



Two Towers

Newsletter of The Barony of The Stargate
July 2006



Scribbles from the Chronicler

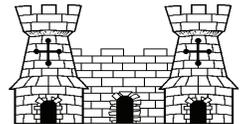
Populace and officers please get to me your submissions for the Two Towers before the 19th of each month. Every month we have submissions coming in after the date, please make due diligence to have them to me by the 19th of the month before you want it in. Beginning this month unless I have notice from a guild or officer I will not be repeating submissions.

Also, if you move or change phone numbers. Please contact me and let me know the change so that we can keep the do-mesday updated. I have also requested a form be added to the stargate website for ease of use.

*Nel servizio che rimango,
[Signora Lisabetta Micola da Monte](#)*



The Baron & Baroness



Unto Ansteorra's premier populace do ihon & Isabeau send greetings,

Summer is upon us in full force with 100+ temperatures and strong thundershowers. Please let us know if you suffer(ed) any damage from the storms and please keep yourselves well watered in the heat.

Lysts of Castleton saw 103 degree temperatures but that did not wilt the performance of Lancer Lorraine Frazier as the once and quite often King's Lancer reclaimed her office. The event was magnificent. The recipe seems quite simple: start with an incredible site on the banks of a river replete with Elizabethan houses and period pavilions, mix together wonderful support personnel from several baronies, add a dozen mounted combatants and twice that number of foot, battle all day long to the sounds of early music and clamoring heralds, stir well and -- *voilà!* -- a great time for all. The only thing missing (sort of) was "thump, thump - crack -- thump, thump - crack -- we will rock you! Rock you! (Just kidding, Neassa!) Special thanks to all from Stargate who contributed to the success of the event. Our galleries looked quite brilliant though the sun did not cooperate with their placement and so they did not get the use we intended. Nevertheless, they were a welcome addition to the flavor of the event.

As we write we are approaching King's College, hosted by the Canton of Westgate. We expect an outstanding event only because that is what has become the norm for this energetic and devoted group. Of course, by the time you read this, everyone will be reflecting on what a wonderful event Westgate provided for the kingdom.

First Sunday is Independence Day weekend. We expect that many of you have plans for the weekend so let us forego Picnic in the Park as we continue our evaluation of alternative sites.

We will be attending Coronation and hope to present the new King and Queen with the gift of a gas card upon their stepping up. So far \$62.00 has been donated. If you intend to donate, please contact us as soon as possible.

Please also recall that Populace will be the *second* Monday due to the holiday.

Joyfully in your service,

~i&I~

Baron & Baroness

Heard From the Herald



Until further notice, Heraldic Consultations will be held by appointment only. I will be available most often on Wednesday nights. Contact me by phone or email.

Sentinel Pursuivant
Dietrich Strobelbart

mka Steve Scott 281-731-7726 cell
[dietrich dot strobelbart at yahoo dot com](mailto:dietrich_dot_strobelbart_at_yahoo_dot_com)
Schwöre dem Warum ab und suche das Wie
Abjure the why and seek the how.

Stargate Armorers Guild

Meets at Vaclav's shop on the 1st and 3rd Wednesday of each month at 8pm until 11pm. Please call ahead at 713-686-9883 to get directions and see if the meeting has been cancelled.

Metal working and leatherworking tools and armor making advice for both chivalric and rapier fighters.

All Hand tools, forge, anvil, metal punch, slip roller, leatherworking Materials available.

Vaclav

July's featured link is

Jacinth's Info Mine: Textile Arts

<http://users.ev1.net/~jacinth/textiles.html>.

This page of links compiled by an Atlantian SCAer features a HUGE set of costuming links, sorted by period and place, plus links on specific fiber arts, such as knitting, weaving, embroidery and lace-making.

The weaving-related links are particularly extensive. Check it out - it's a great one-stop link shop!

Yours In Service,
Lady Merewyn de Laugharne
Stargate Virtual Scribe

Dance Guild

Classes are informal and are open to beginners and experienced dancers alike. We focus on English Country Dance primarily from Playford's first edition, Court dances, 15th and 16th century Italian dance, and French dances from Arbeau.

We meet on the second and fourth Sunday of each month from 2pm - 4pm at Oaks Presbyterian Church, 1576 Chantilly. This is near W 43rd and Ella in northwest Houston.

Contact Antonello (cell 281-850-2443 or email [antonello AT integrity.com](mailto:antonello@integrity.com)) for directions and inquiries.

Lord Antonello

Stargate Scribal Guild

Join us for Stargate Scribal Guild and paint for Kingdom and Baronry. We meet on the 1st and 3rd Tuesday nights at the UH fighter practice 7 p.m. All skill levels are welcome including youth who are interested in scribal arts and painting. We had several people join us last month and had a great time.

Ladies Mea and Cristyana are waiting for you!! So come out and paint.

Of Course It's 'Course'! Remove 'Remove'!

By Elise Fleming (Dame Alys Katharine)

The introduction of "remove" to mean "course" in SCA jargon may be lost in the mists of our history but it is fairly well-documented in the real world. Nowhere in the English-speaking Middle Ages or Renaissance is the word "remove" used to mean "course".

All printed references refer to the "first course" or the "second course" and refer to a collection of dishes, sometimes twenty or more, which were presented to the diners. Dishes were brought in and set on the table. At least at the head table, certain dishes would be carved and served to the feasters. Other dishes would be placed in selected spots on the table. When the course was over all the dishes were taken away.

As the Elizabethan era draws to a close one can see a marked difference in public dining. In the earlier Middle Ages everyone ate in the Great Hall. By the 1500s there are references to "dining parlours" or "dining chambers" where the lord and lady could eat apart from the others. By the late 1600s the dining room began to be the central eating area. While large public feasts were still held in grand rooms on special occasions it no longer was the norm for everyone to eat in one large room. With the change towards more private dining came a tendency towards fewer dishes being served at a meal. Cookery books from the 1690s and on began to include "folding-plates" which showed table settings, precise and symmetrical. *England's Newest Way in All Sorts of Cookery, Pastry, and All Pickles that are Fit to be Used* (3rd edition, 1710) contains a diagram for a two-course dinner. To quote from *The Appetite and the Eye*, "...there is even the recently adopted usage of the 'remove' (a dish to be succeeded by another). The circle at the head of the first-course table is inscribed: 'A pottage, for a remove Westphalia ham and chickens.' The pottage was served out to everyone present, and its large serving-bowl or tureen was then **removed** (emphasis mine). In its place was set the item of meat or fish written in the lower half of the circle. The soup and its 'remove' or replacement marked the first step towards a different division of the courses which led eventually, after the coming of Russian service early in the nineteenth century, to the usual sequence of courses at today's formal dinners."

Additionally, in the chapter "Illustrations in British Cookery Books, 1621-1820" (*The English Cookery Book*, edited by Eileen White) Ivan Day writes the following regarding table plans: "Their plans reflect the triumph at this high stratum of English society of the **new** (emphasis mine) French style of regulating a table. For instance, Henry Howards's *England's Newest Way* of 1703...shows how the soup was to be replaced with a *remove* – the English name for the *releveé* of French dining protocol."

A "remove", therefore, is just that. It is a dish that is taken off the table after people have been served, with another being set in its place. It is not a "course". The term didn't exist until close to 1700 or even after. It was **new** in the early 1700s. In no way did it ever exist within the SCA's time period.

So, why should we be concerned about the misuse? For me it is precisely because it is "misuse". What is the purpose of mislabeling a course once one has learned the correct term? I suspect some folk think it sounds more "medieval" but I would submit that after thirty years the SCA should have become more accurate in its re-creation of medieval and Renaissance cookery, not stuck repeating inaccurate jargon. My challenge, and one I would toss to you as persons interested in furthering our studies in cookery, would be to learn what people in our SCA time period really did and to pass that on to non-cooks.

Of Course It's 'Course!' Remove 'Remove!' (continued)

For example, let's look at what really constituted a course? One dish? A meat, a starch and a vegetable? Or something else? How many courses really were served? In Gervase Markham's *The English Housewife* (1615), he has a section entitled "Ordering of great feasts and proportion of expense" which sets out the type of things to be served at a course. I have seen references to feasts of two courses, and possibly three, but not any more than that. Why? Because so many dishes were expected to be presented in one course! One source mentions that a large variety of dishes were needed because one couldn't expect all the guests to like the same dish! Also, from what I have seen, not all dishes were on all the tables. Cheaper cuts of beef, for example, went to the tables of those of lower station. The head table would receive one-half chicken, or more, per person, while the lower tables would get a chicken dish where it had been cut into pieces and placed with a broth, a grain, etc. The nobles at the head table got more because they sent bits down to people at the lower tables as a mark of favor or special note. (Wouldn't this be intriguing to do in the SCA???)

Markham finishes his list of all the items to be sent out with this: "Now for a more humble feast, or an ordinary proportion which any goodman may keep in his family..." and Markham lists them. "Sixteen is a good proportion for one course..." I'll make the list complete but brief: beef with mustard; boiled capon; boiled beef; roast chine of beef; roast neat's tongue; roast pig; baked chewets; roast goose; roast swan; roast turkey; roast haunch of venison; venison pasty; kid with a pudding in the belly; olive pie (not of olives, but slices of meat); several capons; a custard or doucets. He continues, "Now to these full dishes may be added in sallats, fricassees, quelquechoses, and devised paste, as many dishes more, which make the full service to no less than two and thirty dishes, which is as much as can conveniently stand on one table...and after this manner you may proportion both your second and third course, holding fullness in one half of the dishes, and show in the other..." In other words, the second and third course would consist of a similar number of dishes but only 16 or so would be edible. Today, we simply don't have the servants to be able to pull this off at most events. Keep in mind, too, that people sat (or stood) at only one side of the table, so there was more room on which to place dishes than we normally have at an SCA feast.

How were courses served, especially to high table? How were the foods presented? Were they garnished and made fancy or did the cooks just send out filled bowls? What is practical or impractical to re-create in today's world? Let's research these questions! As SCA armor, for example, has progressed from Freon cans and plastic barrels to more accurate metal and leather re-creations, so we should be progressing in cookery. It is quite easy to use the term "course" instead of "remove" the next time one is involved with a feast. The printer won't object to printing "course" instead of the inaccurate term! More accurate armor increases the medieval feel of our tournaments. The nicer the armor looks, the more other fighters want to have something like it. The same applies to feasts and cookery. If our feasts have the look and feel of medieval times eventually others will want to do the same and we will have increased our knowledge of how people cooked and ate.

References:

The Appetite and the Eye, edited by C. Anne Wilson, Edinburgh University Press, 1991.

The English Cookery Book, edited by Eileen White, Prospect Books, 2004

Banquetting Stuffs, edited by C. Anne Wilson, Edinburgh University Press, 1991

Gervase Markham. *The English Housewife* (1615), edited by Michael R. Best, McGill-Queen's University Press, 1986.



MEETINGS



Newcomer's meetings

Newcomers meetings provide information on local activities, how the SCA functions and what you can do to participate in the fun. To get more information and meeting dates, contact Lady Elizabetta "Maria" de Medici at 281-433-0347 or send email to Scarlettmb AT sbcglobal.net.

Populace meeting

The first Monday of each month from 7-9 pm, at Ryan's Family Steakhouse, 5601 W. 34th Street, about 1/2 block west of 290 on the south side of 34th (on your left if you are coming from 290). It cannot be seen from the freeway (the sign is quite small and close to the ground). If the first Monday of a month is a public holiday, Populace will be held the second Monday. Garb is optional. For more information contact the Stargate seneschal, Lady Vasilisa, at lisa AT flyinglions.com.

Business meeting

Stargate's Business Meeting is normally held on the third Monday of the month, at their Excellencies' house. The meeting is open to the populace, but their Excellencies request that anyone who would like to attend [contact them in advance \(contact info on last page\)](#) if possible.

Fighter practice (Chivalric and Rapier)

Every Tuesday night from 7-9+ pm at the University of Houston (main campus). This is a combined chivalric and rapier practice held in conjunction with the Barony of Loch Soilleir. Garb is encouraged. **Directions:** From I-45S south of I-59, exit and turn right onto Cullen, through two lights, turn left at UH Entrance 13, which is across the street from the stadium. Turn left into the parking lot, and look for us in the field next to the parking lot. It is a controlled-access faculty/staff parking lot, but is open after about 6 pm. Most practices focus on individual instruction and tournament (one-on-one) style combat, but the first Tuesday of each month is devoted to practicing melee skills and small unit tactics.

Stargate has now started a second fighter practice, on the **first Sunday of the month**, from 2-5 pm, at Memorial Park. For more information contact the Stargate Knight Marshal, Lord Andre de St. Michel (Andrew Scarhart), at (713) 869-7733 or (832) 524-4444.

Youth rapier practice

In conjunction with the Tuesday night combined fighter practices (above). A parent or legal guardian must also attend. Please contact the seneschal lisa AT flyinglions.com for more information.

Equestrian practice

For information, call Lady Lorraine at (281) 983-5339. You don't need to have your own horse to come out and play. Garb is optional but suggested. Closed toe shoes are required. Minors must have a parent in attendance, and wear an approved riding helmet. Equestrian Guild Meetings are the third Wednesday of each month. We meet at Lady Lorraine's home or at the stables in Sugarland, in our Tackroom. Call for directions.



GUILDS



European Dance (NW)

Practice is held the 2d and 4th Sundays of the month at Oaks Presbyterian Church, 1576 Chantilly Lane, from 2 to 4 pm. For more information contact Lord Antonello del Bello at (281) 850-2443 or [antonello.sca at sbcglobal dot net](mailto:antonello.sca@sbcglobal.net) . Please, no calls after 10 pm. Garb is optional (most folks wear regular clothes).

European Dance (SW)

Is on a break you can contact perronnelle at perronnelle AT earthlink.net for more information and directions. Garb is optional.

Madrigal and Polyphonic Singing

Practice is held every fourth Sunday at Oaks Presbyterian Church, 1576 Chantilly Ln at 4:00 p.m. No experience necessary -- sight reading helpful but not required. For more information contact Master Ihon Vinson MacFergus at (713) 896-0026 or jhirling AT houston.rr.com. Please, no calls after 10 pm. You can also check out the [Stargate-Madrigal Yahoo group](#).

Scribes Guild

Meets 1st, 3rd, and 5th Tuesdays of the month for charter painting at the University of Houston Chapel (Entrance 13 off Cullen, far end of the parking lot), 2nd floor lobby, at the large conference table, from 7-9 pm.

If you have paints, please bring them. Some supplies will be provided. Site has table and chairs. Newcomers to painting are welcome. Monthly scribal classes are being offered on Sunday afternoons. See the News for the details. Please contact [HL Mea Guilianna Passavanti](#) or [Lady Cristyana Lambrecht](#) for more information.

Weaving

The Stargate Weaving Guild meets on the second and fourth Wednesdays of the month at the Lancaster Community Center, located at 19831 Stoney Haven Dr., Cypress, TX 77433, from 7:00 to 9:00. We actually work on an assortment of things, from weaving, sewing, crocheting, knitting, creweling, embroidery, needlepoint, beading jewelry and clothing, and many other activities. If anyone is interested, they are most welcome to come. Contact [Lady Annalies](#) for more information.

Workshops

Heraldic name and device consultation

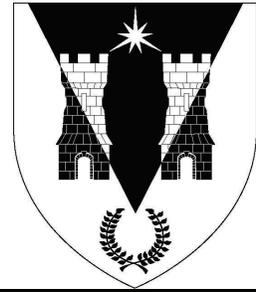
Heraldic Consultation Nights are from 7:00 pm to 10:00 pm, by appointment. Please contact Dietrich Strobelbart by e-mail or phone for directions (two miles from U of H Fighter Practice site).

Chivalric armoring

Tools and armor-making advice available at Vaclav's house on the first and third Wednesdays of the month, from 8-11 pm. Please call ahead for directions and to be sure we haven't cancelled. Contact Vaclav Namatko (Random) at (713) 686-9883.



July 2006



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						<u>1</u>
<u>2</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>7</u>	<u>8</u>
		7:00p -9:00p Scribes Guild 7:00p -9:00p 00p Barony of Stargate & Loch Soilleir Combined Fighter practice (Chivalric and Rapier)				<u>Coronation</u>
<u>9</u>	<u>10</u>	<u>11</u>	<u>12</u>	<u>13</u>	<u>14</u>	<u>15</u>
2:00p -4:00p European Dance (NW)	7:30p Stargate's Populace Meet- ing	7:00p -9:00p 00p Barony of Stargate & Loch Soilleir Combined Fighter practice (Chivalric and Rapier)				<u>King's Round Table</u>
<u>16</u>	<u>17</u>	<u>18</u>	<u>19</u>	<u>20</u>	<u>21</u>	<u>22</u>
	7:30p Stargate's Business Meet- ing	7:00p -9:00p Scribes Guild 7:00p -9:00p 00p Barony of Stargate & Loch Soilleir Combined Fighter practice (Chivalric and Rapier)	Deadline for Submissions for the Two Towers			<u>Ansteorran He- raldic and Scribal Symposium</u>
<u>23</u>	<u>24</u>	<u>25</u>	<u>26</u>	<u>27</u>	<u>28</u>	<u>29</u>
2:00p -4:00p European Dance (NW)		7:00p -9:00p00p Barony of Stargate & Loch Soilleir Combined Fighter practice (Chivalric and Rapier)				<u>Queen's Cham- pion and Mid- summers Mas- qued Ball</u>
<u>30</u>	<u>31</u>					

Stargate Officers

Baron and Baroness

Their Excellencies
Master Ihon Vinson MacFergus
&
HL Isabeau Quiquandon
John & Terri Hirling
(713) 896-0026
bandb_stargate AT ev1.net

Seneschal

Lady Vasilisa
Lisa Kubricht
1502 Gardenia Drive
Houston, TX 77018
713-686-9883
lisa AT flyinglions.com

Herald

Dietrich Strobelbart
mka Steve Scott
281-731-7726 cell
No calls after 10:00pm, please.
dietrich_dot_strobelbart AT yahoo.com

Exchequer

Accepting applications
Brenna Clare
Penny Roberts
pennyrobertsho AT yahoo.com

Historian

Looking for a deputy
HL Annes Clotilde von Bam-
burg
Darlene Vandever
(281) 259-0322 no calls after 9
hlannes AT ev1.net

Chronicler

Signora Lisabetta daMonte
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Virtual Scribe

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281-433-0347
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Castellan

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Rapier Marshal

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Youth Rapier Marshal

Accepting applications

Equestrian Marshal

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Chirurgion

Lady Annalies Pferdehirt
Linda Bratina
281-858-1449 or 832-647-9971
lcai_lcai AT yahoo.com

Knight Marshal

Accepting applications
Lord Andre de St. Michel
Scott Jernigan
(713) 869-7733 (home)
(832) 524-4444 (cell)
scarhart AT chivalry.com

Waterbearer

Open - accepting applications

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