

The Phoenix



August 2014
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THE PHOENIX

Barony of the Sacred Stone

August, 2014

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August 2014

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

Baronial Schedule

August 23

Flight of the Falcon: Join us for a wonderful day full of artistry, fighting, learning and, most importantly, fun and camaraderie. We will have something for everyone with a little bit of everything for all to come out and see. This is a great event for everyone to come out and get into something that you may not have played at before. There is plenty to do during the day and there will be a wonderful court followed by a most delectable feast. Come to Flight of the Falcon in the Canton of Aire Faucon.

August 30

Sacred Stone Baronial Investiture: Come join us for the investiture of our new Baronial Coronets and the celebration of Sacred Stone's 32nd year!

Canton Schedules

Meetings

Aire Faucon— Second Tuesday of the month at 7:30

Baelfire Dunn - N/A

Charlesbury Crossing - First Monday of every month

Crois Brigitte - First Wednesday of every month, 6:30 PM

Middlegate - Second Sunday of every month, 2:00 PM

Salesberie Glen - N/A

A&S

Aire Faucon - Dates and locations to be announced through email list

Baelfire Dunn - N/A

Charlesbury Crossing - Location to be announced.

Crois Brigitte - Dates and locations will be published

Middlegate - Tuesday 6-9- contact A&S Officer for address

Salesberie Glen –Occasional Wednesdays, contact Lady Mari for dates

Practices

Aire Faucon - Dates and locations to be announced through email list

Baelfire Dunn - Rapier practice: Sundays at Bunker Hill HS

Charlesbury Crossing - N/A

Crois Brigitte - Archery Practice on Sundays at rotating locations

Middlegate - Wed. and Sunday Heavy Fighter Practice

Salesberie Glen - Salisbury Glen Fight Practice every 3rd Sunday 2:00PM-5:00PM (In the open Field next to the Burger King at the corner of Jake Alexander Blvd and Lincolnton Rd in Salisbury.

Cuir Bouilli is the term for hardening leather. In this article I am going to shatter some well established SCA myths about hardening leather and discuss techniques for hardening leather.

The big myth of how to harden leather perpetuated in the SCA is to boil the leather in wax. Yes, this works. You end up with hard leather that is waxy and really not very comfortable to use, i.e. as armor, on a hot day as the wax tends to come off on everything. So boiling in wax is NOT the only way to harden leather.

Let's first discuss what really happens to leather when it gets hardened. The myth of boiling in wax also supports the myth that the wax gets in the pores of the leather, fills them up and makes the leather stiffer. Fantasy! To make leather stiff/hard, you need only raise it to a temperature of 120 degrees and hold it there for about 10 minutes, sometimes more for larger projects. What happens during this heating is the molecular structure of the leather actually undergoes a change called elastomerization. This is what makes the leather stiff/hard. You can over harden leather. Try it. Cut a one inch square of leather and drop it in boiling water until it turns black. Lift it out of the water and let it cool. The first thing you will notice is that the piece has shrunk to about $\frac{3}{4}$ inch square. It will also be VERY stiff. However, if you place it on a hard surface and hit it with a hammer it shatters like cheap plastic.

Well then, how do you harden leather? Remember the key is to raise the leather to 120 degrees and hold it at that temperature for about 10 minutes. You can do this several different ways which I'll discuss next.

Water hardening – You can dip your project into boiling water. Be very careful to not leave it in too long thus having the project turn black and go through the process discussed above. When you dip your project into boiling water it will get very hot. I know, duh! But when you bring it out it will not be hard/stiff. In fact it will be very pliable. Shape the project as you desire then let it cool. When it is cool it will be hard. A side benefit of using this hot water technique is that the leather becomes very elastic while hot allowing you to shape and stretch it. This is one way to make formed elbow cops out of leather. Thus, find an item that your elbow can fit inside. Boil your leather until it is hot and pliable. Stretch and form it over the item you have and let it cool. You just made a formed elbow cop.

Another hot water method that works well for smaller projects is to pre-heat your oven to 200 degrees. Then wet the project by either dunking it in water and shaking off the excess water or misting it with a flower mister/sprayer. Place the project in the oven and leave for about 10 minutes. By turning off the oven if you forget your project it won't bake to the ultra hard black state. If you only leave the project in for 10 minutes it will be hot and pliable when you bring it out. Same form then cool process as above.

Wax hardening – As mentioned above, this technique works. The literature says you can melt your wax then ladle it over the project to harden it. I have never had any luck with this technique as the leather never really gets hot enough for the elastomerization process to occur. You can dunk your project into the melted wax, leave it for a bit, then remove it. This works like the boiling water method but now you have to deal with all the wax. You also have to deal with the issue of melting a very flammable substance for the process. Wax will catch fire from an electric heat source just as easily as from an open flame.

There are other ways to harden leather that do not involve boiling wax or water. One of the most period methods that would today be the least desirable is to soak the project in urine. Yipper Fred, just pee on your armor after every battle for about a month and you will have very hard leather. Of course you will also stink so bad no one will want to be within two counties of you.....maybe that's why they did it in period hmmmmmm. Soaking leather in urea is also a method for tanning leather.

One way to harden leather that most of us have already experienced is using salt. If you have a leather item that you wear on hot days you sweat on it. Over time the salts from your sweat will harden the leather. Think about those old work boots you use for working in the yard. You have sweat in them and never really cleaned them up. After a

while they get real stiff.

One of the beauties of hardened leather is that you can re-heat it and re-shape it. Let's say your vambrace fit before but now, after a year of working out, your forearms are massive (we all wish). You can actually re-heat your vambrace and re-shape it to your new arm.

Now a few comments about finishing off a hardened leather project. For this, let's think armor. If you want to do any stamping or tooling, do that before you harden. If you try to do it afterwards your results will not be nearly as good. First off the piece will now be hard and shaped to your body part so you can't lay it flat on a hard surface for stamping or tooling. Secondly the leather will accept the stamping of tooling inconsistently. That is, some impressions will be nice and deep and clean others won't be. After you have hardened the project, then you can add color. Use dyes, antiques or acrylic paints. They all work fine. Finish off with a nice finish coat of Super Sheene, Bag Coat, or Atom Wax. For maintenance of armor, because you will be sweating in it a lot, you can clean it up periodically with saddle soap. This will not soften the leather – no heat.

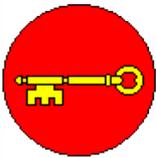
THL Christophe of Grey

Baronial Officers

Baronage: Baron Matsudaira Kentarou Toshiyori & Baroness Sine ni Dheaghaidh.

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baroness@sacredstone.atlantia.sca.org



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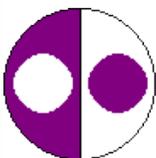
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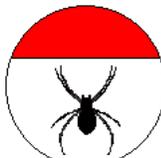
Chronicler:

Lady Catherine Ambrose
chronicler@sacredstone.atlantia.sca.org



Baronial Marshal:

Lady Lorelei Greenleaf



Webminister:

Lady Annora Hall
webminister@sacredstone.atlantia.sca.org

Baronial Appointments

BARONIAL HEAVY CHAMPION Randall de Gloucester (Randall Howell)

BARONIAL RAPIER CHAMPION Vincenzo d'Este (Bradley Mills)

BARONIAL ARCHERY CHAMPION - Lady Lorelei Greenleaf

BARONIAL CAVALRY CHAMPION - Gallien O Hearne

BARONIAL BARD - Lord Robyn A'Dearg

BARONIAL ARTISAN Lord Dreux D'Anjou (Mike Edwards)
dreux.danjou@gmail.com

BARONIAL SCRIBE - Lord Geffrei Maudeleyne

BARONIAL BREWER

BARONIAL COOKS — Domina Scribonia Sabina Mus and Lady Jana de Foresta

BARONIAL BEEKEEPER THL Lorelei Greenleafe (Lorelei Elkins)
loreleielkins AT aol.com

BARONIAL YOUTH COMBAT CHAMPION - OPEN

BARONIAL YOUTH ARCHERY CHAMPION - Longslayer

BARONIAL YOUTH ARTISAN Trinity

Baronial Order Principals

PRINCIPAL, ORDER OF THE SACRED STONE

Lady Nuala ingen Magnusa
dalande@gmail.com

PRINCIPAL, ORDER OF THE PHOENIX' EYE

Lady Annora Hall (Kathy Murphy)
annorahall AT yahoo.com

PRINCIPAL, ORDER OF THE PHOENIX' CLAW

Lord Symon de Ipswich (Troy Peterson)

PRINCIPAL, ORDER OF THE YEOMEN OF THE SACRED STONE

Lady Lorelei Greenleaf

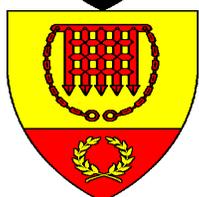
Canton Seneschals



Aire Faucon
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prudencecurious@aim.com



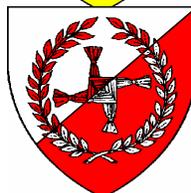
Charlesbury Crossing
Lady Zafira bint Miriam
Susan French
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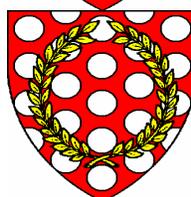
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Crois Brigte
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Salesberie Glen
Sir Axel
Wayne Remes

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