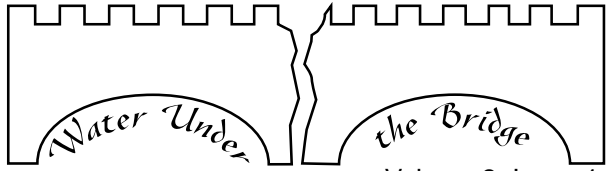
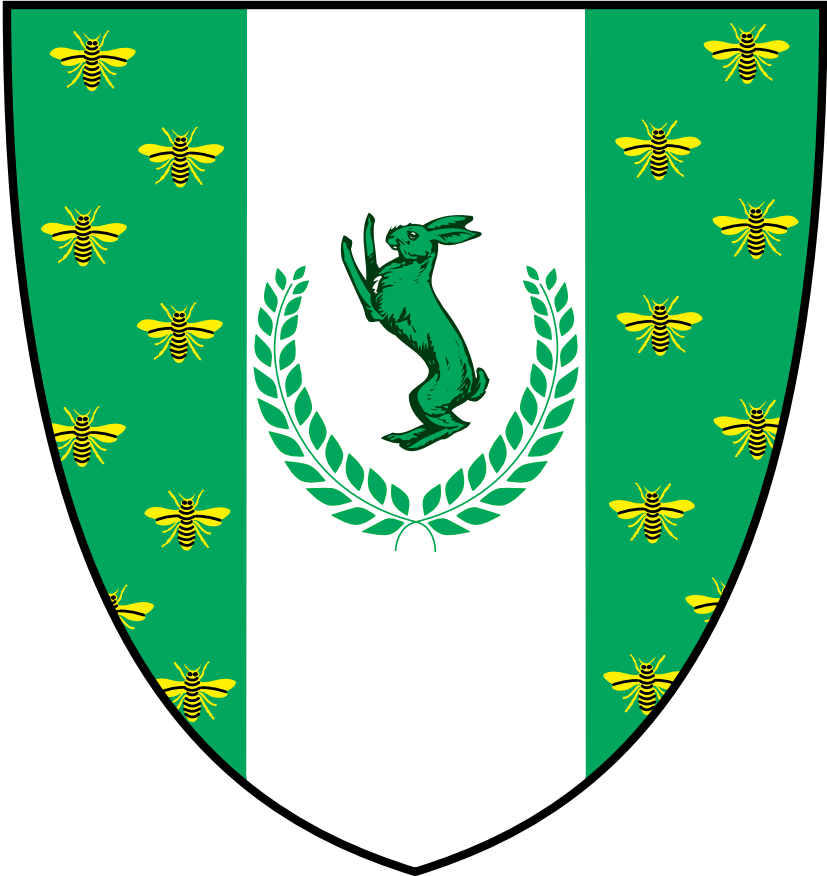


Broken Bridge

The Incipient Canton of the



Volume 2, Issue 1



January 1998 ASXXXII

List of Officers

Canton Seneschal:	Ben Rivera	718-436-6278
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A&S Minister:	Pacita Prasarn	718-857-4732
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* * * *

Current openings exist for deputies in all positions, please contact the appropriate officer or seneschal if you are interested.

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Cover Art: the proposed arms for the Incipient Canton of the Broken Bridge. Artwork by Daniel Myers.

Submissions, letters, comments, critiques, etc. should be sent to the deputy chronicler at:
Criss Ittermann
190 Ocean Parkway
Brooklyn, NY 11218
express@dorsai.org

Please include all copyright information with your submissions!

Seneschal's Report

Greetings to all!

I hope this holiday season found you all in good health and cheer. We've been fairly busy here in Broken Bridge, so this issue is later than usual... our apologies.

Our (incipient) canton was in full attendance at the East Kingdom Twelfth Night event held in Lion's End early this month. Between seventeen and nineteen of us were present, depending on how one does the count. It was a great event; well organized and laid out with a wonderful feast that just would not stop coming as the finale. I personally suspect I gained another five pounds from that meal alone....

I note that this was the first event for six of our members. Other Broken Bridge highlights include a gift to our nascent Crimson Phoenix household of one two-handed sword from our Knight-Marshall, and the Royal Herald's announcement that our group was elevated to full canton status. We believe the Royal Herald's announcement to be in error, as we were actually expecting an announcement that we had achieved incipient status. Dame Catriona, Deputy Seneschal for New Groups, concurs and will be following up on this matter. Meanwhile, expect that there will be some confusion regarding our status. There were somewhere in the neighborhood of three hundred gentles present in that court session who clearly heard the announcement elevating us to full status.

Provincial fighter practices are being held indoors during the winter months. Current practices are being held in Broken Bridge. Details are inside this issue. There is plenty of room for other groups, and I for one would like to see the fencers take advantage of this site as well. Please pass the word to any potentially interested parties.

Yours in Society,

Ben of Broken Bridge



From the Chatelaine:

I hope all gentles had a very pleasant holiday! I was greatly saddened when I heard of the passing of His Royal Highness Jafar al Safa. My heart aches for his family and friends. May he find his next life a pleasant and peaceful one.

On a more pleasant note, Pacita has asked me to hold a class on herbs. My herbal series will begin on Monday, February 2nd and will continue until further notice on the first Monday of each month. For those who do not know, I have been a student under many prominent, modern-day herbalists over the last 10 years. I have held classes and workshops, sold herbal preparations, written articles, and I am just completing an 8-month training program in herbalism (which by now was redundant to a great extent).

I plan to focus on medieval herbs, perhaps including some modern uses. I would love to have some guest teachers. I am very willing to teach hands-on preparation of medicines, conduct “Weed Walks”—teaching the identification and gathering of herbs in the wild—in fair weather, to base topics on popular interests, etc. I will begin with classes once a month and add more (or change to a different day of the week) if attendance and interest warrants it.

There are absolutely no fees for my first herb class, but be warned that I may ask for materials fees in future classes—we’re talking a few dollars for preparations people will take home with them, which will be optional—and they will be listed in the WUTB the month prior to, and the month of the class in question.

I would appreciate if all persons interested in attending would call ahead to reserve space, make suggestions for topics, and inform me of their preferred time slots for future classes. We have options for larger spaces, so it’s important to call and reserve, in case of a change of location due to unanticipated interest.

This month I am putting my garb workshop handout (with some additions) into the WUTB as an article, and next month I will probably have a similar herb article based on whatever handouts I have for my herb class this month, or a reprint of my article from *The Urban Herbalist*.

Peace & prosperity,

Criss.

P.S. In the interest of saving our environment, I strongly urge people who have access to email and Adobe Acrobat Reader to apply for our .pdf formatted newsletter, which does not require paper. If you do, you can choose what you NEED to print and simply read the rest, as well as not having to wait for snail-mail...what a BARGAIN!!!

Herb Classes

by Criss

Every first Monday, beginning Monday Feb 2
at 190 Ocean Parkway, Brooklyn.

R.S.V.P. & all questions/comments to
Criss at (718)436-6278

For directions please see page 7.

Provincial Fighter Practice

Every Tuesday Night (except school holidays)

6pm to 9pm (possibly 10pm)

Dewey Middle School 136

4th Avenue between 40th and 41st Streets, Brooklyn

Directions:

By subway: (only 1 express stop on the B or N from Atlantic Ave/Pacific Street stations, appx 5 stops from West 4th Station in the Village) take the B,N,R,M to the 36th Street stop, then walk 4 blocks (past Taco Bell).

By car:

From Manhattan & points North: Take your best route to the BQE toward the Verrazano (West). Get off at the exit for 38th street. Make a left “U-Turn” at the light, then go appx 2 lights to 4th Avenue, make a right turn and the school is on the right, appx 1 block away.

From Long Island & the South: Belt Parkway to the BQE/Gowanus Expressway combination heading toward the Brooklyn Battery Tunnel (Belt Pkwy West to the BQE East). Exit at 38th Street, make a right at the light, go appx 2 blocks, the school is on the right.

It is important that everyone sign in at the main entrance before proceeding to the cafeteria. School officials should be told that we are with the SCA, “a medieval group”, as this seems to be the way they readily identify us.

The school has set aside a twenty by two hundred foot space in their cafeteria for use by our fighters. Some nights the space may be available for use up to 10pm. Ceilings are between twelve and fifteen feet in height. There is additional space available for fencers and other activities, either in the same area or in separate quarters.

There are fast food & grocery stores nearby. We are allowed to bring food on site, but must clean up after ourselves. Please remember that we intend to use this site for future events so it would be best to give a good impression.

Everyone is encouraged to come, there is plenty of space. In fact, the school has offered us additional space for other evening activities. Anyone wishing space for an indoor class or practice please contact Ben Rivera. We have availability of other large spaces on a regular basis for things like dance practice, bardic practice, games, workshops and the like. Venues can be either canton-based or provincial (with the permission of the appropriate provincial officers). At this point, this offer is open to other non-local groups as well. This school is anxious to meet us and I'd like to present as many of us as possible.

Fighters please contact Sir Diablu (Dwayne Herron), Provincial Knight Marshall, for additional details relating to Provincial Fighter Practices.

Fencers please contact Dan Meyers at 718-857-4732 for additional details regarding fencing.

All others wishing to arrange for indoor spaces please contact Ben Rivera at 718-436-6278 or via email at express@dorsai.org. They are available for various nights throughout the week.

J A N U A R Y

Events
1998

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
○	○	○	①	②	③ 12th Night (East Kingdom)	④
⑤	⑥ Ostgardr Fighter Practice 6-9pm	⑦	⑧	⑨	⑩	⑪
⑫ Broken Bridge Commons 7:30pm	⑬ Ostgardr Fighter Practice 6-9pm	⑭	⑮ Heraldry 7:30pm	⑯ Ostgardr Commons	⑰ Horseshore all CANCELLED (Ostgardr)	⑱
⑲	⑳ Ostgardr Fighter Practice 6-9pm	㉑	㉒	㉓	㉔ East Kingdom University (NJ) Inn-Sanity (LI)	㉕
㉖	㉗ Ostgardr Fighter Practice 6-9pm	㉘	㉙	㉚ Brewing 7:30	㉛	

Broken Bridge Activity Calendar

December 1997

- *** **Provincial Fighter Practice:** (Ongoing Tuesdays 6-9pm) Please see announcement & directions on page 5 in this issue.
- 1/12 Commons Meeting:** (Second Mondays at 7:30pm) at 85 Eastern Parkway, apt 1G (bell #06). Please call Pacita Prasarn at (718)857-4732 for additional directions.
- 1/15 Heraldry & Banner Making:** (7:30pm) at 85 Eastern Parkway, apt 1G (bell #06). Please call Daniel Myers at (718)857-4732 for additional directions.
- 1/30 Brewing Workshop:** (7:30pm) at 190 Ocean Parkway, Ground Floor. Please call Ben Rivera at (718)436-6278 for additional information.
- 2/2 Herbal Class:** (1st Mondays at 7:00pm) at 190 Ocean Parkway, Ground Floor. See page 5 for more information. **RSVP - class size may be limited by space, location may be moved for class size.** Call Criss at (718)436-6278 for additional information.
- ? Garb Making Open House:** (Anytime) at 190 Ocean Parkway. If anyone would like to come over & use our equipment or aid in making personal or Gold Key garb, they should call a couple of days in advance and make an appointment. Please call Christina Itermann at (718)436-6278 for additional directions & ideas on what to bring.

Directions

190 Ocean Parkway, Ground Floor (between Albemarle Rd & Church Ave), Bklyn, NY.

By train: Take the F train to Church Ave station, walk down Church Ave (past "Rite Aid"). Left at Ocean Pkwy. We are halfway down the block.

By car: *From Manhattan & Queens.* Take your best route to the BQE/Gowanus Expwy ("West" towards Verrazanno Bridge & Staten Island). Exit at the Prospect Expwy. See "From Prospect Expressway" below.

From Staten Island Expressway & Southwest: Take BQE North to Prospect Expwy. Follow directions "From Prospect Expressway" below.

From Prospect Expressway: Get off the Church Ave West exit (last exit) and stop before you get to traffic signal. We live on that block.

From the South & Long Island: take your best route to the Belt Pkwy. Exit at Ocean Pkwy North and drive appx 4 miles. Left on Ave C. Right on East 5th Street. 3 blocks, right onto Albemarle Rd. Right at stop sign onto Ocean Parkway. We live on that block.

85 Eastern Parkway, apt 1G (bell #06), Brooklyn, NY. a.k.a. "Martha Washington"

By train: 2/3 train to Eastern Pkwy station, walk up and over the hill.

D train to 7th Ave (in Brooklyn) station. Walk up Flatbush Ave (past theatre & Blockbuster video). Left at Park Circle, appx 3 blocks to Eastern Pkwy. Left, 1 1/2 blocks to 85.

By car: *From Manhattan:* Take your best route to the Brooklyn Bridge. Left onto Atlantic Ave (about 10 blocks). See "From Atlantic Avenue", below.

From the B.Q.E.: Find your best route to the B.Q.E./Gowanus Expwy. Exit at Atlantic Avenue, follow directions "From Atlantic Avenue", below.

From Atlantic Avenue: Continue appx 5 blocks past Atlantic mall (Caldor, Pathmark, Office Max, etc. on left). Bear right onto Washington Ave. Bear right onto service road at Eastern Pkwy. The building is over the crest of the hill, about 1/4 down the other side.

Beginner's Buying Guide for Fabric & Sewing

by Criss

If you are going to make a lot of garb at home, by hand or by machine, this is a guide for buying time-saving equipment, period looking cloth & trim, and an idea of retail store areas where you can get the most out of your time and money when shopping.

People interested in going shopping with me in one of the cloth districts should call (718)436-6278. Also feel free to give me a call while out shopping if you have any questions. My home is available, by appointment, for sewing. I have machines available, and I am willing to give assistance.

Sewing Arsenal

In order to sew, you need some minimal equipment. However, as you continue to sew, you may want to increase your "arsenal" to maximize your time, to produce more outfits, or to increase the durability and period styling of your clothes. The following are supplies you might consider having in your arsenal:

Minimal Necessary

- *Scissors - for cutting cloth (Dressmaker's shears are better)
- Sharps (hand-sewing needles) in varying sizes
- *Thread (of good quality) to match your fabrics & trims
- *Fabric
- *Yardstick
- *Tape measure
- *Chalk, tailor's chalk (pref. non-wax), blue-line pen, etc.

Very Highly Recommended

- *Scissors (small for cutting thread, etc.)
- *Dressmaker's shears (bent handle)
- *Pins, silk (size 20) - for lightweight fabrics
- *Pins, glass-headed quilting (size 28) - for wools & velvets
- *Sewing machine
- Machine needles - universal for general sewing, sharps for wools, jeans needles for heavy denim, canvas, or other heavy tight-woven fabrics, leather needles for leather
- Craft paper (large roll), for saving, altering & creating patterns
- *Seam ripper
- **Iron, ironing board
- Interfacing
- *Seam guide (accessory for sewing machines)
- Scrap material - cheap material for testing on
- Beeswax (to wax thread when hand-sewing)

Optional

- Pinking shears
- Rotary cutting tool (use w/cutting board or self-healing cutting board)
- *Sewing patterns (Simplicity, McCalls, Vogue, etc.)
- *Trim
- Cutting board
- Carpenter's square
- Seam gauge
- *Serge/overlock (machine that does "professional" stitches)

Index cards & stapler (for swatches)

Pincushion

Metal ruler

French curve (or dressmaker's curve)

Liquid fray preventer

Books: sewing techniques and pattern alteration (ex. Sewing Made Easy by Dorothy Sara - try a used book store), a serger book if one has a serger (such as Singer's Sewing with an Overlock), garb-making books & pamphlets

** Bring with you to sewing workshops, if you can. Also recommended is to bring a surge protector with you. If you can't bring a sewing machine, call to reserve one. If you have spare sewing machine(s), please offer them for other's use. We may be able to arrange a pickup at your place for them.*

*** If you have a car, please pack your iron & ironing board, just in case.*

Where to go

There are several local districts which include many cloth shops. There are also scattered shops outside of the particular garment districts. For the most concentrated number of stores and the best retail prices, check out the areas listed below. I have not had a chance to check out selection and pricing at all of the stores, but I've included phone numbers so you can call for hours and ask questions, and I've included comments for the ones I've been to (**my personal favorite places to shop**).

Brooklyn:

Fulton Mall fabric district (Bridge St. between Fulton Mall and Willoughby St.) Sew Rite Fabrics (388 Bridge St. 522-2525, patterns [McCalls, New Look, etc.], fabrics & remnants), Fabric Discount Stores (392 Bridge, 625-7200), NY Fabrics (393 Bridge St. 624-3211), **398 Bridge St. Fabrics Inc**. (875-9255). I have probably shopped all of these stores, but I need to re-survey them to add comments to this list.

There are two craft stores I know of which carry sewing supplies & patterns [Simplicity & McCalls]. I am generally disappointed with their fabrics & fabric prices: Rag Shop (1260 60th Street, 871-8580), Fabric Bonanza (5644 Ave. U, past Kings Plaza, in the Pergament mall 951-1228).

There are three small fabric shops on 7th Avenue in the Slope. Two of them are quilter's paradises which happen to carry sewing supplies as well, the third is a pricey upholstery shop: Sew Brooklyn (228 7th Avenue, 499-7383, quilting, patterns [Berda & New Look in stock, McCalls & Kwik Sew to order], Park Slope Sewing Center (297 7th Avenue, between 7th & 8th St., 832-2556, more quilting, patterns [McCalls & Berda]), The Fabric Alternative (78 7th Avenue, 857-5482, upholstery & drapery supplies, no patterns, a few remnants, pricey!)

There are two shops on 5th Avenue in the South Slope: Bergos Antonio (637 5th Avenue, 768-0419), Pola Fabrics (5th Avenue & 8th Street).

Bensonhurst: Fabric Discount Stores (2044 86th Street, near 20th Ave., 996-2100, fabrics, remnants, patterns (McCalls, Vogue, Butterick)), AABC Fabric Corp (2255 86th St., between Bay Parkway & 23rd Avenues, 232-7876).

Other Brooklyn Stores that might be of interest: Anchal Fabrics (212 Neptune Ave, 718-646-1103) which carries Middle Eastern style fabrics and pre-made clothes which may pass as period Middle Eastern garb. Khan Fabrics (6211 18th Avenue, 234-7323, open 7 days), Bergos Antonio (8022 5th Avenue, 748-2274), Belle Fabrics (8310 5th Avenue, 921-3873). I called Dan Sacks Fabrics (8214 3rd Ave) on the phone one day (718-748-0059) and found out that they only take cash. However, they advertise that they carry remnants and job lots, etc. at a discount. If anyone wants to go with me, please call.

Manhattan:

Broadway below Grand St. (the district just keeps going block after block). Look out for the

“Wholesale Only” sign at the door of fabric shops, they won’t let you in unless you’re buying bolts of fabric. The following are retailers on this strip: Rae Home (452 Broadway, 212-966-1414, raetrading@compuserve.com, upholstery galore, don’t know their prices, they have a “bargain” section in the basement), Jariel Fabrics (459 Broadway, across from Rae Home, 212-226-7967, some good looking upholstery fabrics, etc. I didn’t get a price range), **Fabric Warehouse** (406 Broadway 212-431-9510, just South of Canal St., open 7 days, check out their remnant wools and velvets!), **P&S Fabrics Corp** (355 Broadway, 212-226-1534, between Leonard & Franklin St., they carry Vogue, Butterick, McCalls, Simplicity, New Look, Berda & Style patterns at least 50% off list prices, more wool & velvet remnants, upholstery fabrics & remnants downstairs), 360 Broadway? (across from P&S Fabrics, 212-226-4530, \$.99-1.49/yard fabrics with some great selections in Middle Eastern or chemise-weight cottons & they have some upholstery remnants in a bin at the door).

Between 7th & 8th Aves. on 38, 39 & 40th Streets. I got cards for a number of stores on 40th Street, but was very unhappy with the prices on that block. 39th Street has better buys. One of my favorites is a **small shop advertising silk** near Eighth Ave on 39th Street, but I lost their card. The man has given me consistently good prices on brocade fabrics (\$5.00/yard) and Chinese Silk brocade (\$15/yard, compared with \$35/yard on 40th Street). A.K. Fabrics (257 West 39th St, 944-1024) has cottons and linens at good-to-average prices. Empire Trimmings Co. is a new store where we were able to get gold trim at \$.50/yard in bulk (224 W 38th Street, 704-0111, somewhat nearer to 7th Avenue)

Cloth Selection

Fabrics

Stay away from obvious synthetics, stretch knits, stretch velvets, cotton lycra, etc. There are times you might use stretch fabrics for leggings, but keep in mind that this is not period. The more period you want your fabrics to be, the more choosy you must be when selecting your fabrics. Cotton was uncommon in period Western Europe, but common enough in the Middle East. Silk was (obviously) a luxury item, and brocade and velvets were usually made using silk thread. Linen and wool are very period for Western Europe, and probably much less common for Middle Eastern.

For a peasant look, try using cloths with uneven thread thicknesses, uneven dying in solid colors, and very muted, natural hues.

Keep your personal preferences in mind. If you love cotton, use cotton; if you don’t care, then cheaper synthetic blends may be the better bargain (and wrinkle less). Keep the care of your cloths in mind. Most silks and wools must be dry-cleaned, while most cotton is machine washable, (make certain it is preshrunk or prewash it yourself before sewing). The safest bet, if you want wash-and-wear outfits, is to wash the cloth before you make an outfit.

Colors

Bold, rich, colors are less common than muted natural tones. Depending on your persona’s class and your personal tastes, try playing with color strengths, and evenness of tone in the fabric. Cloth of gold was much more common in Byzantine and Middle East, and was exceptionally costly. Regarding specific colors: Don’t go there: fluorescents. Reserved for Royalty: candy-apple red, royal purple, indigo blue, etc. Uncommon: Lighter tones of the royal colors, magenta, deep blue, etc. I haven’t done a lot of research myself into colors, so you may need to yourself.

Patterned Fabrics

Patterns were woven, embroidered, painted, etc. Early patterns were simpler, as in geometric patterns or large paisley. Byzantine uses cloth of gold in bold geometric patterns. Later patterns are more complicated. When looking at floral patterns, (and tapestry, etc.) keep in mind that in the middle ages, artwork looked “flat” and two-dimensional, with unrealistic perspectives. The more like photographic reality a pattern looks, possibly the less period it would be. Look for simple repeating patterns.

Remnants

There are usually remnant bins at the stores. They sometimes contain velvets and silks, cotton shirting, or remnants from upholstery fabrics. Remnants are usually found in less-than 4 yard lengths. Sometimes the remnants are samples and have unwashable stamps on them saying so. When you find remnants in 2-3 yard lengths at half the off-the-bolt price, you have a steal. Some stores only have remnants in the under-two-yard lengths, and they are less useful (but you can still make veils, vests, pouches, belts, linings, bodices & maybe even doublets, etc. from these lengths).

Fabric content of remnants is usually left to the imagination by the stores, but there are ways & ways of testing cloth for content: feel & burn. [To burn-test a fabric, take a swatch of the fabric (a small clipping), and pull the threads apart, crumple into a ball and hold it in a tweezer. Take a match or lighter to it. Keep a cup of water nearby just in case, and BE CAREFUL.] Silk feels sticky, soapy, or gummy to the touch, wool is sometimes rough, both burn with a smell similar to burnt hair or feathers, burn slowly, curl away from the flame, & leave a crushable ash. Linen, cotton and rayon wrinkle easily when crushed, and burn vigorously, smelling of burning paper, leaving a soft gray ash. If the fabric burns or melts only when in the flame, with a chemical smell, and leaves a hard bead (like melted plastic), it is more than 50% synthetic. Blended fabrics will generally act like the predominant material in the fabric.

Retail Bargains

Cotton: chemise-weight 100% cotton \$1-\$2/yd. Shirt weight 100% cotton at \$3-4. Silks: discounted at \$4 (although that's fairly rare—surprisingly, I found solid-colored silks from \$2-\$2.50 at one discount sale), retail at \$6-8/yd, more with printed patterns. Wool: \$6-12/yd in cloak weights & suit weights. Linen: from about \$4-12/yd.

Trim

When buying trim, you should have a swatch of the cloth you are buying for with you, or vice-versa when buying cloth. To trim a women's outfit, you will need at least 5 yards for a T-Tunic, but if you have a wide skirt, trailing hemline or trailing sleeves, you may need as much as 20 yards (or more)! For a man's knee-length T-Tunic, you will need at least 3-4 yards of trim. Trim can be made from remnants, or from 1-2 yards of expensive tapestry, velvet, fake fur or brocade. Several complementary trims, or several strips of the same trim, can be applied side-by-side on an outfit to give the illusion of wider trims (multiply the amount of trim you buy accordingly). Trim can make or break a mediocre piece of garb. Similar rules apply to trim patterns and materials as do to cloth. Trim with gold filaments running through it was far more expensive than cloth trim. It is harder to launder without ruining it; the gold threads now used are usually plastic, giving it a tendency to fray under normal use. Cotton trim is more hardy in the wash machine, but should be laundered before it is sewn to the garment, to avoid shrinking. The colors and pattern on the trim should be within the styles and ability of the period of the garb you are making.

Getting Ready to Sew

Preparation

Make sure you treat your fabric before sewing the way you would treat it after it is made into a garment: launder fabrics with the same method you will use after they become garb before cutting out your garment pieces. Dry cleaning will make a dry-clean only garment (appropriate for silks, brocades & woollens), or machine washing for wash-n-wear garb (most appropriate for linens and cottons). Ask the salesperson how you should launder your cloths and if they are pre-shrunk. Wash your trims. If you don't have time to wash before making a garment, steam-press with the iron. Learn what heat settings to use on the fabric by testing on a small area of the fabric. Iron your fabric before cutting out your garment pieces. Now you're ready to sew.

Scandinavia and the Northern Seas Vikings

Tamsin Hekala

Conflict is an easy first look at the past. Who did what to whom in the context of battle is relatively simple. Such events have a specific timeframe, reasonably clear actions, and definite outcomes. It is also simple to choose a side. That relative simplicity for the reader makes the history of war, conflict, and violent times popular. The Viking Age is one such time of conflict.

The Viking Age is defined by the viking raids. Although the period properly begins with the first recorded raid outside of Scandinavia, Lindesfarne Abbey (795), and ends with the defeat of Harald Hardradi at Stamford Bridge (1066); it is simpler to start and end with clean century breaks 800-1100. During that three hundred year period ships with Scandinavian warriors engaged in hit and run raids throughout Europe. Our perception of Norse society and people is defined to a greater or lesser degree by those raids.

One view of the Vikings is that of the blood thirsty pagan barbarians descending upon peaceful monks or settlements without cause. It is a view based on the horrors described in letters to victims of the raids, from survivors of raids, and general concern by possible targets about those raids. The opposing view is that of our ancestors when they were noble savages. This point of view is based upon the Icelandic sagas and the romantic nationalism of the nineteenth century. Noble savage or vicious raider the reality lies between the two extremes. Viking raids were merely one part of a complex adaptation by the Norse to the marginal lands of Scandinavia. Raids were certainly a portion of that adaptation, but so too were explorations, foreign settlement, trade, and extended subsistence activities at the homebase.

The first question asked about the Viking Age is why the sudden explosion out of Scandinavia. There have been several popular theories. One maintains that the Norse were responding to political repression directly attributable to the consolidation into kingdoms during the ninth century. Another school of thought says that there were too many people for the available land. Current scholarly opinion favors a modified population argument based on current ecological theory about the carrying capacity of land. There was an increase in population during the period and there was also political unrest. The combination created a situation where activity outside the local area was inevitable.

As for the apparent sudden appearance of Norse raiders on the European scene this too is a misconception. The raiding activity was certainly not new to the far North. Legal and archaeological evidence points to a long standing pattern of raiding in Scandinavia proper. The expansion into Christian Europe was merely a broader venue not new activity as far as the Norse were concerned. Raid was a part of the Norse world well before the first documented raid in the Christian south.

It is through the raid patterns that we have our first insight into the political world of the Norse. Initially the raiding groups were smaller. Ninth century organization was based upon local leaders with close personal connections who raided areas distant from the homebase. However, by the end of the Viking Age the raids can be defined more properly as national in character and scope. The configuration of the raiding parties reflects the transitional aspect of Scandinavian society. During the late ninth and early tenth centuries Norway, Sweden, and Denmark all underwent political consolidation. At the close of the tenth century and into the first decade of the eleventh century all the newly consolidated nation-states transformed themselves from pagan outsiders to Christian monarchies. Religious transformation formalized the consolidation of royal power. The eleventh century raids reflected the economic and political concerns of consolidated power since they were intended as conquest, expansion of influence, or incursions for tribute.

Economic activities were fed in part by the viking raids. Food production was limited enough to warrant annual exploration, trade, and raid activities. Exploration for land or food

stuffs created the migration patterns that peopled Iceland, Greenland, the Orkneys, the Hebrides, and the Faroes to the west and established the Scandinavian city kingdoms in the east. Trade extended the Viking world into Russia, England, Ireland, France, Sicily, and Constantinople. Raid provided additional resources such as tribute silver, raid booty, and slaves.

None of the expansion activities could have been possible without Viking ships. The combination of overextended home resources, increased population, and the new technology of shallow draft keeled ships were central to the apparently sudden appearance of the Vikings. Although there were several different types of ships used by the Norse the one that invariably springs to mind is that of the sleek Gokstad warship. Such ships were not only fast, the trip to Iceland was only a week, but also able to sail in very shallow water depths—3 or 4 feet. The development of ships and maritime skills was necessary along the coasts of Norway. It was far easier to sail to a neighboring settlement than it was to go overland.

Settlement patterns in the North were also dependent upon water and coastal access. Despite regional adaptations, Viking settlements are distinct from non-Viking settlements. Most notable is the use made of available food ecosystems that were further afield than the standard pattern of continental populations. It should be noted that Viking settlement patterns were a holdover of neolithic and iron age settlement patterns. Highly conservative settlement and food production is typical of marginalized groups. The typical Viking settlement can best be described as a central hold that anchored a series of food production zones.

Zone one was adjacent to a population center, holding, or hall and comprised kitchen gardens and household industry activities. Zone two had barns, granaries, and hay fields. Zone three was a foraging area that could be individual ecosystems such as forest, riverine, or oceanic food sources or a combination of those systems. Zone four was transhumance pasturage. Zone five was wilderness that was used for primarily for hunting. Zonal food foraging and production uses a combination of agriculture, gathering, pasturing, and seasonal migration to fully utilized all available food sources in an extended area. Additional features of Norse settlement and food production methods included annual crop burn off and swidden farming techniques.

So standard was the zonal use of land that it is a key defining feature of Norse settlements be they individual holdings, villages, or cities. Thus the zones may be found in Iceland which has single family households, in Sweden's villages, in Denmark's ringforts, in Viking Age York or Dublin, or in the northwest corner of Spain. The impact of that zonal division exists into the present. Contemporary Scandinavian countries still recognize pasturage routes and rights first mentioned in Viking Age law codes.

Thus, the effect of the Vikings on the rest of Europe was more than piratical burn and plunder. Additionally was an increase in maritime technology, legal restructuring, landuse, and emigration. The establishment of Norse colonies throughout Europe had far reaching repercussions. Western migration created new settlements in unpopulated areas such as Iceland and Greenland. Western movements also were responsible for the establishment of Viking cities and regions in England and Ireland. Normandy, as a buffer state, was also created by the Frankish kings. Eastern migrations created Novgorod and Kiev. Movement to the east also created trading routes that extended to Constantinople.

Sources

Our source material for the vikings is based upon three distinct groups of primary source material: public documents, literature, and artifacts. The public documents include the *Diplomatarium Islandicum*, *Diplomatarium Danicum*, *Diplomatarium Norvegicum*, *Diplomatarium Orcadense*, the Norwegian and Icelandic Chronicles, early histories, and the law codes of Norway, Iceland, Denmark, and Sweden. Literary sources are primarily the Icelandic family sagas. Material culture finds are particularly rich and include: the Gokstad

ship burial, rune stones, the Oseberg ship burial, the York dig, a number of hoards, and settlement sites such as the Trelleborg ring fort.

Recommended reading

The following are general books on the Viking Age. Some, like Du Chaillu and Brondsted, while older are still quite useful in discussing the vikings and information on viking artifacts. Jones's A History of the Vikings and Foote and Wilson's Viking Achievement are still the most commonly used general histories on the vikings. Rosedahl's works contain more current archaeological information.

Du Chaillu, THE VIKING AGE, 2 vols.

Else Rosedahl, THE VIKINGS

Helen Clarke and Bjorn Ambrosiani, TOWNS IN THE VIKING AGE

Gwyn Jones, A HISTORY OF THE VIKINGS

Peter Foote and David Wilson, THE VIKING ACHIEVEMENT

Else Rosedahl and David Wilson, FROM VIKING TO CRUSADER

Brondsted, THE VIKINGS

Peter Sawyer, KINGS AND VIKINGS SCANDINAVIA AND EUROPE A.D. 700-1100

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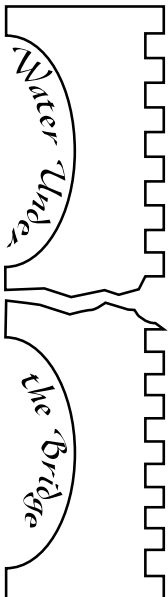
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Christina Itermann
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