

THE PHOENIX

*NEWSLETTER OF THE
BARONY OF SACRED STONE*



*August 2010
AS XLV
Volume 24 ISSUE 8*

TABLE OF CONTENTS

1. Cover page
2. Table of contents
3. Letters from the Officers
4. Meeting Minutes
5. Leather Working 101
6. Who Am I?
7. Calendar of Events for August
8. Baronial Regnum
9. Regnum continued & Statement of Ownership



Letters from Baronial Officers



From the Seneschal:

Greetings!

I hope that you are all staying cool during this very hot summer. As I write this many of our friends and family are heading north in support of our beloved Kingdom. Our thoughts travel with you as you travel to war and we await your safe return.

The month of August is a busy one in our Barony.

Aire Faucon will be hosting Flight of the Falcon on the 21st. This is a wonderful little event and I encourage you all to attend.

Sacred Stone's 28th Baronial Birthday will be held on the last weekend of the month, and it promises to be a grand event. I hope you will all come out and join with our coronets past and present in celebrating our wonderful Barony!

Lady Murienne
Seneschale, Sacred Stone



From the Chronicler:

Hail, fellow Sacred Stoners!

This month's newsletter is a bit short due to the cancellation of our Baronial business meeting. Though we still have plenty to see! Once again this month we have the challenge of the "Who Am I?", and thanks to Lord Christophe of Grey there is a wonderful article on leatherworking.

So until next month... happy reading!

YIS,
Lady Nuala

JULY 2010 BARONIAL BUSINESS MEETING

**The July Business meeting for the Barony of Sacred Stone
was cancelled due to Pennsic War.**

**The next Business meeting will be held on
August 22nd at Bunker Hill High School
Please see the website for directions.**



Leather Working 101

THL Christophe of Grey

Introduction

A brief introduction of your author. I am THL Christophe of Grey. I have been a member of the SCA for about 15 years now. I was consumed with the concept of leather working from day one and am the originator of many items coveted and in daily use by many SCA folks. Over the years I have learned a great deal about working with leather and researched and studied techniques used in period. The purpose of this series of articles is to share that knowledge. I hope you enjoy them. If you have any questions I am ALWAYS available to answer questions. My past projects include but are not limited to shoes, pouches, tankards which have become my signature item, belts, vests, vambraces, arm guards, quivers and just about anything that any SCA individual would use.

My intent with this series is to share the knowledge that I have gained over the past 15 years working with leather. Leather is a very interesting medium to work in although modern man is basically ignorant of it.

Just as an interesting side note, the leather industry is the world's first recycling industry. The majority of leather used for shoes, hand bags, etc. now days come as a by product of the beef industry. If you don't like leather things because the original owners are dead, blame McDonald's. They are the single largest consumer of beef in the world.

Now not to be ignorant here, yes, some animals are raised for their hides and/or fur. These animals are domestically raised for that purpose or again it is a by product from what we Americans would call, exotics. Reindeer hide is an example of this. Reindeer are farm raised in Scandinavia for the meat. Their hides are a by product of that meat industry.

But in truth, leather was the plastic of the Middle Ages. Enjoy and I am always open to any comment any

Leather Working 101

Cutting Leather

THL Christophe of Grey

Leather is tough. That's why we make shoes and armor out of it. Therefore it is logical that it is also very tough to cut. So how do we successfully cut leather without cutting ourselves? Let's remember we are ALL covered in leather just waiting to be tanned (a little cordwainer's humor there!).

First and foremost, MARK YOUR LEATHER ON THE BACKSIDE OF THE PROJECT. Usually this is the rough side. Sharpies work just fine for this purpose. There are several tools on the market for leather cutting. Leather shears and very heavy duty scissors. One kind looks just like blunt nosed scissors. Another type is similar but has small serrations on the cutting blades. These serrations make cutting thick leather easier as the serrations grab the leather preventing the cutting edges from forcing the shears backwards. There are other heavy duty scissors on the market and most will work for leather up to about 4 – 5 ounce. Above that you will need the "official" leather shears or a knife which is next.

A head knife is a half round knife with a straight handle. When you cut with this knife you draw towards yourself cutting with one of the edges. Other knives have slight hooks to them. Box openers also work well. One true fact about cutting leather, the tool must be very sharp. If you are using a knife, sharpen it as best you can then finish it off by stropping it on a piece of leather with some jeweler's rouge worked into it. If your cutting tools are dull you will mess up your cut. If using a knife you will get your best results by drawing the knife towards you. This also affords the best control of the blade.

Lay out your pattern on the backside of the leather. Backside would be the inside of the project. Trace around it with the sharpie. I've seen people use ball point pens and while they work you will get some ink residue that will smear over the project. You can count on that happening. As leather isn't cheap, I try a few arrangements before I settle on one and mark it. I'm trying to economize the wasted leather. Also check to be sure that the finish side of the project will not have a brand, tick mark, or fence scratch mark right in the middle of it.

Leather Working 101

Cutting Leather continued...

If you are cutting out of a large piece of leather, i.e. an entire side, I like to rough out the piece I'm going for. That way I have a smaller piece I can do the finish cuts on.

Now a few tips on cutting. Let's assume you are using leather shears. For example purposes, think of a piece of paper with a square marked on it. Your objective is to cut out the square leaving a piece of paper with a square hole in the middle. If you just cut down to the corner in one direction then down the other side to finish the cut you will end up with small cuts extending beyond the edge of your cut. If there is stress on this point, ultimately the leather will rip. Instead punch a small hole right in the corner. Then cut down both edges finishing inside the small hole you punched. Now you have a corner that will not rip.

For cutting long straight edges, keep your eye on the line ahead of where you are cutting. Be sure to cut on a surface that can support the entire piece of leather you are cutting from and the piece you are cutting off. Without the support you have to juggle two pieces of leather and it will cause a wavy cut line.

If you are using shears with the serrations on the blades either be very careful cutting around inside radiuses, i.e. cutting a circle out of the middle of a piece of leather. If not careful the serrations will leave scratch marks on your project.

If cutting thick leather with a knife or box cutter, it may take two or more passes to cut all the way through the leather. If you are cutting along a straight edge, i.e. a metal yard stick, it serves as a guide and allows you to make multiple passes over the same cut.

Now for straps and belts from a side or shoulder there is a special tool on the market that is worth its weight in gold. It's called a Strap Cutter, I know, go figure! You simply adjust for the thickness of leather you are cutting and the width of the cut. Then you start the cut and keep a straight edge along one side of the cutter as you draw it down the original piece. Very nice, clean edged, straight belts strips or straps. This tool works really well on veg tanned leathers about 3 – 4 ounce up to about 8 – 10. Above 10 ounce it is really hard to get the strap cutter through the leather. I use a jig saw for armor leather which is any where from 10 to 20 ounce.

If you are cutting straps or strips from leather that is less than 3 ounce or deer, elk or furniture leather, any leather that is soft, there is another tool called the Aussie cutter. It only cuts up to about a $\frac{3}{4}$ inch wide strip but it fits over your finger and allows you to use both hands to feed the leather through the cutter for nice strips.

There is another type of strip cutter that looks something like a thick pencil with a razor blade in one end faced with slots. You cut a small hole in the center of a piece of leather, then using the tool, cut around the circle from the inside, spiraling around making larger and larger rotations and forming one continuous long piece of leather. Now this piece of leather will naturally want to assume its original shape of a spiral so wrap it around a large round object like a coffee can and leave it for a few days. When you come back the strip will have mostly straightened out. There is a story in history of some queen who was bad. She was told she could only have as much land as a hide from a cow could enclose. She made a very long single strip from the cow hide and won herself many acres of land! This tool does the same thing.

One final tip for cutting softer leathers. They tend to creep while being cut. It's generally not a good idea to try to cut two pieces of leather at the same time like you would if making something out of fabric.

WHO AM I?

How well do you know the people in our barony?

You will be given the answers to a few questions, see if you can figure out who they are. The answer will be in next months issue of the phoenix.

I am a man.

I grew up in North Carolina

I am in a relationship.

My partner is a member of the SCA.

I have two children.

My Children are not members of the SCA.

I started in the SCA in 2008.

I live in the southern part of the barony.

My interests are mainly in service.

I have not been a member of a different Barony or Kingdom.

The Baron and Baroness of my Barony when I joined were Marc & Alianor.

I have served as an officer of a Canton, and a Barony.

My Persona is from England, during the 16th century.

**Last months Who Am I
was Lady Amye Elizabeth Barrington**



Calendar of Events & Activities for August

Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
1 Pennsic	2 Canton Meeting CB & CC Pennsic	3 Pennsic	4 Fighter Practice MG Pennsic	5 A&S / Archery SG Pennsic	6 Pennsic	7 Pennsic
8 Pennsic	9 	10 Canton Meeting AF 	11 Fighter Practice MG 	12 Stuff Night MG 	13 	14
15 Fighter Practice SG & MG 	16 	17 	18 Fighter Practice MG 	19 Stuff Night MG 	20 	21 Flight of the Falcon AF
22 Fighter Practice SG & MG Baronial Meeting BD 	23 	24 	25 Fighter Practice MG 	26 Stuff Night MG 	27 SSBB 	28 SSBB
29 SSBB Fighter Practice SG & MG 	30 	31 				

AF=Aire Faucon, BD=Baelfire Dunn, CC=Charlesbury Crossing,
CB=Crois Brigitte, MG=Middlegate, SG=Salesberie Glenn

Baronial Regnum

Office	Name	Phone	Email
 Baron	Sir Axel of Tavastia		baron@sacredstone.atlantia.sca.org
 Seneschal	Lady Murienne l'aloiere	(336) 899-8799	seneschal@ sacredstone.atlantia.sca.org
 Exchequer	Lord Edmund Hawksworth		exchequer@ sacredstone.atlantia.sca.org
 Chronicler	Lady Nuala ingen Magnusa	(336) 508-0803	chronicler@ sacredstone.atlantia.sca.org
 Herald	Lady Niccolina the Wanderer		herald@sacredstone.atlantia.sca.org
Chatelaine	Lady Serena de Almendara		castellan@ sacredstone.atlantia.sca.org
 Minister of A&S	THLady Lidia de Ragusa		moas@sacredstone.atlantia.sca.org
 Minister of the Lists	Lady Amye Elizabeth Barrington		mol@sacredstone.atlantia.sca.org
 Webminister	Baroness Maeve Griffinsward		webminister@ sacredstone.atlantia.sca.org
Web Deputy for E-List	Lord Jonathan Blackbow		blackbow@carolina.rr.com
 Knight's Marshal	Baron Achbar ibn Ali		heavymarshal@ sacredstone.atlantia.sca.org
 Rapier Marshal	Lord Raven MacGillacuddy		rapiermarshal@ sacredstone.atlantia.sca.org
 Archery Marshal	Lord Edward de Witt		archerymarshal@ sacredstone.atlantia.sca.org
 Chirurgeon	Baroness Gwynwylf		chirurgeon@ sacredstone.atlantia.sca.com
 Minister of Minors	OPEN		

Regnum (continued)
Canton Seneschals

Aire Faucon
LordRurik Lebedou
Ryan Matthews
rurik@att.net

Charlesbury Crossing
Lady Aminah bint al-Megal'id
Kathy Jewell
kathygrimes@gmail.com

Middlegate
Lord Symon of Ipswich
Troy Petersen
symondeipswich@gmail.com

Baelfire Dunn
Till Cambell
tillfirehorn@yahoo.com

Crois Brigitte
Lord Robyn A' Dearg
Robin Ried
twolfpax@yahoo.com

Salesberie Glen
Lady Mari of Vareki
Eliza Hulca
Pernika2003@yahoo.com

All photos and artwork published with permission of the photographers and artists. For more information please contact the chronicler.

"This is The Phoenix, a publication of the Barony of Sacred Stone of the Society for Creative Anachronism, Inc. The Phoenix is available from Debra Thompson, 2602 Guyer St. High Point, Nc 27265. Subscriptions are free. This newsletter is not a corporate publication of the Society for Creative Anachronism, Inc., and does not delineate SCA policies. (c) Copyright 2009, Society for Creative Anachronism, Inc. For information on reprinting letters and artwork from this publication, please contact the Chronicler, who will assist you in contacting the original creator of the piece. Please respect the legal rights of our contributors