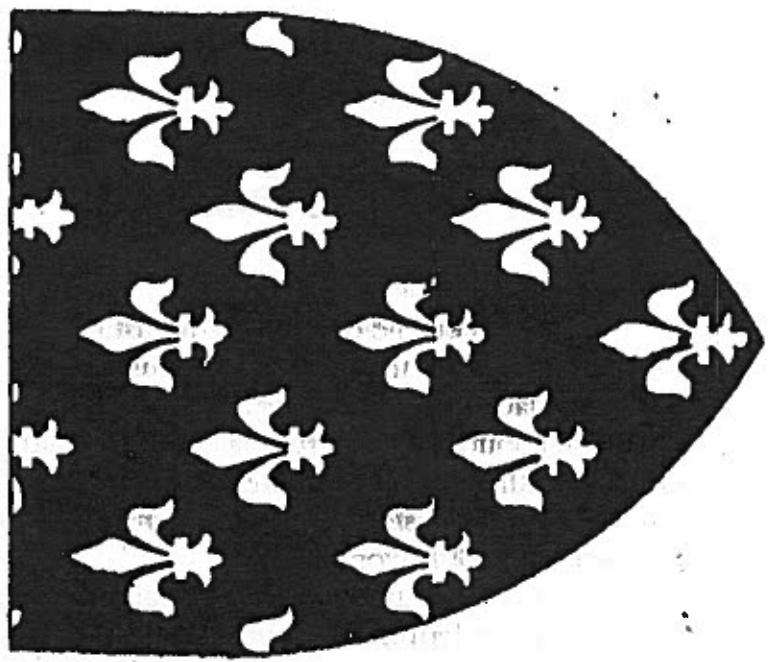


CHIPS

OF
FINISHED
WOOD

SEPT. 1993



MOOT POINTS

I was at Pennsic during the August moot, but I have been told that the major discussion topic was (understandably) our event in September. I was not told much else about it, so if there was anything really unique or remarkable that should be published, someone fill me in. (I'm also willing to listen to anything remarkable that should *not* be published! Anyone?)

Now, I have an essential bit of advice to hand out: if you have never had a meeting at your house, and would really like to do so, great! Go ahead and schedule it! But if you want it to actually happen, make sure that you have provided a correct phone number, correct address, and a map to your house (accurate would be good) to the chronicler -me- or the seneschal -Katherine. If you haven't spoken to me, either directly or through Talbot or another shire officer, you may want to give a call to me to make sure I have the directions to your house. It is for this reason that the pre-event moot suffered a last minute (9/9) location change to our seneschal's home and I could not publish Chips until today (9/10). I am very sorry about the delay; I hope with all my heart that the phone chain has been successfully completed and everyone finds out about the switch. Please know that every one of you is welcome at every moot we have, and if you did not get your newsletter you should always feel free to call Katherine or myself to find out when and where the next meeting is. We absolutely do not mean to leave anyone out!

Many, many thanks to Rebecca for writing pretty much the entire issue. All this and food, too! (Hey, Becky,

can I count on a full issue from you every autumn?)

I received a card from Melisande, who would like everyone to know that she is quite ready to participate in written or telephone communications while temporarily residing in Houston. Thus we have her permanent address: (Dad's house)

Melissa Bodeau
1021 S. Clarence
Oak Park, IL 60304

and her temporary address in Texas:

Melissa Bodeau
2001 Gemini #1616
Houston, Tx 77058
(713) 488-8619

where she will be through December 10.



Event Schedule

Since many faithful CHIPS readers are unable to make it to moots on a regular basis, it was requested that we (the autocrat and I) set out our plan for the event and that this plan also be available at the Troll for the benefit of those attending. This will, hopefully, make it more enjoyable for all concerned as we will all know what kind of atmosphere is being attempted and what is being commemorated. If anyone has any questions-comments-suggestions-problems, please contact either Kris or myself by the next moot in order that we have time to consider your suggestions.

Amid growing pressure/personal desire to claim/reclaim Normandy, Touraine, Maine, and other parts of France for England, Henry V waged war. His troops were small and his mission of dubious worth. However, Henry proved himself a master at engendering nationalist fervor and loyalty to the crown which would unite his troops and effect a great fund-raising effort for this questionable war effort. The identification with country signalled a fundamental change in attitude and societal structure which helped the world move from the last vestiges of feudal society to the nationalist hierarchy that we have today.

Charles VI of France remained unimpressed at Henry's

abilities and gave the young upstart no chance of success. When you consider that Henry had little experience as a monarch, did not have a lot of money, had very few troops in comparison to the French, he was fighting on French soil, and even his loyal troops were not totally convinced of the justness his cause, it is easy to see why Charles may have treated Henry with quite a bit of contempt. Fortunately for Henry, the French weaponry and battle strategies were outdated and France was in such internal upheaval that there was not much loyalty to the King or stomach for war. Against all odds, Henry was successful and his exploits were memorialized/exaggerated in the history of England.

Admittedly, it is the aggrandizement of Henry and his exploits that we attempt to recreate at our event, especially the picture of Henry that comes through in Shakespeare's play and the movies based on that play. Since the battle of Agincourt occurred on St. Crispin's day, we are also honoring that martyr (the patron saint of shoemakers and Kentucky Fried Chicken - see other article).

The recipes for the feast were almost all taken from *Le Viandier de Taillevent*, whose cookery booke is still recognized today as one of the foremost authorities in the history of cooking.

During the day, in addition to a single combat tourney, we will be highlighting the battles of Harfleur and Agincourt. The battle of Harfleur will be fought around a structure intended to give the appearance of a fortress, during which the French will be required to defend the

fortress and their field banner. The battle of Agincourt will be a field battle during which the English will be required to defend their field banner. The winning team will be honored at the feast. Before the beginning of either on or both of the battles, speeches (not long ones!) will be given to fire up the troops. These speeches will be taken from either the Shakespeare play or the Kenneth Branagh movie.

It is hoped that we will be able to give those not directly involved in the fighting a flavor of the times by giving them battle updates as to which country is winning at various points in the battle. Since it will be assumed that we are all on French soil, a victory for the English could portend harm for the women and children! We would like to have children between the ages of 12-15 to act as heralds to apprise the populace of the progress of war and we will be providing games for children between the ages of 7-12 which will be ^{in keeping} in keeping with the theme.

The feast hall will be divided, with one half of the hall decorated with English heraldry and the other half decorated with French heraldry. Each table will have its own heraldry. Between the first and the second remove, there will be a contest to commemorate the marriage between Henry V and Catherine. The couple who recreates the most entertaining marriage proposal (as judged by the assembled feast hall) will then be honored at head table as the royal couple, Henry and Catherine, and will remain so for the rest of the event. If there are no participants, the winning commander, from the battles as explained above, may be paired with a lady chosen at random from the French side of the feast hall!!

Between the second and the third remove, the losing commander, from the battles as explained above, will present to the winning commander gifts for the winning team. (If the winning commander is not inclined to make a speech, we will provide a substitute - we do not intend to embarrass anyone.)

Between the third and fourth remove, a parade in honor of St. Crispin will take place. The paraders will march around the feast hall with an effigy of St. Crispin and, as was the custom, leave a piece of the effigy with each table - be sure to look inside!

NOTE: Watch the nightly news. Do you notice anything familiar about the flag of Bosnia-Herzegovinia?



St. Crispin's Day

Rebecca de Venecia

October 25 is St. Crispin's Day and, irrelevantly but interestingly, the day that Geoffrey Chaucer died in the year 1400. Crispin and his brother Crispinian were Roman but upon being converted to Christianity they travelled north to spread the good word and eventually settled in France. They were shoemakers by trade and while they preached all day, they made shoes at night to support themselves (hence the story of the elves and the shoemaker-ed. note☺).

The Emperor Maximinus Hercules visited Soissons, where they were living, and his hatred of Christians was so great that he ordered that the brothers be killed. Legend indicates that the brothers were so protected by their faith that they were only killed when they had actually consented to be killed. The official charged with their death tried everything - splinters to be placed under their fingernails flew out and killed the assassins; they were weighted with millstones and thrown in the river where they swam to the other side unharmed; they were showered with boiling lead and then placed in a cauldron of pitch, oil, and fat out of which they emerged feeling refreshed. The official charged with carrying out the Emperor's orders was so frustrated that he pitched himself into the aforementioned cauldron and died. The brothers were so satisfied with his end that they allowed themselves to be beheaded.

There is some discrepancy as to when the actual

martyrdom took place and if St. Crispin's Day is to celebrate the day of the martyrdom or the day their remains were taken, first by Charlemagne to Osnabruk and later to Rome. The martyrdom took place in 280-something (one source states 284, another 287). Since that time, St. Crispin's Day (unfortunately Crispinian seems to have been left out) has been celebrated with merriment, parading and, above all, feasting. The shoemakers themselves would parade throughout the town with members being honored by playing King Crispin and his court. Members of other craft guilds, were known to retaliate by hanging an effigy of St. Crispin which was hung on the eve of the holiday and then, in the morning, paraded through the town. The procession would stop at the houses of the members of the shoemakers guild where the "Last Will and Testament" of St. Crispin was read and an article of the effigy's clothing left at the door. When only the body remained, it was used as a football by the assembled crowd. All of this was done in jest and good humor and the favor was returned by the hanging of an effigy of a carpenter on St. Clement's day.

Bibliography:

The Book of Days, vol II, ed. R. Chambers.

Curiosities of Popular Customs and of Rites, Ceremonies, Observances, & Miscellaneous Antiquities, William S. Walsh.

Feast Menu

FIRST REMOVE

Carrots marinated in vinagrette, with scallions

Caraway-Rasin Beer Bread

Honey Butter

Fungyes (leek & mushroom soup - vegetarian)

SECOND REMOVE

Brown "Rabbit" with Sauce Barbe Robert (beef)

White "Rabbit" (fyshe)

Spinoches y Fried

THIRD REMOVE

Chicken with Hippocras Sauce (chicken in sweet wine sauce)

Sallet wih Fresh Herbs (cucumbers with dill vinagrette)

FOURTH REMOVE

Apple Moyce

Ginger Bread

BEVERAGES

Water (lemon available on the table)

Beer:

Scotch Ale (dark, sweet)

Amber Ale (amber, very lightly hopped)

Ginger-Honey Lager (light, sharp, not strongly
flavored)

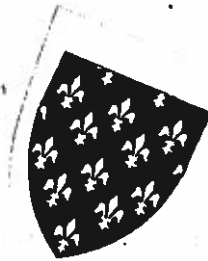
Pale Ale (self-explanatory)

Mead:

Plain (no added color, flavoring)

Plain, slightly carbonated

Cranberry (blush colored, not a strong cranberry
taste, drier)



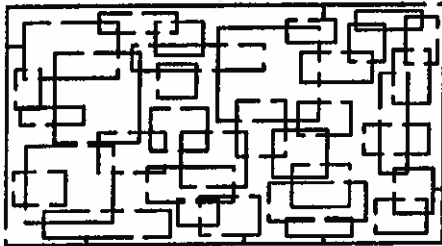
Fun and games

How many words (three letter or more) can you make with

CRISPIAN

(I got 60)

Help the Feastocrat get to the Feast Hall!
(you realize that this is not a joke!)



The Constantine Council

Rebecca de Venicia

During the reign of Henry V, another important happening (other than the war between England and France) was the split in the Church - this was the time of the Avignon papacy. In the interest of attempting to unify the Church - an interest the English and French shared, claiming as they both did that God was on their side - a Council was held at Constance. As far as this author is concerned, the most notable statement to come out of this Council was following by an anonymous observer to remedy international contentiousness:

"Recipe for the stomach of St. Peter and total healing of the same, issued at the Council of Constance. Take twenty-four cardinals, one hundred archbishops and prelates, the same number from each nation, and as many curials as you can get. Immerse in Rhine water and keep submerged there for three days. It will be good for St. Peter's stomach and for the cure of all his diseases."

Unfortunately, the more things change

"PARDON MY FRENCH"

Rebecca de Venicia

We have all heard it, and some of us have said it, most often after using the following words: s__t and/or f__k. This phrase reveals quite a bit about English-French relations.

First of all, the aforementioned words are Anglo-Saxon in origin. They came to be considered common or vulgar after the Norman invasion of 1066. At that time, French became the language of the privileged and Anglo-Saxon the language of the lower classes. Vestiges of that distinction remain in our language today. The French believed that there should be a distinction made between meat on the table and meat on the hoof. Thus from the upper class language we get the words for what we eat - beef and pork - from the French boeuf and porc, and the words for the animals involved - cow and pig - from the Anglo-Saxon lower classes who tended them.

Over time, the centuries old dislike between the English and the French has caused the English to use the phrase "pardon my French" to excuse vulgar language, clearly intending to imply that only the French could be so vulgar, notwithstanding the linguistic origins of the words being excused. More correctly, the next time you use the offending vocabulary, you should say "pardon my Middle English" - or just say "Merdre!" Then you can legitimately say,

"PARDON MY FRENCH!"

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