

The Derneherald



Winter 2015-2016

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Class Schedule

February

2- No class

9- Saving People, Hunting Things: An introduction to medieval monster hunting

16- Banners

23 Bardic

March

1 No class

8 Scribal Play Date

15 Persona Discussion Round Table 1

22 Shire Auction

29 Bardic

April

5 Game Night

12 Persona Discussion Round Table 2

19 Year's end Party!

New Heraldry



Drawing by Wilhelm Salzburger

From the Pursuivant

Grüß Gott everyone! I have returned to a position of service to the Shire and become the new Pursuivant (aka the Herald)! I already have a deputy- everyone congratulate Nathan Arnold on his acceptance of my request to be my deputy. For the Heralds, more deputies are always welcome, however, for a Pursuivant does many things! If anyone else is interested in seeing what it is I do, feel free to ask. It's not all about the loud voice after all. Not only are we the Voice of the Crown, we are town criers, signers for the Deaf and hard of hearing, we have knowledge of ceremonies and special protocol (What's that guy with the shiny hat called?), and we also can and do research names and heraldry for those interested. Not all Heralds do all of those things, which is why it's good to have many deputies as a group's Official Pursuivant.

Since I am again an officer, I would like to take the time to set a few goals for my tenure in office. First, I hope to update the paperwork in my position, for much of it is well over twenty years old. Official documents often get updated every few years, and I fear I may accidentally give out the wrong information!

Secondly, I would love to showcase some of the more interesting items that I have come across in my files. For example- did you know that our Shire has a book of ceremonies (essentially scripts that can be used for ceremonies at court) that's been entirely translated in to Old English?? My thought is: Where are the other languages? If my German skills were better, believe me I would be working on a translation of my own...but one thing at a time...

Third, out of a personal interest, I HOPE (and pray) that I have the wherewithal to pursue Silent Heraldry (the art of sign language for SCA purposes). Although it is of great importance to me personally, it is the lowest on my list of priorities as an officer. As a Pursuivant I would like to make myself available to serve the widest possible audience, and as such I feel that I must at some point at least attempt the feat!

This is not necessarily an official goal, but as a member of the SCA I love pageantry. As a Pursuivant, I wish to challenge the populace to bring more pageantry to our local group. Bring your banners, bling your garb with your devices, let us learn boasts to call our best and brightest in to the list fields, but most of all I hope everyone has fun doing it!

It is my pleasure to get to serve the Shire of Dernehealde again.
Thank you all for allowing me this chance to serve.

-Herr Wilhelm Salzburger

From the Seneschal/Event Steward

Greetings!

It's 2016! With the New Year come some new and exciting changes! Recently, we have played musical officers a bit. Not only have I stepped into being seneschal but we now have a new herald, minister of arts and sciences, and an incoming chronicler!

Being that this year is to feature the SCA's 50 year celebration, a lot of fun things are happening around the Middle Kingdom and the Known World! I hope that these fun things can carry over into the Shire of Dernehealde as we begin to bubble with new ideas.

Last year, we had a great event! For November, it wasn't too cold and the weather allowed us to do outdoor fighting, fencing, thrown weapons and archery. Inside we had two classrooms A&S competition and display as well as some merchants! To top it all off, we had a feast worthy of rave reviews!

I'd like to thank everyone who helped me put it together with such short notice. Everyone seemed to love the event site and the site owners were very happy with how well we kept the site. For having a completely free event, we lost very little money! Already I hear that there are ideas being tossed around for this year's event. Don't be surprised to hear an event bid coming in soon!

Dernehealde is an amazing place to learn and grow! I invite anyone who has not yet tried to volunteer or hold an office to give it a try. You learn so much and you grow as a person. Even better, often it can translate to skills that you can list on a job resume! Try offering to be an officer's deputy. It's not a promise that you'll take the office and any officer is allowed to have multiple deputies. You don't have to be a member to learn and help an officer.

I look forward to working with everyone this New Year and thank everyone for past help and any help they provide for the future. Cheers to a fantastic 2016!

In Service to the Populous,

Lady Altani Unegen
Seneschal, the Shire of Dernehealde
Haunted Tower II: The River Styx Event Steward

Know Your Thrown Weapons!

The Roman Pilum

One of the most famous thrown weapons is the Roman Pilum. The pilum evolved from the heavy javelin, with a heavy wooden shaft attached to an iron shank and the shank was half as long as the shaft. The defining change that identifies the pilum is the tip; instead of the shank tapering to a point the pilum is tipped in a wide, pyramidal iron cap. Pila were normally between 5 and 10 lbs, and between 6 and 7 feet long, but there were many variations due to the 600 year use of the pilum.

The standard Roman tactics with javelins in warfare is to throw before engaging the enemy, as to disrupt the enemy lines, and then charge. Any not thrown at that time could be thrown any time throughout the engagement or could have been used as a spear. For this reason pila were issued to the first and second lines of the Roman Republic Army (the Hastati and Principes) and then to the Legionaries of the Roman Empire.

The pila were able to able to augment and enhance the effectiveness of these tactics. A pilum could do everything that a javelin could do but in addition the shape of the head allowed it to punch through an enemy shield. The hole being wider than the shaft means the pilum could then continue forward unimpeded into the enemy. Even if the enemy was not impaled the pilum forced a decision to be made: drop the shield and fight without the protection, or use the now heavy and awkward shield with a pilum tip that could still impale when the lines crush and crash together. There is debate as to whether pila were intended to kill or if they were intended to be used against shields.

An important change to the pilum came in 101 BC by Marius. The iron shank had been attached to the shaft by 2 iron pegs. One of those pegs was changed to wood so that when the pilum impacted the wood peg would break and the pilum was rendered useless. This negated one of the biggest disadvantages of javelins in general; a pilum could no longer be picked up and thrown back!

Around 250 AD the pilum eventually fell out of favor and was replaced by the **speculum, which was similar to the pilum with one important difference. Whereas the pilum was a heavy javelin that could be used as a spear, the speculum was a heavy spear that could be thrown. Some had said the speculum is a pilum, but regardless both were completely phased out by 400 AD.**

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Zhmodikov, Alexander, 2000, "Roman Republican Heavy Infantrymen in Battle (IV-II Centuries B.C.),"
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Cowan, Ross (2003). "Equipment". Roman legionary: 58 BC - AD 69. Osprey Publishing. pp. 25–26.

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New Heraldry: Fighter Edition



Drawing by Wilhelm Salzburger

From the MoAS/Chronicler

Hello!

As some of you may know, Lady Pompeia and I will be switching officer positions. This means that I have the honor of being your new MoAS! This also means that I will be stepping down as our shire's chronicler. I've had a great time making our newsletters, but I have every confidence that our new chronicler will make our newsletters even better!

As Minister of Arts and Sciences, I would like to reach out and do a broader range of activities as a shire. This semester will be a time when I collect ideas, and I encourage all of you to think of something you would like to explore further. In the fall, my hope is that in addition to the classes we have tried to do regularly, we can have various other activities and an A&S Faire to show the many things I know that people have been working on. I've recently taken a survey to see what people are interested in, and I will be analyzing the answers from that survey to make more ideas.

In the mean time, I hope to hear from you if you have any questions, or just projects that you've been working on! There are so many talented people in our shire, and work deserves to be shared.

YIS,

Edith de Brereton