-trippers are also encouraged to make advance reservations with a SASE as it helps fort personnel at troll. (Lunches may be sold the day of the event depending on availability.)

The reservation deadline for lunch is July 1, 2004.

Autocrat Information:

Lord Geoffert of the Lone Oake

(Anthony Honebrink)
4424 Osage Ave. Apt #2W.
Philadelphia, PA 19104
215-382-5472 (No calls after 9pm)
Geoffert@ucwphilly.rr.com.

Send reservations to:
Baron Lorcan Dracontius
(John St.Dennis)
2035 Kater Street
Philadelphia, PA 19146.
Baron@bhakail.eastkingdom.org.

Make Checks Payable to: SCA Inc.-Bailiwick of Iveyinrust

Directions:

From the North or East - Take your best route to I-95 South through Philadelphia and take the exit 13 for Island Ave. It is after the double decker bridge. A short distance after leaving the off ramp there is a sign for Old Fort Mifflin. Make a left onto Fort Mifflin Rd. Go one mile, make a left into Fort compound. Fort signs and SCA signs will both be posted.

From the South - From the south take I-95 North to the exit immediately after Phila. Airport, and stay in the right lane. Airport exit lanes will merge with you, continue to move to the right. Just prior to crossing the Platt Bridge you will see a sign for Island Ave. Take this ramp until you reach the intersection with the Hilton Hotel on your left and make a left. Take Island Ave all the way until it bends to the left and becomes Enterprise Ave. Proceed to first stop sign and make the right turn onto Fort Mifflin Rd. After passing under the runway make the first available left into the fort. Fort signs and SCA signs will both be posted.

From the West or Local - Take your best route to I-76 East for the Phila. International Airport. Take exit 43A, which is a left lane exit. At the first light make a right turn and cross over the George C. Platt Bridge. Get into the left lane and take the Island Ave off ramp from the bridge to Route 291 and Island Ave. West. At the first light make a left onto Island Ave. (Hilton Hotel on your left.) Take Island Ave all the way until it bends to the left and becomes Enterprise Ave. Proceed to first stop sign and make the right turn onto Fort Mifflin Rd. After passing under the runway make the first available left into the fort. Fort signs and SCA signs will both be posted.

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Images of the Beltaine Car-B-Q

**by Deiniol ap Gwrgwst
(captions added by Katrine Lyndesay)**



Lord Keegan MacNaughton, Seneschal of the Canton, strides in from the left. Lady Melodie de l'ours blanc, the autocrat, hurls water from a jug in the background. Lord Robin Gallowglass, owner of the vehicular sacrifice, studies the situation (in consternation? or in amusement?) from the far right.



Lady Melodie sets to work accessing the smoking interior of the locked vehicle. Later, a fire truck arrived, and the visitors blessed the spent sacrifice with a hose and some friendly cajolery.

Contact the Web Mistress (contact information under Canton Officers) if you are the subject of a photograph and would like it removed from the Canton Web site.

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Beltaine Report

by Sayidata Suba al-Hadid Jamilia al-Bhakailia,
Deputy Autocrat, Beltaine Brew and Brawl

Well, we got the fire part of the weekend started a little early with a fire under the hood of Robin Gallowglass's car at 7 pm on Friday. Since several of the event staff are volunteer firefighters and we had a wide variety of firefighting equipment, the fire was out before the firetrucks arrived. Some favorite quotes were: "I guess we shouldn't have stored the bonfire in Robin's car" (Lord William Fitzwater) and "I'm sorry we let the pet Salamanders out a little early" (Baron Lorcan Dracontius).

When we did the *official* bonfire lighting, it was pretty magical. We started in the camping area with each Canton member holding either a torch or a banner and followed Alisdar the bagpiper to the bonfire that Oli laid (Suba and Oli pulled the burning Duraflame log out of the fire with bare hands when Oli found out he wasn't supposed to light it too). Led by our Seneschal Keegan and the autocrat Mel, we processed to the bonfire in a blaze of torches and a swirl of bagpipe music. Our notables said a few words, we all lit the fire, then with further bagpipe music we circled the fire three times as per Beltaine tradition for good luck in the coming year. As the bagpipe song finished, Her Excellency wished us peace and prosperity.

Following that, the Bhakaili Branslers played music by torchlight for those who wished to dance, and the Rampant Fox Tavern opened for the evening.

Early Saturday morning found the Black Squirrels scampering around in preparation for the coming day. Classes began shortly after 10 and were reasonably attended. There were five tracks of classes, including two choices for children for almost every hour. The brewing classes were of course the most popular, with many individuals additionally buying chances in hopes of becoming the last judge on the judging panel for the brewing competition at the end of the day. All of the A&S classes were attended by interested individuals and only a few schedule changes took place. The children's activities included a lot of crafts, some running games, cooking over a fire, trebuchets by Osgrim, a piñata (children ran from all parts of the site to attend this one!), the maypole, and the children's quest. Children also participated in many classes in other tracks, which was excellent.

Dayboard was delicious and plentiful for 200+ people and the feast sold out before the event at 84 people (a family was the last to register and we couldn't accept reservations for some but not all). Many requests were made for the recipies, especially the Lamb Stew.

During the court of Their Excellencies Baron Lorcan Dracontius and Baroness Scheherazade Allouyna al-Zahira, many presentations were made. Though I may miss some, here is the list of what I remember and was reminded of. Lady Philadelphia Brown belatedly received the Queen's Order of Courtesy, a secret kept by an entire Kingdom, since it was announced at Coronation. Lady Katrine Lyndesay presented a custom sonnet to honor the Baron and Baroness, commissioned by Lord Geoffrey Gryphon after winning the bid at the Toys for Tots auction at Yule. Lord Jade Santiago presented the toys collected by the fencers and heavy fighters in the War of the Toys. The fencers won quite handily, with 231 toys: 20 of which were collected that day, and 211 trucked in by Jade from fencers in other parts of the kingdom (including a bicycle). To these the fighters added 10 toys, and all toys were accepted by the Marine representative from the Toys for Tots program. Geoffrey Gryphon presented awards to Beltaine Mixed Pairs Tournament winners, Lady Constanza and Lord Stephen of Brideswell of Atlantia. The prizes were embroidered pouches by Lady Melodie. Lord Gunther received a bow and a favor from House Bright Shadows, and then became the first ever member of the Order of the Eft for excellence among children in the Barony. Lady Cellach presented to Lady Suba some items she'll need as she takes on the task of organizing of the making of the Queen's favors. Lord William Graham presented the prizes to the winners of the Brewing Competition; Valentina was one of the winners. Lord Christopher Jameson was called into court to receive the medallion that went with the Harlequin he received at Yule. Lord William Fitzwater made a gift of scepters of office to the heralds of the Barony, Bailiwyk and Canton. Lord Olrik van Lubbeke revealed the persons of the Quest he was sent on, and the result of the quest was that he found Serpent's Thunder, the long-lost but now-recovered ceremonial sword of Bhakail. Baron Lorcan then bestowed upon Lord Olrik the task of bearing the sword. Finally, Lady Suba presented the results of the Children's Quest, which determined the most chivalrous children at the Beltaine event. The children demonstrated this chivalry once again by waiting to be called into court patiently throughout the entire court. The chivalours children were Tyler, age 5; Emily, age 9; Danielle, age 10; Melissa, age 13; Brooke, age 11; and Alexandra Lev, age 6, who was represented by her father Lev.

As court closed, the tavern opened, and a convivial evening was had by many. The children had a bardic circle around the bonfire with varying levels of skill and patience, followed by a grown-up bardic circle, followed much later by some Middle Eastern Drumming and Dancing.

On Sunday morning the remainder of the staff and guests straggled into the feast area for a delicious breakfast by Lady Triona MacCasky to benefit the EK Travel Fund. Most of these people additionally helped to fold and stack the tables and

chairs, and to take down and fold the pavillions, and regrettably many of their names are missing from the list of volunteers for the cleanup effort. The final cleanup was successful and we left the site in good condition. This was a terrific site with plenty of space and loads of potential. We have been urged to return for future events by the owners of the farm. I think we can handle that!

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Of the Beltaine Brew and Brawl

by Lady Katrine Lyndesay,
Canton Chronicler

The sun was lowering and golden upon the western land when the folk of the Incipient Canton of Gleann nam Feòrag Dubh, and from many lands besides, did gather upon the slope of Arasapha Farms, in Canton woods. This day was the last breath of Anno Societatis XXXVIII, it being the thirtieth of April. Bannered tents rose like the wild flowers of May.

Near and far had the bards sung that a fire would honor the May Day, or Beltaine, being set to light this evening. But none had told that it would burn from the wain of Lord Robin Gallowglass, Web Minister of the East! An able company of gentles mustered in haste to douse the flames, so that the sacrifice was limited to one car, and the local fire-crew arrived to a warm (in a few ways) and relieved reception.

Later that eve the gentlefolk of the Canton did gather among the tents in the growing dark, and processed with fiery torches and banners held high to the wood pile for the lighting of the true (and intended) fire. Alisdar Mac Giolle Chroiste led the procession, with the bellows of his bagpipes sending music far into the night. Upon arriving at their destination, Canton officers and friends set their torches to the winter's dead wood, and flames roared up, and words were given in blessing upon the coming year.

Thereafter, amidst the growing merriment, the Bhakaili Branslers opened the night's revelry with sprightly music. Down the wind and slope, from a bar of wood and fronds within the Rampant Fox Tavern, generous shares of ale were given, and those amusements by the pond did continue unto the wee hours.

With the coming of morning did gentles rouse themselves early, by the standard of the night, to set forth the events of the day. The gentle Arts tents hosted tutelage in a variety of subjects for many ages; though between the Maypole dance and the school in brewing there was certain delineage among the youth and aged. Whistles and thunks sounded aplenty over the thrown weapons and archery ranges; and the rapier fighters, hosting two Atlantian gentles who won the mixed pairs tourney of the day, did venture forth thereafter to the woods, where nobles among them hired mercenaries to roust brigands from a hideaway in the trees. The heavy fighter lists were unusually light: some honey had been offered in the north, for this same day, in the form of a Crown Tourney. Both heavy and light fighters set forth baskets for Toys for Tots, to a great profit of toys, as will be seen.

By the evening, the bonfire had smoothed the great fallen trunk of its nourishment to a gentle shape, like the wall of a Moorish dome, glowing and embered mosaic. Gentles repaired to the canopies nearby, and feasted well therein. Then from the high table did their Excellencies Lorcan and Scheherazade arise, and take to the Baronial seats for their repose. The evening court had begun.

A wealth of presentations were given for the amusement and interest of all. Lady Philadelphia Brown was at last included on a Kingdom secret: she had received the Queen's Order of Courtesy at King's and Queen's Bardic Champions in Iron Bog. I shared a sonnet composed to honor the Baron and Baroness, commissioned by Lord Geoffrey Gryphon at Yule Revel. Lord Santiago heralded the results of the Toys for Tots collections: a pool of 231 toys from the light fighters, and 10 from the heavy; some good-natured teasing ensued from Her Excellency. Awards from the day's competitions were presented, including awards to a bevy of youths who had demonstrated refined courtesy in a quest throughout the day. The young Lord Gunther received, with his quiet good nature, a bow and token of membership into House Bright Shadows from Lord Adolphus, and thereafter accepted the premier honors of welcome into the Order of the Eft, in recognition of noble youth in the Barony. Lord Christopher Jameson received a medallion for his honors as the second member of the Order of the Harlequin, given at Yule; and Lady Suba of the Long Name took unto herself a gift basket from Lady Cellach that would aid her in the cause of the Queen's Favors in years to come, including aspirin.

At length Lord Olrik van Lubbeke was called forth, bearing a greatsword. This was Serpent's Thunder, an artifact of the Barony with some history, and more to add; this sword had he recovered for Bhakail at the bidding of Baron Lorcan. And Lord Olrik, having discovered more of this history, called forth those secretive gentles who had not, before this day, given air to their acquaintance with the sword. In the order of their acquaintance through our period, they were Lady Sabine Kerbriant de Lanvaux; Madame Brunissende Dragonette de Broceliande; myself, though I'm still hard-pressed to remember the tale; and Lord William Fitzwater. All having been called to account, Lord Olrik described how he at last regained the blade in a battle between his crew of the Hounds of Denmark and an enemy vessel: "We lost... but the one guy we killed had this sword!" Thereupon, his Excellency made Olrik the Keeper of the Thunder, and chamberlain of the sword.

This business concluded, the Rampant Fox re-opened for the evening, and children gathered apart and round the bonfire for bardic merriments. Later, the adults gained this ground for similar purpose. Drawn from observing a torchlight rapier duel, I did wander that way and chanced to hear a well-ordered tale of the Baron's dog, Amadeus. And down the slope, gentles revelled late, amply served from the barrels and most festive. I do believe a Seneschalate key was bitten, but that is another tale.

On the final morning the populace was well-served with breakfast, thereby giving to the Kingdom Travel Fund, and departed content.

This account was inspired by -- but is no fitting tribute to -- the style of Mistress Alia bint Ulek ibn el Kharish (later Mistress Alia Wasa Care), who wrote on Bhakail events for many years.

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**Salamander Verses, Sonnet I:
Of Their Excellencies Lorcan
and Scheherazade**

by Lady Katrine Lyndesay,
commissioned by Lord Geoffrey Gryphon

Last December, at the Bhakail Yule Revel, the Barony held an auction to benefit Toys for Tots. I added to the wealth of goods and services up for bid a custom sonnet, which I would pen to honor a person, place, or thing of the winning bidder's choice. Lord Geoffrey Gryphon won the bid, and asked that I compose a sonnet to honor the Baron and Baroness of Bhakail, their Excellencies Lorcan and Scheherazade.

When writing, I found myself thinking much on last Pennsic, on easy conversation over cool goblets in the evenings, when the sweat of the day's exertions dries and we come to know others in the best possible circumstance: the hospitality of water, wine, and spirit. Some of the words were inspired by those of Baroness Genevieve, which appear on Baron Lorcan's arms. I read the sonnet at the Beltaine Baronial court.

**Salamander Verses, Sonnet I:
Of Their Excellencies Lorcan and Scheherazade**

**New stars arose over the summer nights
With constellations bold, of gentle forms;
By dusk their shine auspicious gave delight
To all at play between the winter storms.**

**Beneath these gracious portents pass'd one boat,
Which gentle rocking of the sea yet sways;
Within its hold two passengers devote
Their passage to that fortune stars convey'd.**

**One Lady, by her open heart alone,
Lifts over an entire sea a bridgē:**

**One Lord whose vision ne'er the stars outshone:
Their eyes attend his golden pilgrimimage.**

**Fair skies and rains are promis'd with the tide;
When clouds are join'd, the stars below will guide.**

**An after-note: The "stars" refer to many things, but lastly to the
Baron and Baroness themselves.**

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Dressing for the Field

**by Lady Danae of Athens,
East Kingdom Waterbearer**

Most of us non-fighters usually end up as spectators on the field. We don't wear our finest, but we can wear long and flowing or heavy and jeweled because that is what our persona would do.

Doing service on the field, especially Waterbearing, requires a little forethought before going out. Things to consider are:

What is the weather like?

What is the field like?

What are the fighters like?

What are the marshals like?

Who is the Marshal in charge and how does he/she run the field?

All this can factor into how to dress.

Let's consider the weather. For cold weather, warm layers should be considered. Layers can be take on and off depending on the situation. Wool, cotton, and linen should be considered because they breathe to let our the perspiration, but stay warm in layers. For cold weather, dark colors should be considered. Dark absorbs whatever heat from the sunlight and every little bit counts.

For the warm weather, cool, flowing, natural fiber clothes work well. For going on the field when it is very hot, something to catch the wind is a good idea. It does, however, have to be something you can work in and get wet. But not that it is going to fall off the body with a sneeze. Hats can be very useful. Besides keeping the sun and rain off your head and face, it can also be useful to fan yourself or others. You can also put a cool, damp cloth under that hat to keep yourself cool.

Suntan lotion, no matter how fair or how dark you are, is very valuable. But a lot of people don't know how to use it properly. Please, read the label. Does it contain PABA, which some people are allergic to? What is the SPF factor on the bottle? SPF means Sun Protection Factor. If it says SPF 15. that means that you have

15 minutes before you have to reapply. It also might not be good if you sweat a lot. That cuts the SPF time. If you do, you might consider on that is for swimming. It also can get into your eyes when you sweat. That does burn.

Closed toe shoes are to be worn on the field by everyone. This is for safety issues. When a fighter starts taking off his/ her armor, sometimes they don't watch what they are doing and armor bits fly. Closed toe shoes give you some type of protection. They also give you protection from sticks and grasses on the field. Most Marshals, if they see you with sandals on the field, may ask you to leave until you get closed toe shoes or boots.

Working clothes are fine. Working in very tight clothes that you can't breathe in or are so loose that you are falling out is not appropriate on the field. You want clothes to be functional as well as comfortable, not to pick up fighters on the field.

It's all being aware of your surroundings and your environment. It's also about having fun.

**In Service,
Lady Danae of Athens
East Kingdom Waterbearer**

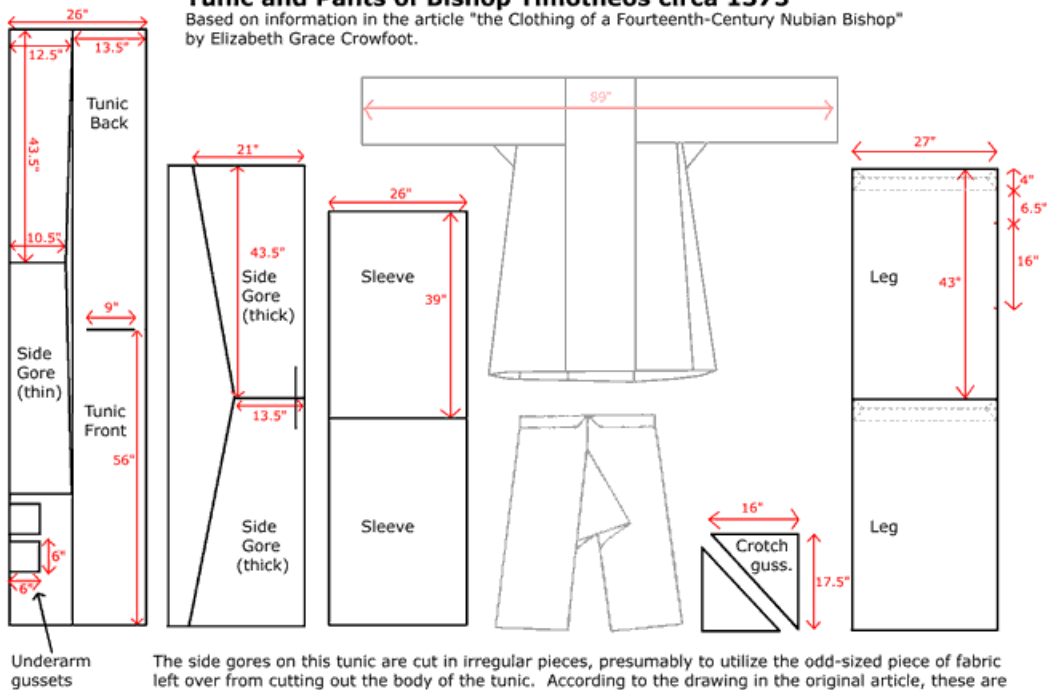
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Nuts and Bolts:
 Tunic and Pants
 by Master Rashid

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Tunic and Pants of Bishop Timotheos circa 1375

Based on information in the article "the Clothing of a Fourteenth-Century Nubian Bishop"
 by Elizabeth Grace Crowfoot.



Underarm
 gussets

The side gores on this tunic are cut in irregular pieces, presumably to utilize the odd-sized piece of fabric left over from cutting out the body of the tunic. According to the drawing in the original article, these are attached to the tunic with one thin gore to the front on one side and the other thin gore to the back on the opposite side. It would be necessary to cut a small slit in the top of each of the thicker gores in order to inset the underarm gore. Modifying the cutting layout to make the side gores regular will greatly simplify assembling this garment.

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Fireside Chatter: Persia, and Other History

May is my favorite month of the year. With any luck, we get sunshine without oppressive heat -- yet summer's on the way and there is much to look forward to. Joining me for this month's chat is Master Jibral ar-Rashid al-Gyanji, widely known as Uncle Rashid, extraordinary period cook and garb-maker.

My thanks for taking time out this busy spring to join me for a chat, Rashid. To return to your beginnings... How and when did you first become involved in the Society?

Well it was so long ago, I am surprised I remember. But I was chatting with a friend the other day who had a list of all the Kings and Queens of the East Kingdom and the dates of their reigns. We were able to figure out that I joined the SCA in 1978.

I do remember how I got involved. A friend drug me kicking and screaming to a series of garb workshops for an SCA event at Rose Tree Park in Media. I discovered that I had a knack for patternmaking and costuming and fell in love with that aspect of the SCA.

What was your first event? Tell me your memories and impressions of it.

My first event was a Renaissance Faire that the SCA ran at Rose Tree Park as part of the Rose Tree Festival. This was the same event that they were doing the garb workshops for. It was sort of like a normal SCA demo, but much bigger and also had lots of vendors and musicians and strolling performers. I remember I was so impressed that I couldn't decide what impressed me the most. The people were really friendly and outgoing and helpful to newcomers.

Who is your persona? What did he do for his livelihood?

My persona is a miniature painter in the roval kitab-khana (book

workshop) of Shah Tahmasp (King of Persia). I live in the city of Tabriz in the 1520's. I was born in the city of Gyanji about a thousand miles northeast of where I currently reside. I am not renowned enough as a painter to get the really important jobs, like designing books, managing projects or even painting faces. I started out painting backgrounds, but have moved up to being allowed to paint trees and sometimes even the clothing on figures!

What is the history of your time period? What was the headline news -- what everyone in your region would be talking about?

This period is an exciting time to live in Persia. The Mongol conquests were finished about 100 years ago and we have re-built our cities and are in the process of "civilizing" our new rulers. In an effort to prove how cultured he is, Shah Tahmasp is spending a lot of money on the arts. Miniature paintings and books are very popular with the upper class because that proves they are cultured, but being descended from nomads, they like to spend their money on stuff that is small enough to carry with them. This great interest in the arts of the book is also preserving the great literature and poetry that was produced in our golden age of literature, several hundred years ago.

When it comes to current events, there are always the infamous Turks to talk about. I thought for a while there that my home city of Gyanji would fall under their influence, but it is still safe. But I must say that our upper classes are too introspective too spend all their time talking about current events. A Persian courtier needs to be able to discuss art and literature and also food and hunting. Maybe not in that exact order, though!

Were some members of the Persian upper class still nomadic, or were the miniatures of art only a tradition or fashion of the time -- perhaps a reminder of lineage?

They definitely clung to this as a reminder of their lineage. But while they were not really nomadic in the technical sense of the word, they had a sort of semi "al-fresco" existence in which much of their life occurred outside of cities and permanent dwellings. Imagine having a magnificent yurt on an estate in the mountains as your country home, and using that whenever time and weather allowed. Sort of like being able to go to Pennsic at any time, except maybe the dead of winter!

What period skills are you learning, practicing, or teaching?

I spend the most time on various aspects of making garb. My real specialty is absorbing what I can from period art work and then combining that with information from extant garments to come up with reasonable conjectures about how a particular garment was constructed. I am trying to teach this process rather than just teaching information on specific styles of garb.

I also paint in the same style that my persona would have, and also design calligraphy alphabets that use our letters to produce the look of Persian and Arabic calligraphy.

What period skill would you like to learn, if only you had more time?

If I had the time for it, I would love to learn how to make period ceramics. The Middle East produced some beautiful and vibrant pottery during my period. I would also like to learn how to make lamp-worked beads.

You run regular workshops on garb-making within the Canton. This is one of the skills studied in the SCA that I most admire, and along with the bardic arts and heraldry, probably contributes the most to the atmosphere of events. How did you first become interested in it?

Garb making was what first drew me to the SCA. I went to a series of workshops taught by Mistress Alia Wasa-Care (who is no longer active in the SCA) and was completely hooked from the very beginning. Mistress Alia explained the basics of pattern development, and I just took to it like it was second-nature to me. My family all attribute this to a recessive gene inherited from my great-grandmother Granny Chalfont who was quite the textile artist in her day.

Can you describe a sample evening of the workshop?

It varies quite a bit depending on where we are in the progress of a particular garment. At a typical garb workshop we usually work on various (not necessarily related) projects until we feel that a "quorum" has arrived. Then at that point we try to focus on the current project. This will usually involve fittings with pins and muslin. Then we work on transferring that to paper and developing finished patterns. We don't usually all work at the same rate, so sometimes the people who are ahead of schedule will help the people who are getting behind. We bring our fabrics with us and share opinions on what we think would work best for our current project. Most of the time, we cut out our fabrics at the workshop and do all of the final fittings there. We also set a fair

amount of chit-chat in while we are at it.

What do you say to a newcomer who is interested in garb-making, but is daunted by the research, or the cost of ruined fabric from mistakes? If I said to you, "I don't know, I can barely sew on a button..."

I tell them that there are plenty of easy, attractive and authentic styles of clothing that even a beginner can make. The trick is you have to have an open mind about it, because most people can't start out with a full, over-the-top court Elizabethan. But there will be something Elizabethan that will be within the range of what a beginner can do (with knowledgeable help). Many other periods are well within the range of what beginners can handle.

Some of my philosophies for beginning garb-makers:

You don't have to do research but it helps so much that I advise people to find someone who has already done some of the research if they don't want to do it themselves.

Nothing is more useful than being familiar with the artwork of the period garb you are trying to make. If you know what that looks like you can then evaluate any pattern, documentation or other information people give you and tell whether it is any good or not.

Authenticity does not have to be difficult. There is so much good information out there now that it is as easy (if not easier) to be authentic than it is to be Ren-faux.

I remember at the Bhakail Yule Revel this last winter, you were summoned to court to receive the premier Harlequin, a new Baronial Arts and Sciences award. Your hands were covered with a dish you had been at work on in the kitchen. Do you remember what you had been working on?

It was some type of eggplant and cheese casserole, but the name was in another language, so I don't remember what it was called.

We all love good food. How did you first become interested in period cooking?

I love to cook, and when I first joined the SCA there were about 4 or 5 cooking households in Bhakail. We would run from 4 to 8 events a year and at least a third of them were kingdom events. Of course, a huge kingdom event back then would draw about 200

people, considerably less than they draw today.

And Bhakail would have been much larger then. Do you remember the names of these or other early households of the Barony?

One of them was a formal household and was called Chateau Moose, whose emblem was a wart-hog for some reason. Jaelle of Armida headed another one, but it was more a group of people who cooked together than an actual household. That group was informally named "All My Children". Bishop Geoffrey had a group that would cook with him, and there was also a group known as Madhouse Manor. Entering the scene somewhat later than that was a household I was part of, called "Maison Griffé De Lion". Maison Griffé De Lion did a lot of work with the Gilded Pearl and cooked three of the first four Gilded Pearl events.

What is your personal heraldic device?

I don't have a device for my current persona.

What do you enjoy most, or what continually surprises you, about play in the Society?

It doesn't really surprise me if I remember to think about it, but sometimes I do forget that I always enjoy every event that I go to. Some events are outstanding because they have great themes, great food, all my favorite people, or "magic" moments when I really feel like I am in another time and place. But even an event with a heinously stupid theme and bad food will still have enough interesting people at it that I will not have been able to spend as much time as I would have liked with all of them. I do have to thank our former Mistress of Arts, Lady Cellach, for reviving the tradition of having classes at so many events. I think that really helps to bring interesting people to our events and provide an opportunity to meet people with the same interests as one might have.

If you could change one thing about the Society as a whole, what would it be?

Only one thing? Darn!!!

Actually, this is hard to answer. I think that is because the SCA is so flexible that it provides opportunities to for nearly any activity one might be interested in.

If I had to pick one thing, I would like to see the more encouragement for the arts for arts sake. I know that we have traditionally had a strong Royal support for the arts in the East, but much of that seems to have become focused on competitions and champions. While these have their place and they do encourage some aspects of the arts, I feel that the greatest contributions are made by those who do what they do for the sheer love of it, rather than those who are just trying to get another "shiny" for their awards baldric.

I feel that organized competitions have their place, but they seem to encourage compartmentalized thinking and regurgitation of accepted theory more than they encourage true originality. I would like to see far more of the kind of Arts displays we had when Duchess Isabella was on the throne.

How did those arts displays differ?

They were centered more on the idea of networking rather than competition. It gave people a chance to see what other people were doing and to schmooze with people of similar interests. Because they were displays and not competitions they did bring out some artists who do not usually get involved in competition. For instance, I am still very active in the arts for which I received my Laurel, and many competitions prefer Laurels to enter a field other than that for which they received their awards. So most of my work would not be allowed in many competitions.

Tell me of a recent fun memory...

At the Al-Hafla in Eisental, one of the dancers there had a routine where he would satirize caricature imitate perform an homage to famous belly dancers of the SCA. Some of them were even there! It was one of the funniest moments I can recall. He even did a fairly good job of imitating her Excellency, Baroness Scheherazade. Although he did mention that her full-body shimmy was beyond his ability to replicate without a lot more practice.

Tell me of a project you're engaged in. What's foremost on your mind that you wish to learn, make, or improve?

I get a bug sometimes just to understand certain things. If there is someone doing a good job of figuring them out, I am happy to learn from them. For instance, Mistress Marcelle's interpretation of the cotehardie was able to answer the questions that had been nagging me on that issue. Sometimes I have to figure them out for

myself, as I basically did for Persian costume.

My current "back boiler" long-range project is to understand the German Renaissance Gown (also known as the "Cranach Gown" after the painter who showed so many of them in his portraits). This is an area where others are already researching vigorously and I have seen some people doing really good work. I think I am almost at the point of being able to do a synthesis of other people's "best practices" in this area and completely understand it. Talk about your synchronicity! Without Mistress Marcelle's explanation of the cotehardie and Mistress Kamilla's similar work in the Florentine gamurra, I would have never had the information that is essential to build on in understanding this gown.

If we were to return to the Middle Ages or Renaissance as we are, given your present skills, what would you pursue as a vocation?

I think I would have to go with a court painter for Shah Tahmasp. I would probably have to learn how to grind pigments for that, something we don't have to know how to do today.