

QUESTING QUILL



July 2009 A.S. XLIV
Official Newsletter of the Barony of Loch Salann

Armories	Lord Bohun the Black	801-856-3621
Brewers' Guild	THL Ryryd ap Gwerstan	801-706-0075
Cooks' Guild	Mistress Casamira	801-572-6458
Musicians' Guild	Mistress Anne de Junius	801-466-7300
Needleworkers' Guild	Lady Aurora de Portugal	801-232-2698

Web Sites:

Kingdom of Artemisia	http://www.artemisia.sca.org
Artemisia A&S page	http://www.moas.artemisia.sca.org/index.html
Artemisia Heraldry pg	http://www.heralds.artemisia.sca.org/index.html
Barony of Loch Salann	http://www.loch-salann.org
Official SCA homepage	http://www.sca.org/

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3. You must send a letter to the Chronicler, stating which articles have been used and where they are being reprinted.

The submission deadline is the 20th of the month, prior to the month in which you wish your submission to appear. Example, if you wish to have your article in the June Quill, you must have it submitted by May 20th. Anything received after date that may not be printed until the next issue. Articles should be submitted electronically whenever possible.

Submitters should take into consideration the page layout for the Questing Quill. I use Microsoft Word, page set up is landscape with a .75 or .5 margin on all sides. Most pages use either 10 or 12 pitch font. Whenever possible, your original will be published as is, however to fit the page some adjustments may be required which could alter the layout of your original.

Cover Art/Baron's War art – Sheeprising by Darius Coligny (MKA Jason Conner)
 Raptor Battle – by Zafirah Tahreer bint Al Riyah
 Knotwork – by Halla Brandsdottir
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A Few Words from the Baron and Baroness

The campaigning season is in full swing. As we write this, we have only just returned from Uprising. Yet again, our cousins from Barony One Thousand Eyes have outdone themselves. I know many from our fair lands joined us, and we thank you for your fellowship. To those who did not, you were surely missed. With the obvious exception of our own events, Uprising is our favorite. It has all the flavor of a full war without the high expense and extensive travel. It is now one year until the next Uprising. We encourage all to put away a few coins each month for the next year. Nothing would please us more than to have all of Barony Loch Salann in attendance.

We wish to offer particular thanks to the fine duelists who camped with us. There are advantages to youth and strength. But there are disadvantages as well. To wit: Middle aged Barons tend to ask a great deal of them. These fine gentles, under the guidance of Don Elias, took on each task with gusto and light hearts. Setting up pavilions, helping damsels with their tents, getting water, setting up for Bardstock, cooking breakfast each day for the entire encampment, and a near heroic teardown and pack up on Sunday. We are amazed and our words of thanks seem miniscule in comparison to your efforts.

Our thanks also go to Sir Michael and his fine staff for a most successful Melee Madness. This event was better attended, with more activity than can be remembered in many years. We have heard nothing but praise from the populace and from those in the Kingdom who attended.

Activity will not diminish for us in the weeks to come. Quite the contrary, Baron Ryryd will be traveling to Arn Hold for Raptor War. Barons' War (complete with sheep) will be fast on its heels. Then comes Midge Marsh. An exciting time for all. We hope to see many of you with us.

Good health and good fortune to all.

Ryryd
Baron



Anna
Baroness



Greetings From the Seneschal:

Unto the Populace of the ancient and glorious Barony of Loch Salann here are the words of your Seneschal, Greetings.

The month of June was heralded in our traditional way with the celebration of Melee Madness at the Castle in Provo. We were fortunate in being able to provide this event without cost to the attendees this year and we were rewarded with an outstanding turnout for the activities. There were 40 armed heavy fighters available this year which allowed our marshals to stage a full castle assault for the first time in years. Hopefully we will be able to continue this in the future as it is a scenario that everyone who participated enjoyed to the fullest. Our duelists were also present in record numbers and a wide variety of fights took place. In addition to the regular archery tournament, won by Francisco di Grazzi, the elite archery shoot was held for the Loch Salann Arrow, which was won this year by Odulf Liafwin (Odfa). In addition to winning the archery tournament, Francisco also won his bride that evening in a wonderful Medieval wedding conducted by HRH Sean Kirkpatrick Tarragon. Hopefully everyone has returned from Uprising with many tales to tell and victories to report. Although I was unable to attend this year, I am sure that it was just as much fun for everyone as it has been over the last several years. Fighter practice and archery / thrown weapons practice were held as scheduled, although attendance was low due to the wet weather and preparations for Uprising. Fighter practice continues to be a major focus of weekly activity with the heavy fighters and duelists plying their skills and introducing new people that continue to swell our ranks. In addition to the fighting there are several from our populace that gather to work on Arts and Science projects and share their knowledge in a wide variety of skills. And of course there is always the opportunity to just sit and watch or visit with those you haven't seen it a while.

Barons' War will be our summer camping event which should provide a lot of interest and excitement as the time draws near. The date is July 24 - 27, 2009 at the North Fork Park Campground in Eden, Utah. Please look at our website for complete information about the event <http://www.loch-salann.org/docs/barons-war09.html>. In addition to the activities which we have all come to expect, there will be a thrown weapons competition this year instead of an archery tournament and the A&S competition is featuring desserts.

Our Herald and his Deputy have exchanged positions recently. Una of Loch Salann will now be our Crystal Pursuivant and Lord Bjarki Hvitabjarnarson will be her Deputy. In addition, Dunkr Ormhandleggr has agreed to be my deputy along with Dame Theodora of Trebizond.

We are still in need of Deputies for several of the other offices in the Barony. Please consider volunteering for these positions to assure the continuity that we need to be successful in providing a full schedule of fun events in the future.

Yours in Service to the Barony of Loch Salann,
Bjorn Hrafnson
Seneschal

A Big Congratulations to those who received awards at Uprising!

Thursday:

Knighthood - Hauk MacLean (Silverkeep)
Award of Arms - Yamanouchi Eidou (Arrow's Flight)
Award of Arms - Illeana (Arrow's Flight)

Friday:

Laurel - Annys of Pengwyrn (Sentinels' Keep)
Award of Arms - Cecilia de Caravello (Gryphon's Lair)
Award of Arms - Shawn de Lucera
Award of Arms - Fentyr
Award of Arms - Salam'el ibn Ahmoud (Loch Salann)
Award of Arms - Dunkr Ormhandleggr (Loch Salann)
Award of Arms - Oonagh (Loch Salann)

Saturday:

Pelican - Gefjon fasthaldri Hrafnardottir (Sentinels' Keep)
Pelican - Nina of the Lost Caverns (Cete du Ciel)
Knighthood and Laurel - Brian Barnum
Key Cross - Johanne Kathrijn die Waeyer (Gryphon's Lair)
Key Cross - Aine MacCullen (Arrow's Flight?)
Golden Maple Leaf - Marcello da Donnici (1000 Eyes)
Golden Maple Leaf - Arianna li Donnici (1000 Eyes)
Award of Arms - Caitriona Suthirlande (Loch Salann)

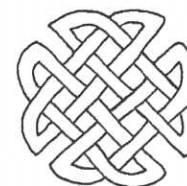
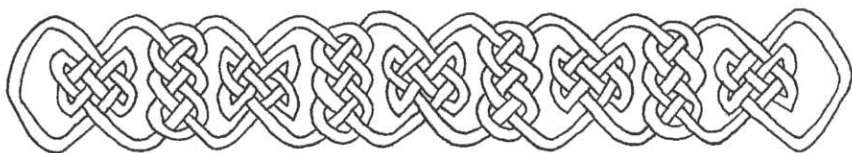
Award of Arms - Grainne Dhonn of Sentinels' Keep
Gold Scarf with an Award of Arms - Turi of Loch Salann
Award of Arms - Griff of Gryphon's Lair
Golden Sun in Splendour - Countess Sorcha of Sherwood of Otherhill
Golden Pillar - Helen Might de Gunthorpe
Golden Pillar - Matthew of Ipswich



Greetings from the MoAS:

Looking out the window at the sun finally shining on this last day of Uprising, I hope our populace has distinguished themselves and had a wonderful time. THL Hildegardis Team won the Siege Cooking Competition, the only A&S Competition of which I am aware. Looking back at Melee Madness, I am glad to report that there were several classes taught. Baron Morgan taught classes on the Art of Caring for Royalty, Baroness Casamira taught a documentation class. Lady Zafirah taught a class the construction of EZ tunics and pants for the upcoming camping season. THL Bethoc taught a well-attended class on beginning and intermediate blackwork. HL James of Penmore ran a games competition, which was won by Will Castle. The prize was a cribbage board made and donated by Lord Bjorn. There were many arts activities for the youth, run by Mistress Constance. The banner competition added to the festive appearance of the site and the prize, a basket with chocolates and other goodies, was won by Baron Morgan. Among the many activities of the day, the A&S classes certainly stood out.

Our A & S Night for June 24th was canceled due to the mundane out of Barony Activities. It is my hope that the faithful participants will enjoy their projects at the fighter practice that evening. An inspiration for us all is the lovely instructional handout in last month's Quill which THL Bethoc graciously provided for us. I, for one, am eagerly looking forward to the next installment. I hope to entice her to present for us in August or September. The next A & S Night is scheduled for July 22nd. At that time I hope to have the instruction sheets available for Mistress Ann's belt pouch. Also, at that time I will be starting a beginning knitting class for those interested. Please let me know if you need needles or yarn. Please notice the change of the meeting date to the fourth Wednesday at Fighter Practice for the summer, and remember that there will be an A & S circle each Wednesday night, weather permitting. Watch the post for the subject and any special instructions. This is a great time for you to send me any requests for programs at janet@altamistalpacas.com.



Upcoming:

There will be an A&S competition at Barons' War and the category is DESSERTS! The top 10 winners will be auctioned off and tickets may be purchased for a serving of the other entries. You can enter up to 5 dishes, so get busy. You will need the recipe, when and where it would have been served, to whom it would have been served and the source of the recipe. What a great summer treat, proposed by Baroness Daria.

Bardic night is scheduled for the first Sunday of the month and is hosted by Lady Amanda de Spencer at her home. The next gathering will be Sunday, May 3, at Amanda and Aeylwin's house. 901 E. 10600 S., Sandy Utah.

Parking on 10600 is not legal - nor safe, so please pull along side the house on Blossom Drive. Sunday was chosen so that everyone would have an opportunity to participate, as there are no other guilds or practices scheduled for that day of the week. Our summer events will include several bardics, so this is an opportunity to learn some of the customs and practices that were used in the early years of our Barony. We especially want participants for our premier event, Barons' War, coming up July 24-27. I heard in passing there will possibly be a repeat of Bardstock, the exciting event run by our own Sir Raven. Last year's event was wonderful for all ages and we were able to witness the many talents of our knights as they sang and entertained.

Each week at Fighter Practice, there is an informal A & S circle, now held in Sugarhouse Park, with answers and inspiration to share. Please join. His Lordship James of Penmore shares his period games there frequently. Feel free to ask about anything you see and maybe you will start a new project yourself. Bring your current works in progress. There are several skills I would like to learn, tatting being one of them. Hopefully we can arrange a meeting in the future where Lady Amanda will instruct us.

The Needleworkers' Guild meets the 1st Tuesday of each month. Please contact Lady Aurora de Portugal or THL Bethoc for more information. The Guild met in May and thoroughly enjoyed the meeting. You can often see HE Anna and Lady Aurora conferring over projects at Fighter Practice.





The Cooks' Guild meets on the 4th Tuesday of the month. In July, that is the 28th and we look forward to a full report of the Uprising Cooking Competition. I'm sure there will also be plans for the Dessert competition for Barons' War.

The Loch Salann Musician's Guild provides wonderful music for our events. They research instruments and music used in the Middle Ages. Meetings are conducted Thursdays from 7:15 to 9:00 p.m. Please contact Mistress Anne (466-7300) for the location of the meeting and any additional information. The Guild will be taking the summer off, so we will post when the new season begins.

The next Brewers Guild meeting will be announced on line, so be on the lookout. Lord Finlay has done a great job in infusing new life into the group.

An Armor Workshop was held June 13th, at the home of HE Ryrud and there were 11 participants. The loaner armor was repaired, new pieces were produced, and there was much fellowship, along with learning. HE reports the following:

Practice armor was inventoried and inspected
Repairs were done to two coats-of-plate
New helm was cleaned, polished and painted. Ready for padding and strapping
Two new right-hand battle arms were built and are ready for use. We now have four right-hand arms and two left-hand arms.
Two new 24" round shield were constructed.
Two knee cops were cleaned, polished and painted. Ready for leg assembly

As I endeavor to serve you, please let me know of any other guilds or groups holding meetings. Also, if you have talents to share, please let me know as we set up the programs for the New Year. I am relying on each of you to support, assist, and inspire me. What would you like to learn?

Yours in Service,

Lady Jennet Moir de Brechin
janet@altamistalpacas.com
435-882-0790 (before 9 p.m.)



Barons' War Arts and Sciences Competition

The category for the War Point for Barons' War will be **DESSERTS.**

To enter, please present your dessert knowing that the top winners will be auctioned off and the rest will be sold. In other words, you probably don't want them on a dish which has to be returned. You will need 5 copies of your recipe, one of which will be displayed with your dessert. In addition, you will need to supply the following information, answer the following questions:

1. From what country or area is the recipe.
2. Are the ingredients period. If not, what did you substitute, and why.
3. To whom would the dish be served. Is this a feast dish for royalty, minor nobles, or the populace.
4. Source of the recipe. This will give us good reference for cookbooks to add to our personal collections. (Shopping)

Please note that there will be bonus points for added documentation.

Thank you for your participation.

YIS,

Mistress Bethany, BGL
Lady Jennet, BLS



Barons' War



Barony of Loch Salann and Barony of Gryphon's Lair
July 24 - 27, 2009

Site opens 10:00 AM, 7/24/09 and Site closes 12:00 PM, 7/27/09
Where: North Fork Park Campground, 6413 N. North Fork Road, Eden,
UT 84310

Dark clouds linger across the horizon as words of war spread across the Kingdom. Barons grow restless as there is talk of raiding and false accusations. Thus has it been decided that at the end of the month of July there shall be war between the Baronies of Loch Salann and Gryphon's Lair that these disputes may be brought to light and an amicable solution can be reached.

Activities: There shall be many ways by which these claims shall be decided. By skill at arms, by the thrown weapon, by arts and by sciences and the end whose claims shall be upheld, we shall surely see.

War Points: One War Point will be awarded for each area: Heavy Fighting, Rapier, Thrown Weapons, and Arts & Sciences. This war can only be won with the efforts of all!



His Highness collects a peace offering for the Baron of Loch Salann on behalf of the Barony of Arn Hold

Fees: How Much

Site: Adult 16+: \$10.00	Youth 6 – 15: \$5.00	Child 0 – 5: Free
Family Cap: \$30.00	Non member \$3 surcharge	

Site restrictions: The site is wet, but no container may be larger than 32 ounces. There is no archery permitted on site. There are bathrooms on site and there will be running water available as well. There will also be portable toilets available on site for your convenience.

Driving directions: You'll be driving on paved, plowed roads the entire way. From Salt Lake City, take I-15 north approximately 41 miles to the 12th Street Exit (#347) in North Ogden. At the end of the exit, turn left onto Hwy 39 and travel through Ogden Canyon about until you come to Hwy 158 and the Pineview Reservoir Spillway. Turn left on Hwy 158 and cross the reservoir spillway, following the brown recreation signs to Wolf Creek and Powder Mountain. Wind around the reservoir until you reach a fork in the road. Veer to the left here, staying on Hwy 158. You will come to a stop sign. Turn left here onto Hwy 162 and drive north for about 3 miles, turning left on 4100 North. Almost immediately, take the first righthand turn, onto 3300 East (signs point up this road to "North Fork" and "Avon"). In 1.8 miles, turn left on the North Fork Road. One mile later turn left on 5950 N. at a sign that says Ben Lomond Trailhead and North Fork Park. You'll reach another intersection with a road coming in to your left - just go straight ahead to the car park. It's not a huge parking lot, but for such a lightly-used area, you shouldn't have any problems finding a spot. Light-duty cars should be just fine other than maybe getting muddy -- the lot is just dirt, but it's plowed.

Contact information:

Autocrat: Raven Macleod (Jefferson Crow), (801)232-1616,
RavenMacleod@comcast.net

July 2009

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
August Events: 7-9 – Midge Marsh Gryphon's Lair 14-16 Hearthwarming Twae Linnes 20-23 Whipping Winds – Windgate	September Events: 4-7 Kingdom Coronation Arrows' Flight 12 – Insurrection Arrows' Flight 18-20 Harvest War Cote du Ciel		1 Fighter Practice 7 PM	2 Archery Practice Musicians' Guild	3	4 Independence Day
5 Holdtyte Bardic 7 PM	6	7 Needle Workers' Guild	8 Fighter Practice 7 PM	9 Archery Practice Musicians' Guild	10 Raptor War Arn Hold	11 Raptor War...
12 Raptor War ends	13	14	15 Fighter Practice 7 PM	16 Archery Practice Musicians' Guild	17 Camping Quest Dael Beorht Hellsgate Tourney Sentinel's Keep	18 Camping Quest... Hellsgate Tourney...
19 Camping Quest Ends Hellsgate Tourney ends	20	21 Forum 7 PM	22 Fighter Practice A&S Circle 7 PM	23 Archery Practice Musicians' Guild	24 Baron's War Loch Salann/ Gryphon's Lair	25 Baron's War...
26 Baron's War...	27 Baron's War ends	28 Cooks' Guild	29 Fighter Practice 7 PM	30 Archery Practice Musicians' Guild	31	



Raptor War Returns!!! July 10-12 2009 Barony of Arn Hold

Their Excellencies, Hachmood K. Braden von Sobernheim & Mistress Giliana Attewatyr, invite you to join us for the **much** requested Return of Raptor War!!! Come to the mountains and cool off from the summer heat!

We will have fighting scenarios for both the Armored and Rapier Communities, Archery Competition, a Reverse Laurels Prize Tourney, Raptor Ball, The Roving Rapier Rogue Tourney, Classes, and A FABUOLOUS fundraiser for our Armored Fighters. How much is it worth to douse a fighter, a COUNT even, with water??? Watch out they may throw back!! Come improve everyone's camping ambiance and help our fighters fund some new loaner armor!

The site is Grayback Campground this is a Forest Service Campground. It is situated in ponderosa pine forest, 36 miles northeast of Boise, ID, just south of Idaho City. Site is almost entirely shaded!

Site Information:

Site opens: Friday July 10th at 2pm

Site closes: Sunday July 12th at 12 noon

Site is Wet. Merchants welcome. We have 2 so far a local potter and Dragons Unlimited.

Fire restrictions will be at the discretion on the Forest Service and will be posted prior to the event. Camp stoves should be allowed.

There are vault toilets and potable water is available from a hand cranked pump in the parking area. Bring containers for water.

We are allowed 35 vehicles on site free of charge, after that we pay \$4 for each additional vehicle. PLEASE consider carpooling when possible. Anyone bringing a trailer will be charged the \$4 extra vehicle parking fee at the Reeve's table. (We will forward this directly to the campground.)



RV CAMPERS ALERT!

The group sites we are using will not accommodate RV camping. If you would like to bring your RV you will need to reserve a site ahead of time in the non-group camping area. You must use this website to reserve: www.reserveamerica.com, Park name Grayback, ID. There are 2 sites available at last check. Those in RVs will be treated as day trippers.

Large groups wanting to camp together, please contact our camping coordinator, Lady Mauda McClain at IDMike08@gmail.com.

Area Information:

There is NO cell phone service once you reach Lucky Peak.

Payphones, groceries, **espresso**, accommodations & gas are all available 3 miles away in Idaho City. Here is a list of accommodations in the area (These are not recommendations these are just what is available.)

-Knotty Pine Cabins-Lodge: 208-392-6065 Cabins: 208-392-9686

www.KnottyPinelidaho.com

-Prospector Motel (208) 392-4290

Site Directions: Take your best route to I-84 to Boise. Take exit 57 for ID-21/Gowen Rd. Drive north on Highway 21 toward Idaho City. Drive approximately 32 miles. Turn right on paved road ½ mile past milepost marker 36. Campground is ¼ mile from the highway.

Fees: All prices are per person for the weekend.

Adult Camping.....\$8.00

6-15 yrs. Camping.....\$4.00

Day trip fee\$4.00

Family cap.....\$24.00

Trailer fee.....\$4.00 (to be forwarded to the campground)

Make checks payable to "Barony of Arn Hold, SCA, Inc."

Event Steward: Lady Syeira (Amber Snurkowski) ladysyeira@yahoo.com, 208-590-3860 (no calls after 9pm)

Co- Event Stewards: Lady Mauda McClain (Melissa Waylan) & Lady Rosamonde Carver (Kathy Vinson)

MIC: HL Fernando Del Santiago (Charles Snurkowski)

fernando2469@yahoo.com, 208-590-3686 (no calls after 9pm)

Siege Cooking Competition Uprising XXIII

Friday morning dawned bright and blue at Uprising XXIII. In the distance a cry could be heard, "King Richard II is coming for lunch! He wants the cooks to prepare the fruits of his hunting trip in the fastest way possible. He will provide a book from which his favorite recipes may be gleaned. Oh, and don't forget the Salat!"

Three teams answered the call. The teams were headed by Mistress Caointiarn, Lady Flora and Lord Aggie, and HL Hilde.

I cannot speak for the other teams but I know Hilde's team had a blast. The members of the team were: Baroness Rachel, Lady Caitriona, Lady Alegretza, m'lady Jena, and HL Hilde.

We received our ingredients and instructions at 9 am. We were to make dishes that were favored by King Richard II. We were provided with a copy of "The Forme of Cury." And we also pulled recipes from "The Medieval Cookbook" by Maggie Black. Our box of ingredients included: Goose, Duck, Chicken, and Pork as the "fruits" of King Richard's hunting expedition. There were also many, many herbs that were a little tricky to identify. The spices needed to make two of King Richard's favored spice blends, powder forte and powder duce, were also provided. Luckily, we had brought along our spice cabinet and already had those mixtures ground so we didn't have to use valuable kitchen time with mortar and pestle! We were also provided with a gallon of milk, a half pint of buttermilk and a pound of lard.

In the end, we created 14 dishes as follows: Spit roasted goose seasoned with ginger, duck soup, chicken with rice and almonds, Lombard sausages, Pork with cherry sauce, rice with pineapples (pine nuts) and currants, date and currant pasties, apple and raspberry tart, mulled wine with rose hips, cinnamon and cloves, Leeks with onions, fresh cheese with thyme and chives, flat bread, mushroom barley soup, and Salat.



All of the teams were required to make the Salat recipe from Forme of Cury. It is basically an herb salad dressed with oil and vinegar. None of the three salads tasted the same! Each team had their own interpretation of the ingredients and the dressing. They were all yummy!

All the teams had a serving time based on when they received their ingredients. We got ours first so we served first. We set up a side board and served the judges first and then the ever growing number of gentles that paid for the opportunity to taste the results of our fun but exhausting day in the kitchen. We received good feedback on what we did well and also what we could improve upon for next year.

The results were announced in Court Friday evening. In the end, my team was victorious not only winning the over all competition, but also with the best Salat rendition by Lady Caitriona as well! M'lady Jena of Arrow's flight won for the best dish from our team with her wonderful pork with cherry sauce. My team so ROCKS! Maybe I should come up with a name.

I wish to thank Mistress Constance and Mistress Cas for all the time and effort they put in to this period cooking competition. And also a great BIG thank you to our beautiful Baroness Anna for coming in at the last minute to transport the coolers of meat when they were stranded back in Loch Salann. And last but very much not least, I want to thank all of my team's family members. If it were not for you, and your support, we would not have been able to do what we love to do. VIVAT!

In Service,
HL Hilde

"How do I get started ..."

DOCUMENTATION AND RESEARCH DONE FUN

(and without the fear factor)

By Lady Constance de la Rose

DOCUMENTATION

The basic format for documentation in an A&S Competition is much the same as that for writing a news story. That being to answer some basic questions of Who, What, Where, When, Why, and How. The difference in documentation is the order of the questions.

- WHY?** Why did you undertake this project? Tell the judges what your personal involvement in this is. It can be as simple as "It looked fun" or as complex as "I really wanted to help my wife to not suffer from constant colds anymore". If you get the judges and the reader involved in you and with you from the beginning, you have a much better chance that they will read all of your documentation. Make them enjoy the project as much as you did.
- WHAT?** What in the heck is this thing? Even if you have a thorough understanding of it, pretend that the person you are writing to is from Mars and has never run across this doohickey before. "This is a chair, people sit on it. It has a low back because it was modeled after a 16th century chair and they needed room in the back for the large ruffs"
- WHO?** Who used it?
- WHERE?** In what country? At what societal level?
- WHEN?** During what time period? What did they use it for? What proof do you have of that or on what do you base these conclusions?
- HOW?** How did you re-create this? What were the exact steps? Give enough instructions that a person who had never done this before could follow your instructions and do the same thing.

And one last but very important thing:

RESULTS How do you feel about what you created? Would you do it again?

Some further advice on documentation:

1. Write as you talk. Don't try to put in big words if you don't use them in normal conversation.
2. If you have trouble writing, get a tape recorder. Turn on the recorder and talk about your project with a friend. Then write down what you recorded.
3. You don't have to type your own documentation. If you can't type or have bad penmanship, get a friend to type it for you. Make sure the judges can read it or you will lose their interest.
4. Have two or three other people review your documentation and give you advice. You don't have to take their advice but it never hurts to have it.



5. If your documentation is more than 4 pages long, write a summary page and put it at the front.
6. Footnotes are wonderful things. Use them. Make sure that reference page numbers are in your footnotes.
7. Use a large enough font (12 or higher). Some judges can't see well.
8. Include a bibliography. Always list your oldest sources first and your newest sources last.
9. Leave plenty of "white space". Documentation that is all crabbbed together does not look good.
10. Do your documentation early. Documentation written in an all night spree the night before the competition is usually poorly written and leaves you too tired to enjoy the event.

RESEARCH

You have a project you think you might want to do. So when and where do you do your research? I know that it is a trite saying, but it is also true. Begin your research before you begin your project. You probably do this already without even thinking about it. Do you bake a cake by throwing some ingredients together and then looking at a recipe to see where you went wrong? Do you make a chair by hammering some pieces of wood together and then look for instructions to see why it doesn't look like a chair? Do you make armor by pounding some metal into a round shape and then wondering why it doesn't fit your head? Well most of us don't.

Most of us do research and don't even recognize that we are doing it. When you ask the lady spinning wool at the side of the room to show you how she does it, you are doing research. When you tell a cook "Hey, this tastes good. How did you make it?" you are doing research. That's right. Your first research source is the people around you. Want to know how to cook mediievally? Ask the person who prepared the last feast. Attend your local cooks guild. Talk to them. Ask their advice. Ask them what sources they suggest. Find out who the local cooking laurels are. It isn't hard, ask any laurel to point you in the direction of a laurel who specializes in the area you are interested in. Most Laurels love to share their knowledge if you only ask.

Now, chances are that these people will lead you to more sources than you will ever need to complete not only the research on your project but even the project itself. But, just in case you need more, listed below are a few other sources for research.

THE INTERNET

The internet is not a final source. It is, however, the world's largest card catalog. Use it to help you find out where to go for your sources. You can find articles out there which will give you some information. Look at the bottom of those articles or in their footnotes to find out what their sources are. Also, don't be afraid of email. Email the authors of those articles. Email the curators or directors of museums. The worst they can do is tell you "no" or just not respond to you. Are you any worse off in that case? However, in many cases, they are willing and eager to share information with you. All you have to do is ask.

LIBRARIES

Here again, you should start with the card catalog. Once you have located the general area(s) where books in your interest area are located, go to those shelves. Don't just find your book and remove it. Look at books in nearby areas. Libraries don't always keep things in the same categories you might. The perfect book on your subject may be one shelf down.

RESEARCH LIBRARIANS

This is a little used but very valuable resource. This person's job is to help those who are conducting research at their library. They can help you find the information you need. They can tell you alternative areas to search. They can help you get a book through interlibrary loan (ILL) which they don't have but another library does have.

MUSEUMS

Again, you want to talk to one of the people in charge. It is little known by most people, but museums also have loan type programs. They can often get a loan for viewing item into your local area which is normally only available at the Chicago Museum or even at a European museum. Even if they can't get the item itself in, they can usually get a copy, or pictures, or a complete history of the item. They also have many items which are not on display and access to the items which other museums have which are not on display. They love to talk to people who have a real interest in the past.

COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES

Go to the directory of the college and find the department which covers your area. Talk to the professors who handle that area. Ask them to refer you to others who can help you. Prepare to be bombarded with information. (again, much of this can be done by email or telephone)

You will hear people refer to Primary, Secondary, and Tertiary or below sources. These are academic terms which refer to the accuracy of your source.

To put it simply, if you are holding a cup made in 1497 and have the freedom to examine it in any way you like, you have a primary source. If you have a description of that same cup, written by some one who actually examined the cup or used the cup, you have a secondary source. If you have a summary of the description and comments on the description written by a person who only read the description, you have a tertiary source. And so on.

Think of the telephone game we used to play as children, where one person whispered a phrase to the next person, who whispered it to the next on down the line. By the time you get to the end of the line, the phrase has changed completely. The same is true with sources. The farther you get from the primary sources, the less likelihood that information has of being accurate. Get as close to the primary source as you can.



A few rules for research:

1. Write it down when you find it and write down where you found it. Nothing is more frustrating than getting halfway through your project and knowing that the information you need is in one of fifty books somewhere but you can't remember where.
2. Keep an open mind. Just because you are presently researching what horses were used by knights in the middle ages doesn't mean you should ignore information on what horses were used by kings. If you find more of an interest in that, follow it.
3. Don't assume that the only place to find your information is in books. Much of the important information of the time was memorialized in poems, songs, and stories. Even a fiction story of the time has descriptions of the dress of the time and cosmetics as well as common everyday activities.
4. Don't let yourself get discouraged by false leads. The story is told of Thomas Edison being interviewed on his attempts to create the lightbulb. The reporter said "Mr Edison, you have tried 98 times to create the lightbulb and failed. Most other people would have given up by now. Why do you continue?". To which Thomas Edison replied, "Young man, I have not failed 98 times. I have successfully found 98 different ways which do not work." He succeeded on his 102nd attempt.
5. If you are working on a project or on research and it stops being fun, STOP. This is a hobby, not work, do the parts of it which you enjoy. Secondly, if you stop and walk away from it for a bit, you might find that you can take it up with enjoyment later. If you keep at it you will not only not enjoy it, you won't be able to look at the results without remembering the struggle and that will taint your enjoyment of the finished project.
6. Explore the entire range of projects available in the Arts and Sciences of the SCA. Just because you have never tried something doesn't mean you aren't the next great producer in that area. Give yourself that chance.

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