



# the skein

wherein ARE WOUND  
the JARARVELLIR JARNS



The Skein  
Paul Goldschmidt  
5625 Highland Way  
Middleton WI 53562



MARCH 2009 A.S. XLiii



## BARONESS:

Her Excellency Eithni ingen Talorgain (*Jean Hetzel*) 4934  
 Goldfinch Dr, Madison WI 53714, 628-7782, 226-0846,  
 baronesseithni@yahoo.com

## BARONIAL OFFICERS



**Archery Captain:** Lady Jois Corbet (*Deena Thompson*) 226-0846,  
 corvusjoyous@gmail.com



**Chatelaine:** Eliane Halevy (*Jennifer Friedman*) 238-7627,  
 jennifer-friedman@sbcglobal.net



**Chirurgion:** Lady Fiona (*Lyn Andreasen*) 445-4622,  
 tskrangsangel@lycos.com

**Chronicler:** Paul Wickenden of Thanet (*Paul Goldschmidt*) 827-  
 6891 goldschp@tds.net

**Demo Coordinator:** Annora le Spindlere (*Vicki Spindler*) 835-2617,  
 democoordinator@jararvellir.org

**Directory:** Cwenthryth wine (*Toni Sumner-Beebe*) 298-0918  
 cwen@uwalumni.com



**Exchequer:** Lady Tatiana McGowan (*Dawn Brueggemann*) 989-  
 493-9019, exchequer@jararvellir.org

**Historian:** Paul Wickenden of Thanet (*Paul Goldschmidt*) 827-6891,  
 goldschp@tds.net



**Knight Marshal:** Roisin igen Ailill (*Rebecca Heidelberg*) 244-4621,  
 roisin106@aol.com



**Minister of Arts & Sciences:** Ermina (*Bettymae B. Doyle*) 338-5897,  
 bettymae.doyle@charter.net



**Pursuivant:** Kristyan Applegate (*Kristen Bird*) 715-760-0603,  
 kristyanapplegate@gmail.com

**Rapier Marshal:** Cosimo de Cellini (*Joe Ordaz*) 274-0997,  
 jordaz@netzero.com



**Seneschal:** Ivan Matfeevich Rezansky (*John Beebe*) 298-0918,  
 rezansky@sbcglobal.net

**UW Reservations:** Amy of Jararvellir (*Amy Dee*) 715-559-3653,  
 uwreservations@jararvellir.org



**Web Minister:** James (*James Krot*) 989-493-1953,  
 jamesjkrot@yahoo.com

Baronial Mailing Address: PO Box 1002, Madison WI 53701-1002

Baronial Web Page: <http://www.jararvellir.org>

Baronial Email list: [jararvellir@minstrel.com](mailto:jararvellir@minstrel.com)

**LEGALESE:** This is *The Skein*, a publication of the Barony of Jararvellir in the Kingdom of Northshield of the Society for Creative Anachronism, Inc. *The Skein* is available from Paul Goldschmidt, 5625 Highland Way, Middleton WI 53562. It is not a corporate publication of the Society for Creative Anachronism, Inc. and does not delineate SCA policies.

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**SUBMISSIONS & SUBSCRIPTIONS:** Subscriptions for 2009 are free, but there is a recommended donation of \$1 per issue to cover postage and copying (Full year = \$12). Submissions will be edited for grammar and spelling. Anything that is in poor taste or violates SCA publication guidelines or copyright law will not be published. *The Skein* is published monthly on the first Wednesday after General Meeting. The submission deadline for each issue is the Friday before the General Meeting of the publishing month. Submissions are accepted in any (legible!) format and via e-mail. Please also include any publication restrictions beyond those of this newsletter.

**ART CREDITS:** The cover art is unattributed and taken from an unknown antique book, reproduced at the Karen's Whimsy website (<http://karenswhimsy.com>).

## CANTON OF COILLE STOIRMEIL

(Monroe & Juneau County, WI)

<http://www.coillestoirmeilonline.org>

Seneschal: Matthias of Rolling Oaks (Matt Schwall)

23149 State Hwy 21, Tomah WI 54660

[limos112@hotmail.com](mailto:limos112@hotmail.com), (608) 372-5445

Monthly Meeting: First or second Sunday of the month at the Nest in Tomah

# BARONIAL MEETINGS, GUILDS, AND CONTACTS

*Please call the contact person to verify when & where an activity is held!*

## **Archery Practice Sun 12-2PM, Wed. 6:30-9PM. UW Stock Pavilion**

Contact: Lady Jois (Deena) 226-0846

## **Armoured Combat Wed. 7-10PM, Sunday 2-4PM. UW Stock Pavilion**

Contact: Roisin igen Ailill (Rebecca Heidelberger) 244-4621, roisin106@aol.com

## **Armormaking Tuesdays 7PM. 3314 Ridgeway Avenue**

Contact: Master Giles (Ed Gilbert) 244-2845, horsebows@mail.madtown.net

## **Bardic Arts** (not currently active)

Contact: Vacant

## **Brewing & Vintning Third Monday.** Various locations (call for info)

Contact: Robert the Stout (Robert Trefz) 441-6150, rtrefz@tds.net

## **Calligraphy & Illumination Tuesdays 7PM.** Call for location

Contact: Lady Eile (Alicia Cronk) 250-4595, leleth.faery@yahoo.com

## **Clothier's Guild Alternate Mondays, 7PM.** Contact for location and dates.

Contact: Iohanna (A. Rebekah Turner) 957-9072, arebekah@gmail.com

## **Cordial Guild First Tuesday 7:30PM** Contact for location

Contact: Lady Cianna Kharleen (Carrie Wilkey) 846-8008, cianna@teadame.com

## **Equestrian** (not currently active but information available)

Contact: Alissende de Montfaucon (Tammy Thompson) 212-5433, alissende@centurytel.net

## **European Dance Sundays 3PM.** UW Campus—check TITU for room.

Contact: Lady Genevieve Elisabeth Dumas (Jenny Becker) 206-9330, kathrynscurly98@aol.com

## **Fletching Fridays 6:30PM (call ahead) 5418 Imagine**

Contact: Lord Toussaint de Caluwe (Tyson Patterson) 838-4092

## **Fool's Guild Alternate Wednesday 6:30PMish, UW Stock Pavilion.**

Contact: Lady Aliénor Hathaway (Mariessa Dobrick) 658-8941, reesa83@aol.com

## **General Business Meeting Usually 1st Sunday, 7PM, Edgewood College,**

**Predolin Hall — call to verify meeting date and location.**

Contact: Ivan Matfeevich Rezansky (John Beebe) 298-0918, rezansky@sbcglobal.net

## **Instrumental Music Mondays 7PM-Beginners, 8PM-Advanced.**

UW Campus—Check TITU

Contact: Lord Nikolaus der Ausländer (Clint Hotaling) 846-0859, n\_auslander@hotmail.com

## **Middle Eastern Dance and Drumming Wednesday 8:15pm, UW Stock Pavilion.**

Contact: Lady Kenya (Heather Cushing) 298-0103, evilkenya@tds.net

## **Needlearts Tuesdays 7:30.** Call for location

Contact: Lady Helena Caxton (Sara Andrews) 414-507-5872, lostvirtue76@yahoo.com

## **Pottery Guild First or second Monday (alternating with Clothier's), Fired Up Pottery.**

Contact: Annora (Wendy Nelson) 438-6530, wendybyrd42@yahoo.com

## **Rapier Practice Wednesday 6:30-9PM, UW Stock Pavilion**

Contact: Cosimo de Cellini (Joe Ordaz) 274-0997, jordaz@netzero.com

## **Social Practice Wednesday 9PMish.** Call to verify location

Contact: HE Eithni (Jean Hetzel) 628-7782

## **Thrown Weapons Sundays Noon, Second Wednesdays 7PM, UW Stock Pavilion.**

Contact: John "Jack" Bartholomew of Flanders (David Thompson-Hall) 257-1082

## **Vocal Music Thursdays 7 PM** UW Campus—Check TITU

Contact: Lady Aliénor Hathaway (Mariessa Dobrick) 658-8941, reesa83@aol.com

# EPISTLE FROM THE BARONESS

Greetings unto the Populace of Jararvellir from Eithni ingen Talorgain!

January and February have sped by, and though March may still be within the depths of winter, we are beginning to pull away from the worst of the season. The company clearly could not have been better than these last two months. At the end of January, Jararvellir hosted It's Only a Flesh Wound, a fighter-centric event that drew fighters from across the kingdom and even from lands beyond our borders. Special thanks to Their Highnesses who were instrumental in the planning and execution of the event even after His Highness won Crown Tourney last fall. Thanks also to Kristyan and the other staff members that made the event possible – I heard many words of exhausted praise from the attendees. The following week our Canton of Coille Stoirmeil held their That Moot Thingy / Rumble in the Forest event in Tomah. It was a laidback event, and Her Majesty Æsa and I had the opportunity to watch the fighting, enjoy the lovely lunch, peruse the silent auction and the merchants and while away a few happy hours sewing. There was no Baronial Court at either event, in part because of a lack of award recommendations. Please take a look around, think on who is deserving of recognition, and send in an award recommendation to myself or Their Majesties, as is appropriate. May Day will be upon us soon...

While April may be a bit early for Spring in these Northern lands, it will bring a season of change for the Kingdom. On April 4<sup>th</sup>, Jararvellir will be hosting Coronation at the Fireman's Park in Waterloo. Please join us for the last court of Their Majesties Æsa and Raito and the Coronation of Their Highnesses Stephen and Ailleanne. This will be a special celebration, as both incoming and outgoing sets of royalty are from the event host group – there will be plentiful opportunities for volunteering as well as celebration, I am sure, so please contact the event autocrat or the feast steward if you are able to offer assistance. Further details will be available at: <http://www.jararvellir.org/springcoronation2009.php>

And, as the seasons must change for the world and the Kingdom, so must they change for the Barony as well. It is our custom that every three years a poll be held to advise the Crown as to the people's preference to who should sit the Baronial high seat. It is a weighty

position, one that comes with more work than glory, and yet I do not find myself tired of the role. It has been my great honor to serve the Barony over the last thirteen years since I came to these lands, most especially over the last five years that I have had the joy of being the Lady of Jararvellir... And still, I find that as time passes, my steps grow slower and the years fly ever more quickly. In my heart, I am not quite ready to step down from this post and yet, I believe that time has indeed come. I would rather step down while it is still a bitter-sweet choice than wait until the coronet has become a heavy thing, rather depart the high seat with a wistful glance than with sighs of relief. My term will not conclude until the snows return next winter, but soon the Barony will begin the business of ratifying the Baronial Charter, nominating candidates, and polling to advise the Crown. Such things will be discussed at General Meeting and, while much will undoubtedly be discussed on the Jara List, all official information will appear here in The Skein. Please attend to these proceedings, as they will shape the Barony in the coming years. If there is some gentle you would like to see as the next Baron/ess, please tell them so and why. If you yourself are interested in the position, please do speak with me about it so that I may answer any questions you have. It is a demanding job, but one that is rewarding, inspiring, and awesome. My time as Baroness has been so very special to me and has brought me great happiness. I look forward to enjoying this last year with all of you, my beloved Populace, as we look to the selection of my heir and the future of Jararvellir.

Yours Ever in Fishy Service,

eithni

## MARCH GENERAL MEETING MINUTES

*In attendance: Marian Elizabeth Wollenschlager, Paul Wickenden, Ivan Rezansky, Tatiana McGowan, Eithni, James, Ermina Sautere, Iohann Carracci, Cosimo, Kristyan Applegate, James Applegate, Stephen, Duncan Mac Pherson, Seonaid, Reinholdt, Valamer, Gisele, Æsa, Guillaume, Sile, and Josceline.*

## EVENTS

### OUT AND ABOUT

For more information visit the individual group's website (accessed from <http://www.northshield.org/Events/List.aspx>).

#### March 2009

28—Haire Affaire of the Heart,  
**Falcon's Keep** (Wausau WI)

#### April 2009

4—Spring Coronation,  
**Jararvellir** (Waterloo WI)

#### May 2009

16—Beltaine by the Bay,  
**Darkstone** (Ashland WI)  
29-31—Mermaid's XVI—Sweet 16  
Coming Out Party, **Turm an dem See** (Valders WI)

## LOCAL NEWS

### STOCK PAVILION SCHEDULE

We have the Stock Pavilion for all of our accustomed times through April, except for March 8th, 11th, 15th, and April 26th. As always, the full schedule can be found at:

<http://www.ansci.wisc.edu/Facilities/stockp.htm>

If you have not yet signed a Stock Pavilion waiver for 2009 (the individual one — not the SCA participation for multiple people) *please* do so the next time you're at practice. I'll have them out by the donation bucket (which could also use attention if you haven't given recently).

jois

Stock Pavilion Coordinator

# SPRING CORONATION

April 4th, 2009

Waterloo Firemen's Park, 500 Park Avenue, Waterloo, WI 53594  
Site is handicap accessible. Gate opens at 9:00am and closes at 10:00pm

Activities: A&S Competition, Heavy Fighting, Rapier, and Dancing



Site Fee: \$7.00 members, \$10 non-members. Feast : \$12.00

Pre-Reg ends March 25. Make checks payable to: SCA, Inc—Barony of Jararvellir. Mail to: Coronation, c/o Sara Stewart, 8247 Starr Grass Dr., Madison WI 53719

## Event Stewards:

Lady Kristyan Applegate  
(Kristen Bird)  
236 E Tryanena Park Rd Apt H  
Lake Mills WI 53551  
715-760-0603  
Kristyanapplegate@gmail.com

Mistress Seonaid inghean Dhomnaill  
(Sara Stewart)  
8247 Starr Grass Dr.  
Madison WI 53719  
608-239-6656  
Sara.seonaid@gmail.com

## Head Cook:

THL Iohanna Carracci, 608-957-9072, arebekah@gmail.com

<http://www.jararvellir.org/springcoronation2009.php>

**Chronicler (Paul):** Nothing.

**Exchequer (Tatiana):** I will be out of town from March 8th to March 20th and, while I'm handing the checkbook over to my deputy Ermina, she will be gone from March 12th to March 17th. If you need a check during this period, please plan accordingly.

**Ermina (MoAS):** It looks like I may need to relocate and so I am looking for a replacement for the MoAS position. Contact me if you are interested.

**Directory (Ermina):** I will be able to finish the directory this week and will have it out for sale on Wednesday, March 11th at the Stock Pavilion.

**Iohanna:** Nothing.

**SUN (Marian):** I would like to put forward a bid to host the Stellar University of Northshield (SUN) on November 7, 2009 at Edgewood College. We have all the usual rooms, but may also be able to get classrooms (although we won't know for certain until the Fall schedule becomes available). My proposal has a break even of 100 people. [Meeting discussed setting break even for a lower attendance and raising site fee to \$10 (\$1 of which goes to SUN). Meeting also discussed adding an age break — 9 years and younger can attend for free, 10-17 years old have \$9 site fee]. That weekend is an away game so no conflict with football parking. There are two other groups bidding on the event so we might not get the event. **[Meeting approved proposal with amended site fee schedule]**

**Northshield Rapier Academy (Guillaume and Cosimo):** The Northshield Rapier Academy is supposed to occur every February but it didn't happen this year (so far). We would like to put together a proposal to do it (probably in Fall). Does this sound like something that would be of interest? **[Meeting encouraged them to put together a proposal]**

**Historian (Josceline for Adrian):** Last month we announced that there was only one candidate for the position (Paul Wickenden) and that we would vote this month. **[Meeting approved making Paul the new historian]**



**James:** Nothing.

**Flesh Wound (Stephen):** The event went very well. We received nothing but positive feedback. Duke Paul was great and excited (he wants to come back!). The site was also pleased and has already penciled us in for next year. The event appears to fill a need.

**Flesh Wound (Kristyan):** We had 130 adults attend the event and made money. Fundraising was also successful and raised approximately \$300 for the travel fund. The site and the caterers were also pleased. Even the non-fighters had a good time!

**Coronation (Seonaid):** We would like to reallocate the funds in the budget and move \$150 of the money for decorations to site tokens (which will pay for 300 pilgrim's badges). The work will be done by Duncan. [Meeting discussed whether 300 attendees was a realistic estimate, but indicated that the decision to reallocate the budget was not subject to a vote]

**Coronation (Kristyan):** We are looking for an A&S coordinator to manage the competition (theme is "What I Did This Winter"). [Eithni volunteered to help] We also need someone to run the silent auction.

**Reinholdt:** Nothing.

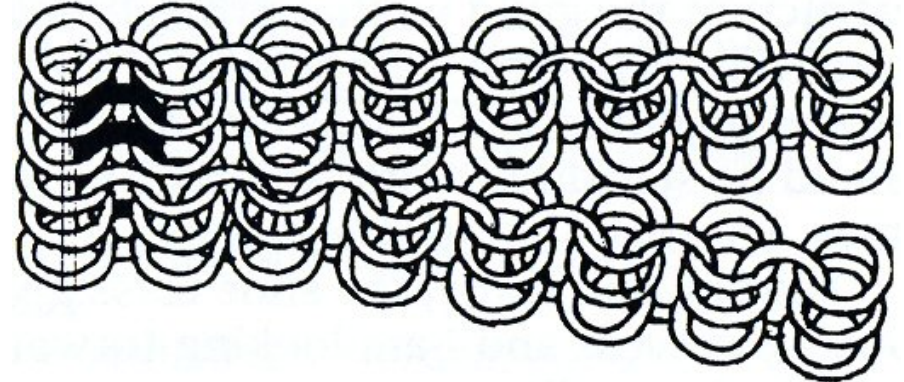
**Webminister (James):** If you need anything added to the website, please get it to me by March 6th. Otherwise, it will be a few weeks before I can get to it.

**WW (Æsa):** We are still looking to fill a few vacancies including: Resource Coordinator, Sitebook Wrangler/Schedule Coordinator (a joint position), Chirurgeon-in-Charge, Archery Coordinator (although we really want to fill this position from Nordskogen), and Waterbearing Coordinator.

**ARRG (Sile):** We are proposing doing ARRG again this year, pretty much like before. We have the same site, which incurs no cost to us. We are budgeting a total site cost of \$75 plus \$1/head (the proposed \$5 site fee will give us a 19-person break even!). The proceeds will be divvied out 50% to rapier gear and 50% to Baronial general fund (same as previous years). [Meeting approved the proposal]

**May Day (Eithni):** If anyone is interested in coordinating May Day

ringlet. Done properly, these two new rings should lie in line with the central rings of the two joined ringlets, each overlapping the next. Continue down the length of the chain, linking 4 from above with 2 from below, and then 2 above with four below, all the way down the chain. When the two chains are one, lie another chain below the strip, and repeat the process. Easy but time consuming. After connecting 10 chains of 10 ringlets you will have a large square of chain mail. Produce more squares, and you can connect them to make a wide variety of chain mail items. In a future article I will show you a few patterns.



That's it for this month. OK, Gristle, time to get back in your box.

*"Ey, boss, me hands hurt from drawin' all dese rings."*

You think that's hard, try opening and closing a thousand real links. It's enough to wear your fingers down to the bone.

*"Already there, boss."*

Shut up and get back in your box. See you all next month.

A teacher to eager young craftsmen, a helper for overworked artisans, a spy for the Forces of Chaos (oops, forget I mentioned that last bit),

**SCARAMOUCHE DELSTRAGO**

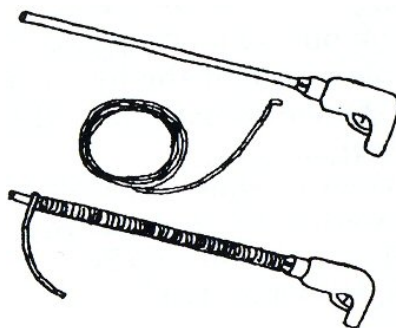
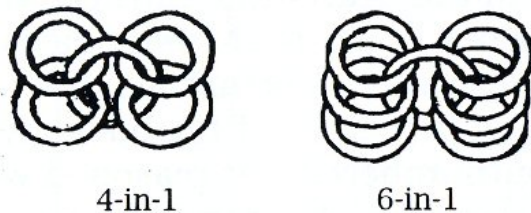
fairly thin dirk or rapier could penetrate an inch or two through a link, and if any one link should open, a large hole would appear in the mail.

The form I'm going to show you is called Six-in-One because six links loop through each link, making a tight weave that forces any incoming point through at least two of the links at the same time, greatly reducing the maximum width of any blade allowed through. With 3/8" rings, that means nothing wider than an ice pick is going to get more than a half inch in! I think you'll agree this is greatly preferable to getting a poingnaird in your kidneys.

It does, however, require a bit more work to make, and is a third again as heavy. It needs more links to make the same amount of mail as 4-in-1, and is less flexible. But if you've got the hand strength, the stamina, and the time, you're going to want 6-in-1.

Here's how to make it.

Now, when starting any type of chain mail, first you need to make the rings. Put a long, 3/8" rod into the chuck of a drill, and begin wrapping up coils of 16 gauge wire — and wear heavy gloves while doing it. Once you have the coils, use a side cutter to clip off links, being careful to separate them at the same place. After you have a big pile of rings, use two needle-nosed pliers to close half of them.



Now you're ready to start making the building blocks of chain mail — ringlets. Take an open link and thread 6 closed links onto it, then close the link. Use up all of your closed rings making these ringlets. The next step is to form these ringlets into chains. Using an open link, connect 3 of the rings from one ringlet to 3 of the rings from another, and then connect the other 3 rings on one of these to another, and so on, until you have a chain alternating 3 links thru 1. To keep your work on a manageable size, stop when you have connected 10 or so ringlets, and make more chains of the same number of ringlets.

To connect the chains, lay two side-by-side. Use an open ring to connect the lower most 4 rings of the top chain's first ringlet. Then use another open ring to connect the lower 2 rings of the top ringlet to the upper 4 of the bottom

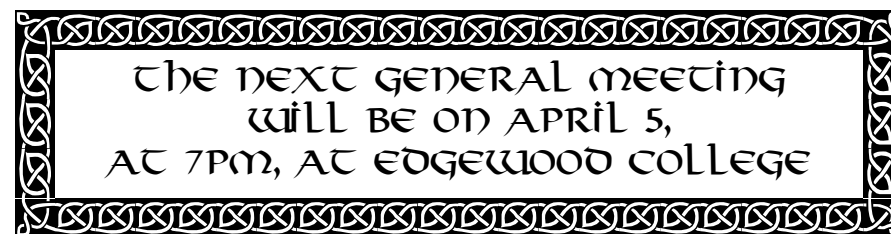
this year, please contact me. It is becoming hard to find a site with room for fighting and a place for food (and which has shelter if the weather is bad). One idea would be Burroughs Park (there is a shelter with fireplaces, but I have not checked on its availability yet). Or we could look at other parks.

**Griffin's Needle Challenge (Eithni):** I am looking for a new site for a future Griffin's Needle Challenge (last site was too big and too expensive). We will also hold it on a different weekend in any case.

**Baronial Succession (Eithni):** I am in my 6th year and have decided not to seek a third term. If you are interested in the position, feel free to talk to me about what is involved. Next month we will be looking at (and ratifying) the Baronial Charter and setting up the timetable for the process. The actual changeover would happen towards the end of the year (perhaps at Boar's Head or at one of the events we are hosting).

**Chatelaine (Ivan for Wren):** Last month, Wren nominated Eliane to be the next Chatelaine. There were no other candidates. At that meeting, we announced that the vote would take place today. [Meeting approved Eliane as the new Chatelaine]

**Queen Mum Tourney (Cosimo):** For those who are interested in the schedule for rapier activities, I hope to have the details of the Queen Mum's Favor tourney figured out soon. I should have the full schedule next week.



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# ANNOUNCEMENTS

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## FROM THE KINGDOM SIGNET

Greetings all...

It's REALLY important that you register on the Northshield Kingdom website. Your registering cuts down on extra, sometimes frustrating work for the folks that work behind the curtain of the website.... and sure would assist me when I put in an entry on the OP.

Picture this, if you will ... I'm updating the OP... John Doe hasn't registered, but has received an award - so I have to enter him into the data base in order for me to enter that award he was just given. However, I don't have additional information about where he is from - so that entry for John Doe has very little information. Sometime down the road, Lord Doe goes into the OP and sees his award listed there and then decides to register... he can't update what I've entered, so he creates a new profile ... now we have 2 files in the data base for John Doe ... the one I created, and the one he created for himself... one of the web god/esses now has to go in and merge those 2 entries.

Here's another reason to register and put information in your profile about who you are in the society... I'm a scribe, I am given a court list with the people Their Majesties would like to bestow an award... I get the honor of creating a scroll for someone on that court list... I don't personally know that person, so I go to the Northshield website and search for that person hoping to find information that will assist me in coming up with ideas on what kind of scroll to create.... if you are to receive an award, and you haven't registered and put information that allows me, as a scribe, to peek into who you are, I have to guess at what kind of scroll to come up with that would be suitable for you...

PLEASE ... please, please, pretty please ... register your name and information on the Kingdom website. You have the ability to keep mundane information hidden too - so if you don't want that information out there - that's not a problem!

Thank you all for your time and attention to this important matter!

Yours In Service ~

**ASTRID**

Kingdom Signet

Kingdom Clerk of Precedence

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# VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

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**Minister of Arts and Sciences** — The Minister of Arts and Sciences (MOAS) is a post where people can encourage the arts and sciences. Official duties are to file quarterly reports, and to file reports for A&S events held locally. Both are filed by filling in an online screen. But more importantly, you encourage the arts and sciences. If someone comes up trying to find out about an aspect of art, wanting to learn (this is, after all, an educational society), you help by teaching them yourself, or by guiding them to a fruitful inquiry. That's it. You encourage. You guide. And, occasionally, you report. If you have interest in being appointed to this position, please contact Ermina at [bdoyle@mge.com](mailto:bdoyle@mge.com)

**Editor's Note:** In the late 90s, the *Skein* featured a series of how-to articles on various subjects written by Scaramouche (and his trusty sidekick Gristle). By request (and also because we are short on recent original contributions), I have decided to re-run a number of these articles.

This article (on chain mail) originally appeared in the *Skein* in the February XXXIII (1999) issue.

## SCIENTIFIC JARAVELLIAN

Hi ho, good lords & ladies, and a wink for any not-so-good lords and especially ladies, it is I, your maker of mirth, mayhem and mischief, Scaramouche DelStrago, here to give you more tasks to make your digits sore and your hands ache. Yes, this month I'm gonna be talking about the one craft that is responsible for more finger strain than any other, the mother of all carpal tunnel, yes...chain mail.

Now, I've told you how to string chain mail before, but the interest of a friend in one of the more complex variants of chain mail has shown me that other people might like to know about this more protective, greatly improved patter.

By far the majority of chain mail that you see (and I'm not saying that you see a lot of mail in the stores nowadays) is the common form called Four-in-One. It's called this because each individual link has four others linked through it. It's light, flexible, and relatively quick to make (I said relatively). It does, however, have a few drawbacks. Because of the looseness of the weave, a