

Chips

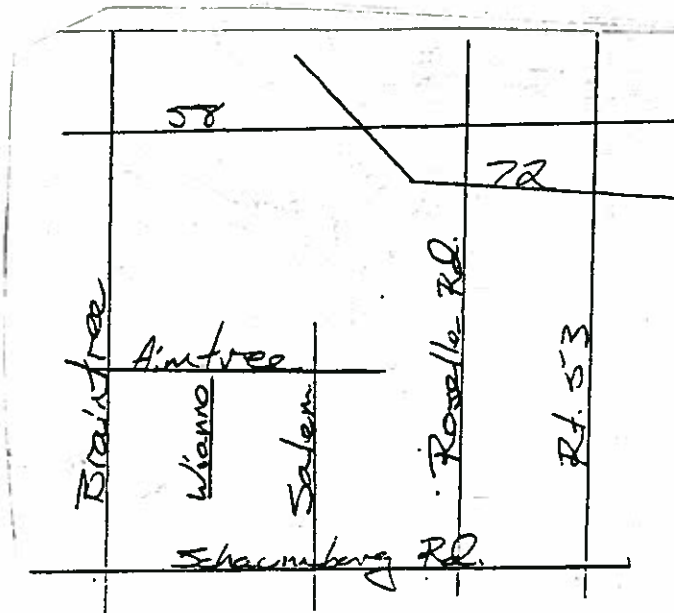


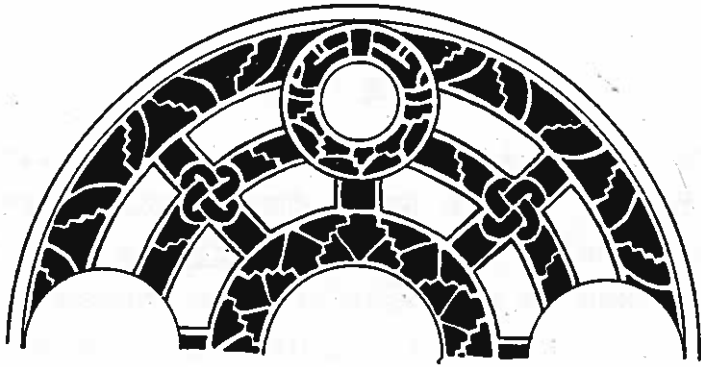
Moot Points

On Dec. 13, shire folk shared holiday cheer at the Christmas moot and party. Unlike last year's totally wet extravaganza, people brought plenty of food, with just enough alcohol to make the atmosphere especially friendly.

The major order of business was finding a new copier source for Chips. Fortunately, Arwyn has received permission to copy it at her father's law office in Bloomingdale -- just a stone's throw from our new home in Carol Stream.

Our sole January moot will be at Ethelwulf's home, 229 Wianno in Schaumburg, on Jan. 10. Anyone who hasn't been there a dozen times already can get directions by calling him at 884-0189. See you there!





Rokkehealdan Doings

I have no idea when or where January's meeting is because nobody told me and I couldn't reach anyone during the holidays. People who want to attend should call the seneschal, Cedric, at 681-1159 or Aindreas and Aimil at 325-9615 for details.

I would like to appoint a Rokkehealdan correspondent for Chips. This person would collect information on meetings and other shire activities, plus news of local awards and other happenings of interest, and get it to me by mail or phone before the third Friday of each month. You don't need to be a second Chaucer, or even authorized in pen and ink -- just able to convey facts clearly and dependably. The correspondent would get a byline for "Rokkehealdan Doings" as well as the satisfaction of seeing more Rokkehealdan news in Chips. Interested people should call me at our new phone number, 260-9739.

--Gwendolyn merch Llewelyn



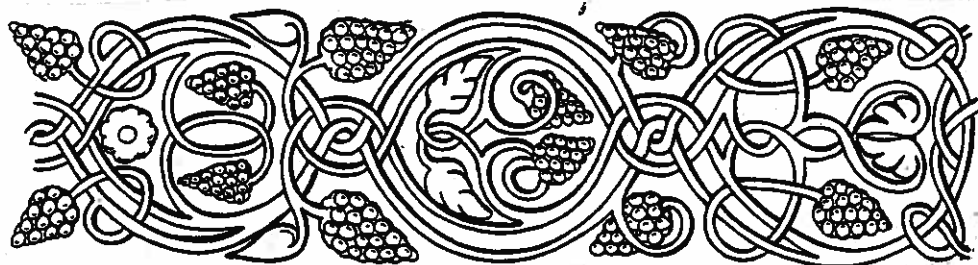
Hearth & Kettle

Looking for a hot meat dish for a potluck but you'd rather not go broke buying expensive beef? Here's a recipe from Fabulous Feasts that features chicken as a substitute for pheasant. Of course, if you want to splurge on pheasant, don't let me stop you...

Farsed Fesaunt

| | |
|---------------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| $\frac{1}{2}$ tsp. basil | $\frac{2}{3}$ c. chopped figs |
| $\frac{1}{2}$ tsp. rosemary, crushed | $\frac{1}{2}$ c. beef stock |
| $\frac{1}{2}$ tsp. thyme | 5-lb. chicken |
| $\frac{2}{3}$ tsp. salt | 2 tbs. butter |
| 2 c. raw oats | 2 raw apples |
| $\frac{2}{3}$ c. chopped dried apples | $\frac{1}{2}$ lemon |

Mix spices and oats. Add dried apples and figs; stir in beef stock. Stuff bird with mixture and rub skin with butter. Bake at 375 for 2 hours or until very tender. Peel and core apples. Grate peel and reserve. Chop apples into small slivers and mix with peel. Mix in lemon juice. Remove stuffing from bird and mix in apple/peel mixture. Serve forth.






Saintly (?) Doings

Terrance and Kambreda, Talbot and Freydis, Arwyn and Ethulwulf and Einar and I all made a pilgrimage to Carraig Ban Nov. 14 for the "Favorite Saint" event. The crisp, sunny November weather made fighting outside ideal for the fighters, though a little chilly for the rest of us.

The tournament was a round robin fought by three-man melee teams. The winning team consisted of Terrance, Ethelwulf and Edmund from Blackhawk. Talbot's team did fairly well, too. Though Einar killed at least one opponent in every bout, his team finished near the bottom.

After a long interval of dancing and relaxation, we sat down to a delicious feast, which Elaine also attended. Every dish was well-cooked and flavorful, including the pork pasties, the roast beef and the orange chicken. A recorder trio, a Caidan harpist and I provided entertainment.

After more dancing and visiting with friends, we left the site replete with fun and good will.



Remember the Pastons? They were a rich, somewhat powerful yet untitled family that flourished during the 15th century. They are especially well known for their habit of writing letters to each other at every possible occasion. The several hundred surviving Paston letters have given generations of scholars invaluable insights into medieval culture (and the search for tenure continues).

The following letter, written by Margaret Paston to her husband, John, on Dec. 24, 1459, describes a few of the activities normally enjoyed in a great household at Christmas.

"Right worshipful husband, I recommend me unto you. Please it you to weet that I sent your eldest son to my Lady Morley to have knowledge what sports were used in her house in Christmas next following after the decease of my lord her husband. And she said that there were none disguisings nor harping nor luting nor singing, nor no loud disports, but playing at the tables (backgammon) and chess and cards; such disports she gave her folks leave to play, and none other.



Your son did his errand right well, as ye shall hear after this. I sent your younger son to the Lady Stapleton, and she said according to my Lady Morley's saying in that, and as she had seen used in places of worship there as she hath been.

I pray you that ye will essay to get some man at Caister to keep your buttery, for the man that ye left with me will not take upon him to breve daily as ye commanded. He saith he hath not used to give a reckoning neither of bread nor ale till at the week's end, and he saith he wot well that he should not con don it; and therefore I suppose he shall not abide. And I trow ye shall be fain to purvey another man for Simond, for ye are never the nearer a wise man for him.

I am sorry that ye shall not at home be for Christmas. I pray you that ye will come as soon as ye may; I shall think myself half a widow because ye shall not be at home, &c. God have you in his keeping. Written on Christmas Eve by your M P."



Almanac

- Dec. 2: Hernando de Cortez died, 1547; Gerard Mercator died, 1594
- 5: Macbeth died, 1057
- 7: Mary, Queen of Scots born, 1532; Martin Luther authorized the bigamous marriage of Prince Philip of Hesse, 1539
- 10: Prince Llewelyn ap Gryffud died, 1282
- 14: Michel de Nostrodamus born, 1503; Tycho Brahe born, 1546; Henry IV of France born, 1553; James V of Scotland died, 1542
- 19: Henry II and Eleanor of Aquitaine crowned, 1155
- 22: Mass murderer Giles de Laval executed, 1440
- 23: Henri, Duke de Lorraine, died, 1588
- 24: Vasco da Gama died, 1524
- 25: Parliament prohibited all games but archery on Christmas Day, 1541
- 27: Johannes Kepler born, 1571
- 28: Thomas a Becket died, 1170
- 31: Jacques Cartier born, 1491; John Wycliffe died, 1384



girls and some petite women. Remember to write down your waist-to-hip measurement for later use. After taking the hip measurements, go back to the waist and measure from there to the floor.

Now that you have these measurements, you're asking yourself what to do with them. You'll want to add ease, so add one inch to the waist and two to the hips.

Waist= ___ 1" + ___/4 + 1 1/4 ___

Hips= ___ 2" + ___/4 + 1 1/4 ___

Length= ___ + 3"

I have included ease in the equations above and, in the second part of each line, a 5/8" seam allowance for each side of the skirt panel. Don't worry if you're not good at math -- it's really quite easy. You take your waist measurement and plug it into the first open space on the line marked "Waist." Add the ease to your waist measurement. In my case that would be 31" plus one inch -- 32". Now I take that 32 inches and divide it by the number of gores or panels I want. The equations are set up for four gores, but they can be changed to however many you might want. Thirty-two inches divided by four is eight inches. Now I add my seam allowance, making it 9 1/4 inches. When I do the same thing for the hips, mine being 44 inches plus two inches of ease, I come up with 12 3/4 inches per gore. My length wound up being 45 inches -- 42 plus three inches.

Now that you have the dimensions for each gore, you can either make a pattern or sit down 13

with your pins, fabric, yardstick and scissors and hack away. For less brave souls we'll make a pattern piece for one gore.

You can use newsprint, newspaper, tissue paper, fabric or whatever you want to make your pattern out of. Just be sure it's either 22 inches wide to use on 44" fabric, or 30 inches wide to use on 60" fabric. Mark one edge "Place on Fold" and use this point to start measuring from each time.

Now take your waist measurement for one gore and divide it in half. When you cut something on the fold it will turn out twice as big. My waist-per-gore measurement was $9 \frac{1}{4}$ inches so I put a point on the fold edge, measure $4 \frac{5}{8}$ inches from that point and connect the two points with a line. Now measure down nine inches (or whatever your waist-to-hip length is), put a mark there and measure out from that mark one half your hip measurement for one gore. Remember, mine was $12 \frac{3}{4}$ so I measure $6 \frac{3}{8}$ inches. Go back to the point on the fold side where you started your waist and measure down your waist-to-floor length on both sides of the pattern piece.

Now it's time to connect the dots. Start at the outside point of the waist and make a straight line between there and the hips. Then do the same with the hips and the bottom of your skirt. If there is an obvious point where the two connect you may wish to straighten out the line, but don't go on the inside of the hip measurement.

Now that you have a pattern for your gores, all you need is a waistband. You must now decide if you want the back of your skirt to just come together, or if you want one side to overlap. If you want an overlap, you need to make an adjustment to the pattern piece for the gores. On one and only one gore you are going to add three inches to the back of the waist and finish the triangle at the hips. Cut a small triangle of your pattern material so it can be added onto the last gore and the overlap can be cut off on one side after you've unfolded the skirt gore.

Plain-back waistband = $\text{---} + 1 \frac{1}{4}$ "

(waist measurement plus ease)

Overlap-back waistband = $\text{---} + 3" + 1 \frac{1}{4}$ "

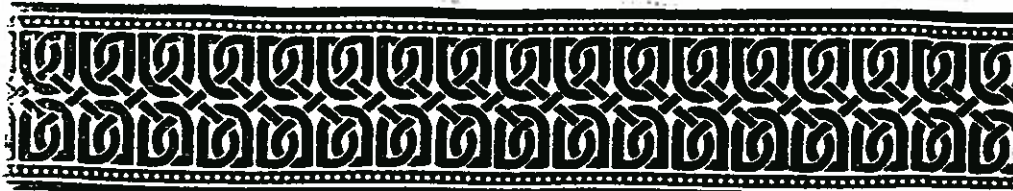
(waist measurement plus ease)

Again, I have used $\frac{5}{8}$ " seam allowances in the equations. To get the waistband width, take the measurement you want the finished waistband to be, double it, then add a double seam allowance. I normally cut my waistband piece $4 \frac{1}{4}$ " wide, giving me a $1 \frac{1}{2}$ " waistband.

$$1 \frac{1}{2}" + 1 \frac{1}{2}" = 3" + 1 \frac{1}{4}" = 4 \frac{1}{4}"$$

It may be wise to mark where the waist measurement ends on the pattern piece if you are adding an overlap.

Next month: cutting and sewing the skirt.



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