

The Mewsletter

September 2010 AS XLV,
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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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Greetings from the Seneschal



Greetings,

I would like to thank all who attended Poor Man's. The event went very well. I would especially like to thank those who helped set up in the rain on Friday and those who stayed on Sunday to help with clean up.

At the August moot we were approached to sponsor Northshield Rapier Academy. The event is a weekend of classes all about the art of Rapier. It will be held at White Beach Lake Resort in Montello on October 1, 2, & 3. The site has been graciously donated by Don Michael St Christian, so there is no site cost. Falcon's Keep was asked to lend its name in sponsoring the event as the Montello area does not have a local group. If you are interested in learning more about the event, please visit the link from the Falcon's Keep page. It should be a fun time, so please attend if you are able.

At the September moot we will be making paper. Jennifer of Falcon's Keep will be teaching. The moot will be at the home of Mary and Alessandro.

Again, a thank you to all who helped make Poor Man's a success. Now to focus on Haire Affaire for next year. Haire Affaire's theme will be Liars, Cheats, and Thieves, This is Not the Haire Affaire you are Looking For. It will be held on April 2, 2011. Autocrat of the event is Jennifer of Falcon's Keep.

Arianna

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)

Another Poorman's is in the books. This being my first, it was interesting. I learned some new things, and had fun. The classes that I attended were awesome. Reading Shakespeare was awesome. And the get together later on was great. I found it interesting that I was wakened by a storm and Emelye was not...

There is so much more that I enjoyed; but I can sum it up simply: I am looking forward to next year.

In other news, I was made aware recently of a new networking website for SCA members, scacommunity.com. Some are beginning to dabble; it may become more of a draw in the future. I'll keep an eye on this.

Don't forget: our shire is hosting Northshield Rapier Academy, in the first weekend of October. I will be unable to be there, due to prior commitments, but I am sure our shire will shine. And I will meet this Mateo of whom so many have spoken at some other time...

Atentamente en el Servicio,

Pedro de Benavides

Cover Story:

This was taken during the fashion show at Poorman's Pennsic. Marie Dudely is pictured wearing a dress that is said to be a reproduction from the reign of Elizabeth I, complete with hoop skirt. Many thanks to those that participated in the fashion show!

Also, you will notice that throne in the background. It was built in two days by Rogan specifically for the event.

Web pages of interest:

www.sca.org

www.northshield.org

www.falconskeep.org

www.uwsp.edu/stuorg/falcon/index.htm

Facebook Groups:

Falcon's Gate at UWSP

Falcon's Keep Rapier Fighters

Don't forget to check out our Yahoo group!

Minutes from the moot held on August 22, 2010.

The moot was held at the home of Lady Alex & Janvier.

We did an evaluation of Poor Man's. Merchants were indoors this year; however, they will be outside next year and moved back to where the quiet camping was this year. The quiet camping will be moving back closer to the loud camping, and there will be clear delineations of Party, Loud, and Quiet Areas. Food at the Lions' counter was a problem as they were only opened for very limited times. This was a subject of some discussion, as apparently the Lions may not allow outside food vendors. We are going to see what we can do about this for next year.

The fighters liked the area they were given and there was plenty of room. After some discussion, it was decided to allow them to remain in the same area next year.

We are going to be making signs with pamphlets to put up by the equestrian area, by archery and thrown weapons (when applicable), as well as Rapier and Heavy Fighting areas for populace education.

A Regency court was held at the event. Sir Roisin acted as regent. Having learned of this in the last minute, the throne she used was built in two days by Lord Rogan. VIVANT! It is very nice and fully collapsible and storable.

Publicity was a problem. It was noted that there were several major events in the area at the same time. The consensus was that we need to get the word out in a better manner. We discussed putting up more fliers, and contacting the local radio stations. It was also suggested that, at sometime in July, this should start. Also, at the event itself, more people will be needed at Troll, as well as a separate "Info Point". These cannot be held at the same location, as the populace tends to "walk by" the Info Point at Troll.

We discussed having evening activities on Saturday so maybe more people would camp the evening and/or remain on site. Maybe a dance or a bardic circle. Also, while there are no plans currently of relocating, it was suggested that other sites be looked at for Poorman's.

We will be holding a demonstration at Kelly Castle again this year. It will be on Saturday, September 18. We have done this for several years, and it is lots of fun.

The next moot will be at Mary & Alessandro's home in Wausau on Sunday, September 19. This is the day after the demonstration and is also National Talk like a Pirate Day. We will be making paper after the business meeting. The October moot will be on Sunday, October 17 at the home of Arianna & Rogan.

Alessandro is now a Marshall in Training for Thrown Weapons. VIVANT!

Yours in service,

Lady Emelye Ambroys

During the August Moot, a proposal was put forward to sponsor this year's Northshield rapier academy. The proposal was voted on, and passed unanimously.

The event will be held on October 1, 2, & 3, 2010 at White Lake Beach Resort in Montello, Wisconsin.

This is an event which will focus on the art of Rapier combat, including classes, tournaments, and practices.

Cost for spending the night at the resort is \$15 per person per night. There are hotel rooms, cabins, or apartments, and these will all be shared accommodations. If you would prefer private accommodations, there will be an additional fee (availability will dictate if this is possible). For more information on the event, please visit <http://nra.kimricher.com>. There is also a link from www.falconskeep.org.

| | |
|----------------------------|----------------|
| Autocrat of the event: | Sibyl Sevenoke |
| Dean (class organizer): | Sibyl Sevenoke |
| Rapier Marshall in Charge: | Robert Talbot |

September Moot

Sunday September 19

Lady Mary and Lord Alessandro's

104 Florence St, Rothschild

Moot at 1pm, potluck to follow

Directions to the home of Lord Alessandro and Lady Mary:

Take I39 to the cedar creek exit (185) turn right at the bottom of the ramp onto Old Business Hwy 51. Follow this approximately 1.5 miles to Florence St. (There is an old closed gas station on the corner, if you've gone to Citgo you've gone one block too far.) Take a right onto Florence St. We are on the left, the second house on the second block. The address is 104 Florence St., Rothschild

If you have any trouble finding it call Lord Alessandro on his cell phone for directions. The # is: 297-0718

Eyeglasses in Medieval Times

By Pedro de Benavides

One of the first questions I had coming into the SCA was about glasses: could I wear them? Generally, I was told that it was possible to do so, though some preferred to wear contact lenses to appear more accurate. I became curious as to how much glasses really were “period”. The answer surprised me somewhat.

The first reference seems to be about the Roman Emperor Nero wearing “glasses” with emeralds as the lenses. These are more like sunglasses, but otherwise not useful.

An important invention was the “reading stone”, around 1000: a portion of a glass sphere which would magnify images when placed on them. It was the first magnifying glass.

Later on, improvements were apparently made to reading stones, no doubt because one had to lift the glass to turn a page to read it. But there was little record of any improvements for some time. That is, until the 1280’s. “Around 1284 in Italy, Salvino D’Armate is credited with inventing the first wearable eye glasses. The earliest pictorial evidence for the use of eyeglasses, however, is Tommaso da Modena’s 1352 portrait of the cardinal Hugh de Provence reading in a scriptorium. Another early example would



be a depiction of eyeglasses found north of the Alps in an altarpiece of the church of Bad Wildungen, Germany, in 1403.

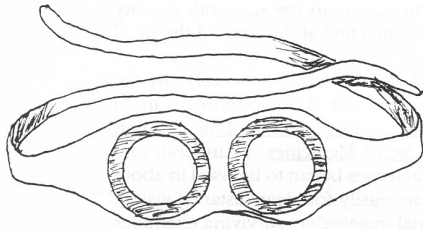
Many theories abound for whom should be credited for the invention of traditional eyeglasses. In 1676, Francesco Redi, a professor of medicine at the University of Pisa, wrote that he possessed a 1289 manuscript whose author complains that he would be unable to read or write were it not for the recent invention of glasses. He also produced a record of a sermon given in 1305, in which the speaker, a Dominican monk named Fra Giordano da Rivalto, remarked that glasses had been invented less than twenty years previously, and that he had met the inventor. Based on this evidence, Redi credited another Dominican monk, Fra Alessandro da Spina of Pisa, with the re-invention of

glasses after their original inventor kept them a secret, a claim contained in da Spina’s obituary record.”

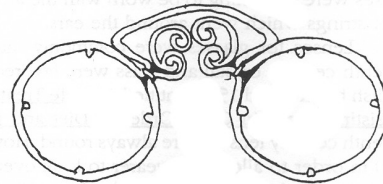
So, although there is some speculation, it is generally agreed that the first working eyeglasses were developed in Italy between 1280 and 1300.

The design of the first glasses were quite simple. In short, they appeared to be two small magnifying glasses joined at the end of the handle. The joint thus formed would be above the bridge of the nose. It would also be the place for the user to hold them in place. Strings or ribbon could be attached to the frame if the wearer desired. Unfortunately, it was not for another 400 years that metal bows would be attached to hold the frame to the face.

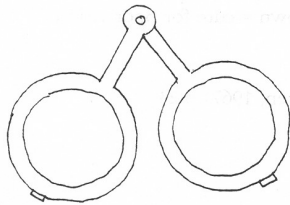
By the early 1400's, the use of glasses had spread to France, Germany, and England. The Dominicans and Franciscans, in particular, spread and encouraged their use among their members. And, as it is today, the higher the price, the fancier the glasses.



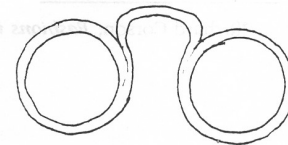
Glasses of leather and horn c.1583, Dresden.



Brass glasses with lenses intact. 1500-1600.



Spectacle frames of horn c.1352, Italian.



French spectacle frames c.1403.

Sources: Wikipedia, "Glasses"; Ilardi, Vincent:

Renaissance vision from spectacles to telescopes, Memoirs of the American Philosophical Society held at Philadelphia for promoting useful knowledge; v.259

Pictures: "Spectacles in the Middle Ages and the Renaissance", Doug Strong; Wikipedia, "Detail of portrait of Hugh de Provence, 1352."

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

(all events are as XLV unless otherwise noted)

September, 2010

- Fall Coronation** Saturday September 11, 2010
Shire of Orlova Dolina (Bemidji MN)
- Hrothgar's Hall** Friday September 17-19, 2010
Shire of Trewint (Cavour SD)
- Regional fighter practice and Moot** Saturday September 18, 2010
Shire of Inner Sea (Cloquet MN)
- Windhaven's Fall Fest** Friday September 24-26, 2010
Barony of Windhaven (Oconto WI)

October, 2010

- Northshield Rapier Academy Friday October 1-3, 2010**
Shire of Falcon's Keep (Montello WI)
- Novices, Neophytes & Knaves** Saturday October 2, 2010
Shire of Turm an dem See (Sheboygan WI)
- Fall Crown Tourney** Saturday October 9, 2010
Shire of Silfren Mere (Plainview MN)
- The Youth Get a Castle, the Adults Get a Tent!** Friday October 15-17, 2010
Barony of Caer Antherth Mawr (Kiel WI)
- Middle Kingdom Cooks Collegium** Saturday October 23, 2010
Kingdom of Middle (Roselle IL)
- Brrr... A Dern Cold Day in Hale Resurrected!** Saturday October 23, 2010
Shire of Coldedernhale (White River SD)

November, 2010

- Early Period Symposium** Saturday November 6, 2010
Barony of Jararvellir (Madison WI)
- Feast of St Catherine's** Saturday November 6, 2010
Shire of Western Keep (Volga SD)
- Stellar University of Northshield (SUN)** Saturday November 13, 2010
Barony of Nordskogen (Coon Rapids MN)
- 'till We Meade Again** Saturday November 20, 2010
Village of Heorotdenu (Brandon MB)

December, 2010

- Feast of Boar's Head XXXIV: The Thistle and the Rose**
Saturday December 4, 2010
Barony of Caer Antherth Mawr (West Bend WI)

January, 2011

- 12th Night - The Musical** Saturday January 15, 2011
Tree Girt Sea (Midrealm) (Chicago IL)
- 12th Night** Saturday January 15-16, 2011
Barony of Nordskogen (Bloomington MN)
- It's Only a Flesh Wound** Saturday January 29, 2011

Officers of Falcon's Keep

Seneschal: Arianna da Lucca (MKA Dona Panter)
 551 13th St S Wisconsin Rapids, WI 54494 715-213-2069
 arianna_rogan@yahoo.com

Deputy Seneschal: vacant

Pursuivant: Lord Grimr inn Harfagri (MKA Dennis Russell)
 851 East Rd, Rib Lake, WI 54470
 715-427-0402 grimr_fairhair@yahoo.com

Deputy Pursuivant: vacant

Exchequer: Lady Mary Of Falcon's Keep (MKA Mary Welker)
 104 N. Florence St. Rothschild WI 715-297-1230
 venom@charter.net

Deputy Exchequer: : vacant

Knights Marshall: Lord Justinian of Cherson (MKA Martin Wissmueller)
 1307 E 19th St, Marshfield, WI 54449
 justinian@tznet.com 715-387-3356

Marshall of Fence: Lord Vincent Palmer (MKA Conan James)
 630 Kickbush St, Wausau, WI 54403
 nomed72@charter.net

Marshall of Archery: vacant

Minister of Arts & Sciences: Lady Emelye Ambroys
 (MKA Tabitha Forman)
 620 N Ash Ave, Marshfield, WI 54449
 ans@falconskeep.org

Deputy Minister of Arts & Sciences: THL Alexandra Wasserman
 (MKA Terri Harteau)

Minister of Youth: vacant

Chronicler: Pedro de Benavides (MKA Bart Forman)
 620 N Ash Ave, Marshfield, WI 54449
 otrable@gmail.com

Deputy Chronicler: vacant

Chatelaine: Marie Dudely
 615 N Ash Ave, Marshfield, WI 54449
 715-387-4203 azeidler03@yahoo.com

Deputy Chatelaine: vacant

Web Minister: Lord Robert the Mailer (MKA Robert Brainard)
 4530 77th St S, Wisconsin Rapids, WI 54494
 715-213-0924 robertb11777@gmail.com

Deputy Web Minister: vacant

The Mewsletter
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