



The Derneherald

September/October

2019 Issue

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From the Chronicler

Greetings from your Chronicler

After some discussion with our wonderful Seneschal, this will be the last issue of The Derneherald – unless some other willing soul would like to take over the office. I have realized (perhaps, finally?) that I have a few too many projects that I enjoy a bit more than this office. Honestly, this office is much easier to do when more than a core of two or four people are willing to contribute their time, effort, and willingness to submit items to the Newsletter. I say this without rancor, but with a weary heart and mind.

Ever in Service,

Finche Odhinnsdottir

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From the Minister of Arts & Sciences

Greetings!

Now that the Barony has their new Arts and Sciences Champions, it is time once more to focus on what people in our fair Shire would either like to learn or are willing to teach. I have spoken with Katlyn about her teaching a class on organization (person, job, hobby, etc.). I myself am willing to teach a class on the A&S Competition process – if there is any interest.

Please forward your ideas/wishes to dernehealde.moas@midrealm.org

Your servant,

Finche Odhinnsdottir
Dernehealde MoAS

dernehealde.moas@midrealm.org



From the Website:

<http://dernehealde.middlemarches.org/activities/arts-sciences/>

The Arts & Sciences are an integral part of the SCA. It is through the various arts and sciences that has taken our fighters from freon helms and carpet armor, to armor and helmets that you could expect to see in a museum. With the arts and sciences, our folk have gone from fantasy/science fantasy garments made of synthetic materials, to wearing clothing that could be mistaken for actual period garments. In fact, there are many members in the SCA who now present their work (research, experimental archaeology, products) at some of the more prestigious Medieval Conferences – both here in the US and in England.

So what is or are the “**Arts & Sciences**”? Simply put, they are the creations – whether reproducing a period artifact (think museum items), inspired by period archaeological finds, interpretations based on fragments found as grave goods, or simply inspired by an item from a painting made during the time period being studied by the creator of the piece. ***The Arts & Sciences, together, help to create the ambiance at events.*** They help ‘set the mood’ for people to feel transported from the modern world, to a medieval time. They add to the medieval atmosphere. Most of us will be more than happy to “bend your ear” about our current favorite passion(s).

A&S Displays and Competitions

For people who want a chance to show their talents in the various Arts & Sciences, there are a number of options. These are 1) Local Events, 2) Regional Events, 3) Kingdom Events, 4) Craftsperson’s Faire, and 5) Pennsic Display (where artisans are chosen by various criteria that is published prior to Pennsic).

Please Note: There is **nothing** that says **you must enter** your work into any A&S competition or display.

Local Events

At local events, there are often A&S displays where artisans can display their work for comment (often there will be a notebook or sheets of paper to write down comments). In some cases, there is also a competition, usually by “bean count” where attendees are given little tokens that they can place at the display of an artisan’s work. The displayed artwork with the most “beans” wins that competition.

Regional Events

At the Regional level, there are the different Regional A&S competitions. Artisans who get a first or second place here, are invited to submit their work to the Kingdom A&S competition. Here to, an artisan has the option of entering their work under the auspice of "For Comment Only" – usually because they feel that their work has enough room for improvement, but they want other people's feedback, or they just have no wish to enter a competition.

The biggest thing to remember about the Regional Competitions, is that your work is not competing against other people's work, but against the Criteria that your work falls under.

There are currently five (5) Regions, and five (5) Regional Competitions. They are:

- North Oaken – where Dernehealde is located
- South Oaken
- Pentamere
- Constellation
- Midlands

Kingdom Events

The big Kingdom event for the Arts & Sciences, is the annual Kingdom A&S Competition. Participants for this annual event are chosen from those participants in the Regional Events who placed a First or Second for their work. The Kingdom A&S Competition is held during the same weekend as the Spring Crown Tourney.

The rules for participation, as well as the Criteria are updated on a fairly regular basis, and are published on the Kingdom's Minister of Arts & Sciences webpage.

Craftsperson's Faire

Craftsperson's Faires are sponsored displays. For these, there is no requirement of documentation, nor does it necessarily have to fall into the criteria for an A&S entry. This is where artisans can display their work that adds to the flavor of the SCA, but not necessarily something that would have been produced during the time periods covered. Examples include chair covers (used to disguise modern camp chairs), and cooler covers (for the same purpose). Essentially, anything to make a camp or day-camp look more period – using the 10-foot rule*. These can also be used for projects that may eventually be entered into the Regional A&S competitions, that people want to get some feedback on, while the project is in progress.

**Ten-foot Rule – This basically means, does the piece look medieval-ish, or "period" (essentially period) from 10 feet away.*

Pennsic A&S Warpoint

This is an inter-Kingdom (all Kingdoms in the Known World) level A&S competition. The Kingdom that takes the most points in this, wins this War point – which is added to the overall tally of warpoints to determine who wins Pennsic War.

The participants for this are chosen by Their Royal Majesties from those entrants in the Kingdom A&S competition who took a first place on their entry.

Other inter-Kingdom events/Wars are starting to incorporate this idea to their events (I believe) – Gulf War, Estrella War, Great Western War, etc.

Dear Abbot!

By the Abbot of the Abbey of Saint Leibowitz

Greetings my good gentle folk. I set pen to paper to give sage advice to any and all that may need it.

Pray send your questions to dernehealde.chronicler@midrealm.org and she will forward them on to the Abbey.

Dear Abbot – Is a bowl of oatmeal a stew? –Culinary Curious

Dear Curious – Only after 10 am – A

Dear Abbot - If animals could talk, which would be the rudest? –Farmer Sven

Dear Sven – The mule, as he is a bit of an ass. –A

Dear Abbot - How many chickens would it take to kill an elephant? –Warlord

Dear Warlord –It would depend on how they are armed. The better question is who arms chickens? –A

Dear Abbot -What is the funniest name you have actually heard used in the real world? – Dr. Dhoum

Dear Dr. – I thought I met someone that had a strange name in Andalusia, but he was just sneezing - A

Dear Abbot -What would you want to be written on your tombstone? –Undertaker

Dear Undertaker – Best Before (Date of death) –A

Dear Abbot -Do you think people should eat the fish they catch, or just let them go? –Hookey

Dear Hookey – Saturday through Thursday they should let them go, but on Fridays get the pan ready! –A

Dear Abbot -What was the last thing you said to someone? –Polite

Dear Polite – Goodbye! – A

Dear Abbot - What’s the weirdest smell you have ever smelled? –Na’Zal

Dear Na’Zal – It was in the Abbey the day After Brother Cleavers made a bean, pickled egg and broccoli stew. -A



Russian Armor Head and Body: 10th – 14th centuries

Kadas Kadakov
29 April 2019

We will be looking broadly at the armor worn by Russians from the 10th century to the 14th. Here, Russian is used loosely. The armor finds come from Ukraine and from Belarus as well as Russia. Medieval Russia and modern Russia do not share the same borders, and they have never been monolithic. For simplicities sake, Russia is being treated as monolithic here. Certain armor was worn by certain tribes in certain places. We will ignore this, and simply list the armor chronologically. We are attempting only to list the armor worn. What was worn, and when. Why it was worn is generally beyond the scope of this paper, though it is played with in places.



https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Skriptorium_Holzschnitt.jpg

We must first define some terms about helmets. A nasal is a metal nose guard, descending from the edge of the helmet over the nose. A conical helmet is shaped conically, that is coming to a blunt point, usually from a roughly round base. The precise construction of the helmets vary. The conical helmet, which was very simply shaped, was later superseded by the sphæroconical helmet. This helmet was more rounded, terminating in a spike or plume holder. These helmets were often paired with an aventail, or a chainmail drape that protected the neck and face from blows.

Armor from 900 - 1000 CE

In the 9th century, the Russians made themselves known to the world, raiding Byzantium. These first raiders were not well documented, and what they wore is difficult to identify. It is likely that if they were of Scandinavian origin, they looked much like their contemporaries from the North. From the 10th century, we find limited evidence of Scandinavian armor, with a nasal. The nasal is decorated with silver inlays. The find in question is the Desjatinna nasal, which was found in Kiev, and dates to the latter half of the 10th century. The nasal was found without a helmet, so we can only speculate at the shape of the helmet they were attached to. Due to the similarity to the Gjermundbu helmet found in Norway, it is most likely that the nasal was paired with a helmet that was not conical, but rather of a round flattened shape, possibly with a spike on the top. This style of helmet is very distinct from the conical helms that make up the bulk of the helmet finds in Russia, even from the same period. (Kirpichnikov)

From Gnëzdovo, we find conical helmets without nasals. The helm is constructed from two pieces of metal, bound together by a double row of rivets. The helm opening is circled by a band of metal with small hoops for aventail attachments. It is generally unadorned. (Kirpichnikov)

Contrariwise, the helmet from Nemia is probably of single piece construction, and heavily decorated, with gilded ornamental plates. It is of much higher quality, demonstrating a more perfected design, and a similarity to the helmets in the Bayeux tapestry. It probably is an example from a master armorer. (Kirpichnikov)

Of the most interest is the lamellar helmet fragments found in the Crimea and South Eastern Europe. The helmet fragments indicate that the helmets were made up of many pieces of metal, which were tied together in an overlapping fashion to protect the head. (Dawson) This early example of lamellar will be discussed in more depth later, but for now suffice to say that it indicates that lamellar armor did not come from the Mongols but was in the area long before. Lamellar may well be a steppe armor, but the steppes are vast.

We also see the earliest examples of the sphæroconical helmet, from Chernigov. This particular example was found in what was probably a funeral pyre and is damaged. (Kirpichnikov) These will be examined in more depth a little later, when they become more prominent.

Having discussed what the Russian wore on his head, now we should discuss what he wore on his body. From this period, chain mail hauberks were used, and they will see use for another 400 years, with minor changes in hem, sleeve, and closure. (Sloan)

From the same finds as the lamellar helmet mentioned above, there are a significant number of lames in finds across the Crimea and South Eastern Europe of a similar design. They date from the between the 6th and 10th centuries. (Dawson) Because they are spread out following the steppes, it seems likely that they were used by steppes nomads.

Armor from 1000 - 1100 CE

This period of Russian armor development saw little radical change. The armor used was not radically different than what came before, mostly mail and pointed helmets.

While the conical saw continued use, the conical helmet was phased out in favor of the sphæroconical, possibly due to the enhanced protection from direct strike on the top. The conical helms of the previous era came to a very blunt, rounded point, which was less able to deflect blows that struck the top of the helm in a downward stroke. (Kirpichnikov)

Most of these helmets were of four-part construction, with the four panels of the helmet riveted together. These were generally without a nasal, and the point on the top was usually open for a plume to plug in to. Mail was still the most common form of body armor. Here we have some details on construction. The mail used by the Russian peoples was made of riveted and solid rings. The mail would alternate a row of flat riveted links, with a row of solid rings, probably punched out from a sheet of metal. (Sloan) This method of construction provides strength in the solid rings, and allows for easier manufacturing, as only half as many links need to be opened and riveted.

Armor from 1100-1200 CE

Within this period, we begin to see more radical developments in armor. The most obvious examples being with helmets. Conical helmets are still in use, but helmets integrating facial protection begin to appear.

The most dramatic of these are the helmets from Lipovets and Kovali, which are very tall and pointed, and include a metal face, with holes cut for the eyes. (Kirpichnikov) The workmanship is remarkable, the face probably formed with a combination of repousse and chasing, moving the metal sheet with hammers and chisels, into the shape of a face. Notably, the nose is large enough that it is conceivable that the wearer's nose was intended to fit within it. This would also put the oculars much nearer the eyes, which would greatly improve visibility.

In addition to the full mask helmets, half mask helmets begin to appear. These helmets, instead of terminating above the eyes, came down around them, with a nasal covering the nose. They offered greater protection to the face. (Kirpichnikov) Combined with a mail aventail, the only portions of the face and head that would be unprotected would be the eyes themselves, as the wearer needed unobstructed vision.

The Iaroslav helmet, which provides an example of just such a half mask helmet, is of special interest because its discovery in 1808 began the study of medieval Russian arms and armor. It is a sphæroconical style of helmet, with a metal plaque above the eyes showing the Archangel Michael, and an inscription around the edge reading "Great Archangel Michael, help your servant Feodor." The mask portion consists of a nasal and eyebrows, and originally metal around the bottom of the eyes, with the edge of the helmet dropping just below the level of the eyes, and the helmet being cut out around the eyes. The helmet was identified as belonging to Iaroslav Vsevolodovich, who abandoned his armor while fleeing from the Battle of Lipetsk, in 1216. However, due to the inscription, it is believed that it was originally made for someone else at an earlier date. It was remade at least three times. Some of the silver embellishments were attached by someone at a later date, as they damaged some of the lettering doing so. Further, the helmet was again modified with a spike on top. The spike is partly obscuring the images of the saints that decorates the crown. (Kirpichnikov)

The Nikolskoie helmet is similar to the Iaroslav helmet, though it is more complete, the eyes are fully surrounded, and the nasal is edged with holes for the attachment of an aventail that covers the face and neck. The helm follows the general shape of the sphæroconical helms but lacks the spike on the top of the dome. (Kirpichnikov)

The first reference to scale armor comes here, on horsemen. The armor is described as steel plates fastened only on one side to a cloth or leather base. That it was only fastened on one side allowed it to curve around the body (Sloan), though it did open up some vulnerabilities to lateral thrusts (Dawson). It provided more mobility than a solid plate chest and lacked some of the vulnerabilities of lamellar. Scale was not held together with cord, and as such the plates couldn't be cut off without a great deal of effort. For a horseman, it was a useful compromise. (Sloan)

Armor from 1200-1300 CE

Here begins a tumultuous time for Russia, with the invasion of the Mongols from the East. As with the rest of Russian culture, the exact effect that they had upon the development of Russian armor is debated. In some of the limb defenses, there are definite impacts, and it certainly increased the prevalence of certain types of body armor.

The tall helmets from the previous centuries continue to see use. Helmets like the Iaroslav helmet continue to be used, as indicated by a prince using one in the early portion of the century. The most notable development

of helmets in the century is the use of brimmed helmets. A particular example is the so called Nevskii helmet which currently resides in the Kremlin armory. It has a narrow brim, and steeply sloping sides, then more shallowly pitched sides, leading to a fairly sharp point. It is heavily embellished, with engravings of the infant Jesus, cherubim's, evangelists, and St Nicholas. It is traditionally attached to Alexandr Nevskii, but its actual provenance is unclear. It resembles a helmet found on the seal of Ivan Ieriomich on the Treaty of 1317.

Less dramatic round topped helmets were also used, made of four dished plates connected by bands of metal riveted to the plates. They have much rounder domes, with no noticeable spike on the top. The domes are the only surviving portions, found in Pershki. They have indications of an aventail being run around the helm, and some metal that either indicates a steel plate neck protection or a brim. (Kirpichnikov)

Here we have more dramatic developments in body armor. Found in Gomel, a large stash of scales. The building they were in was probably a workshop. The scales found were primarily rectangular scale, not lamellar lames. (Dawson)

The scale armor consisted of roughly rectangular plates with holes punched in them, riveted to the outside of a leather or textile backing. A number of icons and effigies give a hint as to how this was worn. A soap stone icon in the State historical museum shows a hip length torso cover, with a skirt of scale protecting the legs (Dawson).

More than just the scale armor, early brigandine was being used in Russia nearer the Baltic. (Nicolle) Brigandine being a textile cover, with small plates riveted to the interior. While the source calls it brigandine, it is likely that it was closer to a coat of plate, which has fewer, larger plates. This is especially interesting, as it raises the question of how the coat of plate and brigandine developed. It seems most likely that different places developed a plate riveted to a textile independently, though the Russian examples tend to use smaller plates than the coat of plates in the West. The smaller plates of the East may have influenced the German armor development via the trade on the Baltic, and the Northern crusades. (Nicolle)

Armor from 1300 – 1400 CE

Under the Tatar yoke, armor developed in interesting and unique ways, some of it natural continuations of the previous centuries, some quite distinct.

Helmets tended to remain relatively unchanged from the previous century. Tall, pointy, and with some form of facial covering, ranging from a simple nasal to the half mask, to the full mask. Contemporary manuscripts most commonly show stylized armor. Convex cones for helmets, with something covering the sides of the face. It seems likely that the covering is mail. (Galeotti)

Of more interest than the helmets, is the evolution of the body armor. While some things remained mostly unchanged, like scale and lamellar remaining in use, some other things came to be.

The first we will examine is the combination of scale and mail. Overlapping or contiguous scales woven into a vest of mail, called a bakherets. It was most likely originally developed in the Middle East, and there are other examples in India and Persia. Here we have a conflict in the sources. Most of the depictions of this sort of armor are from the 15th and 16th centuries. However, it is mentioned in descriptions of the Battle of Kulikovo in 1380. (Galeotti, Sloan) It seems likely that it was first developed in the 14th century, but due to the complexity of manufacture, it was not used widely until later.

A further development of the brigandine style of armor is found in the Khantangu Degel. Here, we have a piece of armor that was influenced by the Mongols. It began as a simple coat worn beneath armor, made of leather or felt. In the East, it became the coat of a thousand nails. In the West, it incorporated small plates on the inside of the garment. Its evolution split slightly in Russia. On one hand, it became the steel lined, brigandine style. On the other, it became the *tegilay*, or a padded jacket worn either alone or beneath other armor. (Nicolle)

The armor of Russia provides an interesting mix of cultures and designs. The mix, especially in the textile and iron armor is fascinating, and possibly unique. Understanding the way the armor of the region developed can help indicate what was going on technologically and culturally.

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The Anvil's Ring

By: T.H.L. Eidiard an Gobihainn,
O.G.R. (X2), C.W., C.E., A.P.F., C.R.C
Randomly Bardic Type Person, Storyteller and Standup Philosopher
(The longest running continual column in the Middle Kingdom according to some guy on the internet)

Sit down my friend, for what I have heard may be the last time. So many years have passed as I have tried to share a bit of knowledge, a touch of humor and perhaps spark an idea or two in some of you. The shadows grow longer and the forge fires have begun to cool as I sit thinking about what to say in the wee hours of the morning. There is darkness all around but even in this, I know there is a coming light. Perhaps it is time to close up this shop and rest a while. I thought of what I could share with you like some deep wisdom or cosmic insight and have found a few things that I have tried over time to instill in every chat we have.

- 1) Be nice.
As simple as it seems it will carry you further than anything else. It is free and can change lives far beyond what you may ever see.
- 2) Find a cause to fight for that is worth fighting for.
What inspires you? Be willing to get a bloody nose if need be but be willing to stand up for those things you believe in and those who need your help. When in doubt, refer to number one.
- 3) Be able to admit when you do not know or you are wrong.
Own it. Grab it with both hands and without fear. To feign knowledge about something is a disservice to others and yourself. When you realize you are wrong and can admit it, smile.
- 4) Strive to be more than you are today.
Listen, practice and improve. No great person ever was born that way. You are a project that you are in charge of creating. What do you want to be?
- 5) Be someone you can be proud of.
Be willing to help. Take an office or learn something new. Talk to people. Move out of your comfort zone if just a little bit. It is through an experience we grow and develop wisdom.

Sure, there is more but these things make a good enough guide to help you along. To add much more would be futile and in truth diminish what has been said. Will I return? Perhaps. Have I said and done all I have wanted to? No. In truth, I never will.

As always, I remain, -Eidiard



Shire Officers

Seneschal: Clarissa de Corvus (Katie Nolan)
dernehealde.seneschal@midrealm.org

Pursuivant/Herald: Adam of Dernehealde (Adam Myers)
dernehealde.herald@midrealm.org

Exchequer: Mikjall Sauthamathr (Celeste Taylor)
dernehealde.exchequer@midrealm.org

Chronicler: VACANT

Chatelaine: Katlyn of Dernehealde (Katlyn Stump)
dernehealde.chatelaine@midrealm.org

Minister of Arts & Sciences: Finche Odhinnsdottir (Judith Winner)
Dernehealde.moas@midrealm.org
dernehealde.moas@midrealm.org

Shire Calendar

Weekly Meetings: Tuesdays 7pm-10pm
Grover Hall, Rm W111
Aug 27 to Dec 3

Group Marshal: Pdraig Tomasswn (Patrick Young)
dernehealde.marshal@midrealm.org

Marshal of Fence: Leofwyn Godwinesdohtir (Leofwine Klinger)
dernehealde.rapier@midrealm.org

Archery Marshal: VACANT

Thrown Weapons Marshal: VACANT

Webminister: Finche Odhinnsdottir (Judith Winner)
dernehealde.webminister@midrealm.org

Minister of Youth: Kadas of Dernehealde (Griffin Roberts)
dernehealde.youth@midrealm.org

Social Media Officer: Leofwyn Godwinesdohtir (Leofwine Klinger)
dernehealde.socialmedia@midrealm.org

Fight Practices: Sundays 1pm-6pm
Morton Hall, Rm 201
Aug 25 to Dec 8