

Chips

(of Vanished Wood)



November, A.S. XXI, Anno Domini 1996

Under Construction:



As everyone can no doubt tell from the sketchiness of this premiere issue of **Chips**, Ethelwulf and I are not quite up to speed yet. Our worthy predecessor, Gwendolyn, was a saint (or a madwoman), laboriously cutting and pasting this newsletter together every month. Being a child of the Macintosh generation myself, I am afraid I do not have such great patience. This issue and all further ones are humbly brought to you by Aldus Pagemaker5.

Along with training Ethelwulf on the software, we will be scanning the extensive art files and borders onto disk, and continuing to investigate the possibility of presenting **Chips** on-line, via email. Hopefully, once all of this is up-and-running it will allow us to keep the newsletter produced in a timely, and attractive, fashion. (Hopefully.)

So, all of that said and done, here's a few things our good friends in the Shire could help up with:

1. Patience
2. Original artwork. The period art is wonderful, but if you are artistically inclined, we'd love to include some of it -- provided the theme is medieval, of course.
3. How-to or research articles. Put those Willows, Oaks, and Laurels to use!

4. Patience.

5. Event reviews.

6. New ideas. A column, a riddle, a centerfold (!?)

Believe me, new ideas are probably the greatest help of all!

7. Did I mention patience?

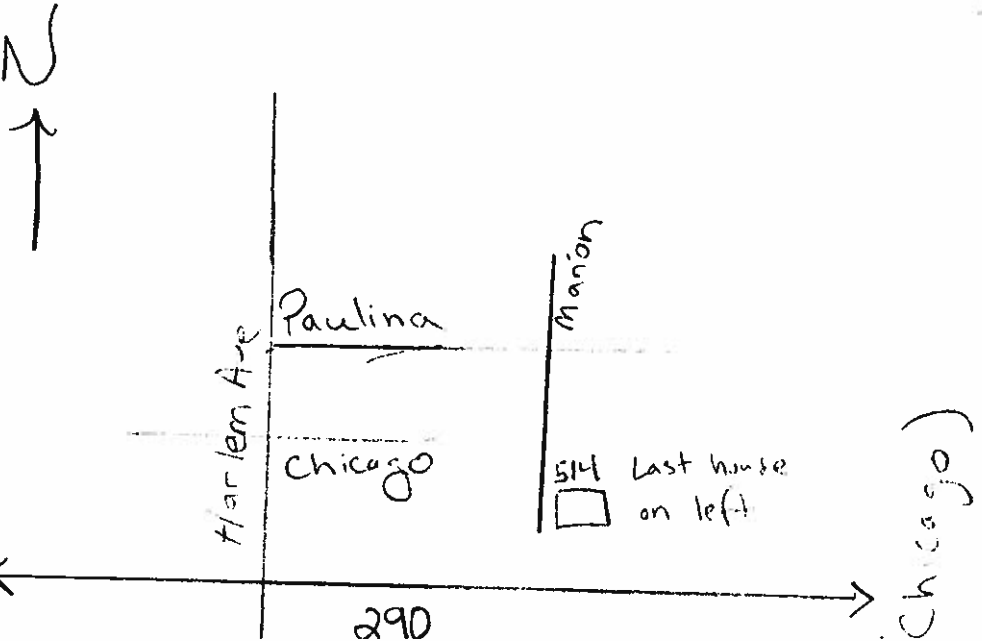
If at any point you have a contribution to make, let Ethelwulf know and pass it on to either he or I at a moot, by mail, or, if applicable, email it to ebless@aol.com.

Okay, enough rambling. There's what we have cooking with the newsletter, now on to the good stuff...

--Culwyn

Moot Points:

November's moot will be held at the home of Eugenia de Basham (Gina Basham), 514 N. Marion St., Oak Park, IL 60302, at 6:30 pm or so. Eugenia's number is (708) 763-9725. (Don't forget, your exit from 290 is on the **LEFT**.)



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The Electronic Pilgrim

(or "Surfing through the Middle Ages")

by Ethelwulf Kildare

There are many sources of historical information available to us in the SCA. Although we all know about books and videos, the Internet offers a variety of sources unknown anywhere. However, the sheer size of the Internet can sometimes make browsing for information a daunting task. My goal is to try and feature a handful of sites every month, on a variety of subjects so that those with Internet access can browse these resources. If you have come across a site that may be useful here feel free to send the URL to me at ebless@aol.com and if you would just like to hyperlink to the sites below without typing those sometimes lengthy URLs you can link to them via <http://users.aol.com/ebless/welcome.htm> just hit the link for SCA and you'll see all the links featured on these pages.

The Castles of Wales / <http://www.castlewales.com/home.html>

One of the best sites I have seen and a wealth of information on Welsh castles. The author describes well over 100 castles and has photos for many of them. In addition histories are featured with many links to other sources and there is presently a virtual tour of Dolywyddelan castle. A must see!

The Vikings / <http://www.n-vision.com/spoon/vikes/index.html>

An interesting site, I think the author is part of the Norse Film and Pageant Society. There is an interesting page on Viking footwear here, including methods of construction.

Steve Cramner's Page / http://www.bartol.udel.edu/~cranmer/cranmer_personal.html

Steve has varied tastes but he does have some interesting links that I have not seen in other places. Links on Mythology, Alchemy, Religion and variety of links to medieval literature. Note that he also has some links to the occult, pop-culture, internet software and various other, non-historical links.

The History of Costume / <http://www.siue.edu/COSTUMES/history.html>

Ah yes, the web site based on the oft used book of the same name. The plates are presented in thumbnail fashion and are expandable to their full size.

Bizarre Historical Trivia / <http://www.owl.net.rice.edu/~four/histfacts.html>

Want to know what was meant when William the conquer was buried in a most "unseemly fashion" or do you want to know about the tale of the only female pope?

Well this page has the dirt. Using historical references, which you can also hyperlink to, this page explains the meaning behind the sordid and often trivial references.

Of Crowns and Kings: Tales of Crown Tournament

by Culwyn Bleidd Caernarfon,
(as related to by diverse sources)

On 12 October a “Crown of No Common Glory” was held in the lands of Flaming Gryphon, far to the south and east of our own humble shire. With all of the hardships of so long a journey, it is perhaps not surprising that no one from Vanished Wood was there to witness the choosing of the heirs to the Dragon Throne.

However, Madawg ap Cynawg Fflamddwyn did travel from his home in the lands of the Barony of Wûrm Wald to compete for the highest of all prizes, and the chronicle that follows is derived from his letters, as well as further testimony from Sir Bardolph Windlaupher and a few others who were there to see these events with their own eyes....

The Tourney began with a Grand Processional where the combatants and their consorts were presented to Their Royal Majesties, Osis and Caitlin. After being announced by a personal own herald, each consort received from His Majesty a white rose, and each fighter a silver pendant of a wreathed sword from our Queen. When the presentations were complete, His Majesty addressed the assembly and spoke on the virtues and goals of seeking

the Crown. The processional then dispersed, and the fighters began to arm themselves and make ready for the trial of arms to come. Without further ceremony, the tournament began.

There were rumored to be fifty-four combatants upon the list that day, and as the tournament followed the ancient custom of the Kingdom, in which a man might lose twice before being withdrawn from the list, there were many byes drawn. Each such mock combat was fought by either the King or a warrior appointed by him, in this way all who entered the list would have a chance for their heralds to boast of their fame and lineage.

Although three strong warriors fell to Madawg's fierce sword, including fellow Ulflander Master Chen Tzu, in the end, he stood against Duke Dag. In that fierce combat, the Duke's blade struck Madawg's helm sternly, knocking Cynawg's son near-senseless to the ground. Thus it was that by the time the Welshman's mind had cleared and he again could reckon what went on about him, it was becoming obvious to all that the strongest contender for the throne was Earl Edmund of Hertford; descended from that same Edmund who in days past had led the Midrealm to glory on the fields of Pennsic. As his ancestor before him, this Edmund was a bold fellow, strong in the ways of war, and it was these gifts of Mars he put to good use in the list that day.

It was said that Earl Edmund's sword was not the swift-

est of all men gathered in that list, nor his shield the strongest, but such was his stern purpose and resolve, that he threw no blow that did not have an opening to strike at, nor in haste did he lower his shield in anticipation of the attack, as might more anxious men. Thus, with great efficiency did the Earl defeat opponent after opponent, until only the Saracen, Count Jafar al-Safa, stood between he and the greatest of prizes.

The two warriors met upon the field with sword and shield, as is the ancient tradition of the Middle Kingdom, and in this form of combat, Edmund had the advantage. A battery of short, precise blows saw the battle turn in favor of the Earl, and Count Jafar yielded. The two warriors then again prepared to fight, this time with that strange method of combat that is popular in our fair kingdom as it is nowhere else in all the Known World, in which a fighter carries a long sword in each hand. Four swords were swung by two men, and it was a fair display of the martial skills of both men. But in the end, it was the Earl whom Dame Fortune smiled upon, and as Jafar al-Safa fell to the ground, we knew the name of our Prince.

I have heard that a great feast was held to honor the new Tanist and Tanista, and that such is the wealth of the lords and ladies of Flaming Gryphon that all were fed on great portions of beef and sweet meats. But of this I may only speculate, as the Hound, his lady, Sibilla, and their retinue were obliged to take their leave and by horse and cart journey home -- for the Hound's name alone can keep the

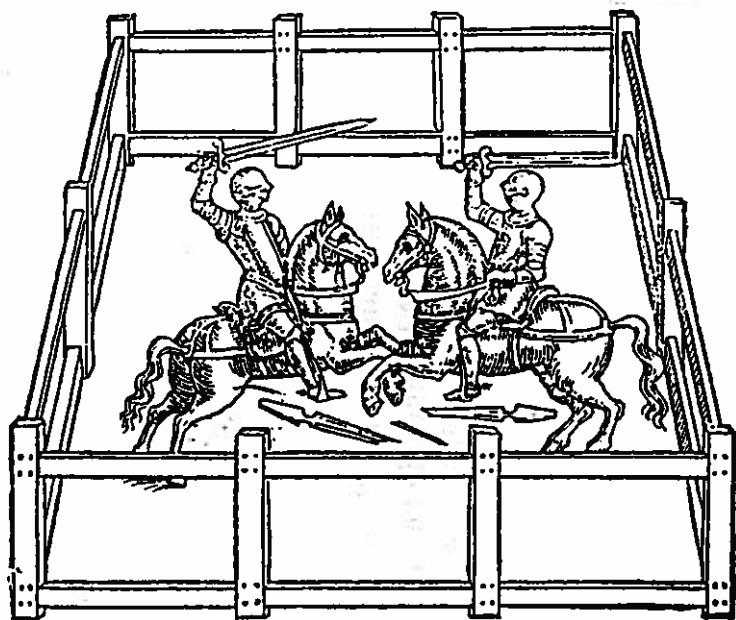
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(Because Culwyn always wanted
to put that in a publication.)

Buros)

Saxons at bay for only so long.

In this way was Earl Edmund of Hertford chosen from the warriors of the kingdom to sit the throne, as had that Edmund of fame sat it before him. This is how these things happened, as Madawg the Great Striped Hound of Wûrm Wald spoke it to me, and as I understood it, and if there is any who would challenge these words, let them find fault with this chronicler's poor skills, and not the eyes of Cynawg's son.



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12-96

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