

The Newsletter

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Persephone and Hades. Tondo of an Attic red-figured kylix, ca. 440-430 BC. Said to be from Vulci.

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Published on behalf of the shire of Falcon's Keep and
student members of Falcon's Gate

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Submissions are accepted until the 15th of the previous month, preferably as a Word document inserted into an email. Send to both the Chronicler and Deputy Chronicler. The last Thursday of the previous month is the mailing date. Submissions are the property of the contributor and may not be used without permission of the author or artist. Contact the Chronicler for further information.

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Greetings from the Seneschal



Greetings to all!

Haire Affaire is once again just around the corner. Hopefully the weather will cooperate and we will have a great turnout. Their Majesties are planning to attend. The cooking moot will be on February 7, at Mistress Ealasaid and Baron Gutorm's home. Please come early if you would like to come and help.

Yours in service,

Lady Emelye Ambroys, channeling Lady Arianna

Cover Story:

The story of her abduction is traditionally referred to as the [Rape of Persephone...](#) She was innocently picking flowers with some [nymphs](#) in a field in [Enna](#) when Hades came to abduct her, bursting through a cleft in the earth. Later, the nymphs were changed by Demeter into the [Sirens](#) for not having interfered. Life came to a standstill as the devastated [Demeter](#), goddess of the [Earth](#), searched everywhere for her lost daughter. [Helios](#), the sun, who sees everything, eventually told Demeter what had happened.

Finally, Zeus, pressed by the cries of the hungry people and by the other deities who also heard their anguish, forced Hades to return Persephone. However, it was a rule of the Fates that whoever consumed food or drink in the Underworld was doomed to spend eternity there. Before Persephone was released to [Hermes](#), who had been sent to retrieve her, Hades tricked her into eating [pomegranate](#) seeds, (six, seven, eight, or perhaps four according to the telling) which forced her to return to the underworld for a season each year. In some versions, [Ascalaphus](#) informed the other deities that Persephone had eaten the pomegranate seeds. When Demeter when and her daughter were united, the Earth flourished with vegetation and color, but for some months each year, Persephone returned to the underworld, the earth once again became a barren realm. This is an [origin story](#) to explain the seasons .

The Chronicler's Quill

Saludos hasta el folk
de la Comarca de la Falcon's Keep
(Greetings unto the folk of the Shire of
Falcon's Keep),



Anticipation is building for the Haire Affaire. I feel I can enjoy it more, now that I know what it is all about. It is a bright point in an otherwise cold winter. Hopefully it's sunny and warm that day! I know that all of the effort put into the planning, and the cooking, all of this will make this year's Haire Affaire an event to be talked about throughout the year.

On a more pensive note, this will be Lady Eve of Lynn's last monthly column. After many years of reviewing historical fiction, she will be stepping down. She will be informing us of any new fiction of interest, however.

And how about you? Have an interest in a craft? Perhaps medieval military strategy? Would you like to write about it? Just send me a missive; I will be happy to include it in the pages of the Mewsletter...

Salud!

Pedro de Benavides

Anachronists Book Review:

Lady Eve of Lynn

I first spotted Sharon Kay Penman's; *Devil's Brood* "the third book in the series that deals with the reign Henry II." I found it listed in a Flyer shortly after I rejoined The History Book Club a few years back. I had thought it would soon be seen in my local library. It still has not made it. I probably could have gotten the book through library alone, but never remembered to order it.

This last Christmas I received a gift card from The Book Finders, where I often shop. The fine staff was able to find me a less expensive soft cover of the title. I have a hard cover copy of *When Christ and His Saints Slept*. This is a first edition published in 1995. I lucked out on that one: my lord had picked it up at a Silent Auction he knew it would be just my cup of tea.

I read the second book *Time and Chance* as soon as it hit the New Bookshelf; that was in 2002. The *Devil's Brood* was first published in 2008. Penman has written a medieval mystery series that follows the time span that is covered in the trilogy.

In that series are: *Queens Man*, 1996; *Cruel as the Grave*, 1998; *Dragons Lair*, 03 and *Prince of Darkness*, 05.

Other books she has written about the Plantagenet offspring are: *The Sunne in Splendor*, Richard the Lion Heart; *Here be Dragons*, *Falls the Shadow*, *The Reckoning* are, in turn: John and his descendents Henry and Edward.

Although Penman takes a few liberties with the known history, she is easier to read than a straight history. At least she admits to her reinventing of history; some authors don't bother.

It has become very difficult for me to get around so this will be my last monthly column. I have written something for the Mewsletter monthly with few exceptions since the January 1995. If I find something new I will continue to contribute, But not on a monthly basis.

As Ever Eve

Ask Alex

What is the A & S 50 Challenge?

A & S 50 is an SCA wide challenge to celebrate the 50th year of the SCA. The SCA will celebrate 50 years on May 1, 2015, so we have a bit of time, but now is a good time to start. It is a personal challenge, - not a competitive one- a chance to develop new skills or improve existing ones. There are three types of challenges to choose from.

The Depth Challenge is 50 items of one type of skill or activity. It is a way to advance your skills in your chosen area, or a chance to attempt more advanced techniques. This may take your skill and knowledge to new levels. The Breadth Challenge is to do, make or learn 50 different things. It may be something completely new or a variation on something you have already done. The third area is the Persona Challenge. This would entail making or learning 50 different things your persona would have known or have.

The challenge began 1 May AS 42 (2007). It is not too late to join in, since it goes until the anniversary celebration in AS 50. The type of challenge you undertake is up to you, or it may be a combination of all three! This is a personal journey, there are no 'points' or 'winners'. You decide if you have met your goals. There is an on-line community to register if you decide to participate. There is also a Yahoo group that has updates & resources. The home page for the challenge is located at: <http://artsandsciences50.org/>.

When I first heard about this, I got very excited. Now that I have some spare time on my hands, I want to work on my version of this challenge. I knew right away I wanted to do the depth challenge, but I recently decided to add a bit of a twist. As I work on my challenge, I want to take other people with me. This can take two forms, one form is to teach other people the things I know, the other is to learn something new along with other people. Since the challenge began in 2007, my first 'entry' is the class I taught at Poor Man's. My second is the knot work class I will be teaching at Haire Affaire. I would also like to teach people who are interested, how to do tablet weaving and whip cording. I was thinking of doing these things after a moot or maybe on a work night.

Some of the things I would like to learn are casting, calligraphy, illumination, embroider a period piece, make glass beads & do some blacksmithing. My list will grow as time goes on. Some of these things we have people in the Shire that I would love to learn from. Other areas I have the books to get started. Some things I will need to get outside assistance. I hope I can persuade some of you to come with me.

The motto of the challenge is: "to learn and share of our learning - to create and share of our creation". I can't wait to get started!

Greetings unto the shire from Pedro Benavides.

The following missive is the minutes from the minutes of the meeting at Alessandro's house.

Seneschal: Insurance for Haire Affaire has been sent in. (At the meeting, it was uncertain whether Their Royal Majesties would be attending; it has since been confirmed.)

Exchequer: No report presented; it was noted that a payment for the website was needed.

Knight's Marshall: The practice at Five Stools was successful, with two gentles expressing interest in joining.

Marshall of Fence: Discussed material needs, specifically gloves and tunics with hoods. Also, after informing the moot of the state of helms, it was voted to repair helms in need of it.

Marshall Of Arts and Sciences: Falcon's Gate members would be making site tokens. A February 11 work moot was agreed upon for this.

Chronicler: Discussion of available printer operation, and compensation for Printer ink.

Haire Affaire: It was noted the ad for the HA appeared in the Northwatch.

Setup is to begin @ 7 PM Friday. Lady Emelye will call for site opening.

After some discussion of last year's experiences with the Troll, it was agreed to move it to the "side" door, as it was noted that it was the door used the most.

In a related discussion, the storage location for the Shire events would be moved to a site in Wisconsin Rapids. A January 24 date was agreed on for cleaning and moving.

Feast: Dishes that were to be served at Feast were brought by Ealasaid for the moot to sample. It was decided that no kitchen work would be necessary on Friday before HA.

A special thank you goes to Lord Alessandro and the Lady for accommodating the moot with short notice.

Manuscript of the Life Persona of Lord Torgeir, Norseman—Freeman.

Lord Robert the Mailer (our shire web minister) has created a wonderful new location (link) for Arts and Science submittals on the shire website.

This could be for pictures of particularly handsome or unique A&S items, songs, ballads, recipes, or manuscripts.

My manuscript of my full life's persona as Lord Torgeir, Norseman - Freeman, is now posted on that site. I hope all take time to read what I have labored on for some time. Lady Eve of Lynn gave it very good reviews in previous newsletters and encouraged me to try and make it available to others.

CALENDAR**February 2010**

- 13 Historic Haire Affaiure [Falcons Keep-Wausau WI]
- 13-14 Une Fete d'Amour [Midewinde-Minot ND]
- 13 Hertzkreig [Syaty Sebesta-Vermillion SD]
- 20 Fighter School [Jararvellir-Jefferson WI]
- 27 Bardic Madness [Windhave-DePere WI]
- 27 Lupercalia [Rivenwood Tower-Nicollet MN]

March 2010

- 14-21 Gulf Wars

April 2010

- 10 Spring Coronation [Caer Anterth Mawr-Waukesha WI]
- 17 Provost Challenge [Coldedernhale-Pierre SD]
- 24 The Armored Combat Offering
[Nordskogen-St Paul MN]
- 24 Feast of Fools [Korsvag-Fargo ND]

May 2010

- 8 Spring Crown Tournament [Dreibrucken (Wilton ND)]
- 13-15 Quest for Camelot [Schattentor-Nemo SD]
- 15 Beltaine by the Bay [Darkstone-Mason WI]

June 2010

- 4-6 Mermaids Attack [Turm am See-Valders WI]
- 17-20 Rabid Yale Hunt [Coldedernhale-White River SD]
- 24-27 Moorish Tavern [Midewinde-Bottineau ND]

July 2010

- 8-11 Warriors and Warlords XVII [Nordskogen-WI]
- 16-19 Pirates, Knaves and Idiots V [Noiregarde- WY]

Be sure to go to: www.northshield.org/Events/ for a full listing of future events.

Haire Affaire Cooking Moot
Sunday February 7, 2010
At the home of Ealasaid and Baron Guttorm
C3808 Heartland Hills Road in Stratford
715-687-4870
Cooking 9 am until done
Meeting 1pm with potluck to follow

Directions:

From the North and East take 153 toward Stratford, Turn left onto H (gravel road). At the stop sign turn right onto Balsam. Cross bridge and shortly afterward turn left onto Heartland Hills Road. When you reach the fork it does not matter which way you go as we are at the bottom of the loop in a cedar house with red garage doors.

From the South take 97 North toward Stratford. Turn right on C toward Rozellville. In town turn left onto M and drive to where it takes a sudden turn to the right, then continue straight onto Balsam (gravel road) and continue about a mile. Turn right onto Heartland Hills. When you reach the fork it does not matter which way you go as we are at the bottom of the loop in a cedar house with red garage doors.

Web pages of interest:

www.sca.org | Also on Facebook groups:
www.northshield.org | Falcon's Gate at UWSP
www.falconskeep.org | Falcon's Keep Rapier Fighters
www.uwsp.edu/stuorg/falcon/index.htm

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