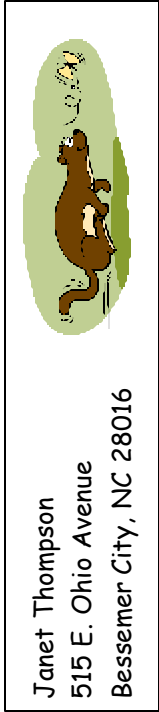
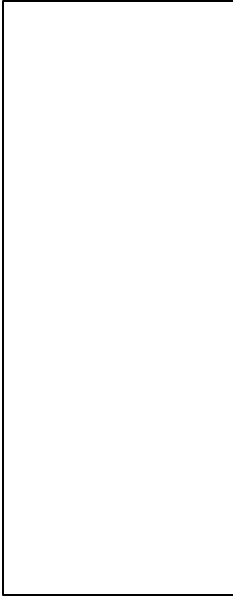


# *Aire Currents*

*Newsletter for the  
Canton of Aire Faucon*



Janet Thompson  
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Bessemer City, NC 28016

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*Volume VI, Issue II  
February A.S. XXXVI being 2002 Gregorian*



*Canton Regnum for Aire Faucon*

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**Kingdom Calendar**

**February 2002**

2	University of Atlantia (QP) (HP)	Courtland, VA
8-10	Tourney of Ymir (RP) (HP)	Wake Forest, NC
9	Bright Hills Baronial Birthday	Westminster, MD
9	Atlantian Dance Symposium III	Lusby, MD
13-18	Estrella War XVIII	Queen Creek, AZ
16	Ice Ax	Powhatan, VA
23	Ponte Alto Baronial Birthday (RP)	Burke, VA

**HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO:**

Lydia February 1  
Gaelen February 16  
5<sup>th</sup> Birthday to Aire Faucon



## MEETING MINUTES

January 9, 2001

Meeting site: Gaston Public Library is \$10.00 per meeting, they will reserve three months in advance. There was then discussion and the group agreed to move the monthly meetings to the Gaston Public Library. Lydia will be responsible for making the reservations. Directory: Mieszko handed out current directory for people to update. Changes will be made and a hard copy via the newsletter and email copy will be available. Inn on the Road: Event form signed; MIC is Wolfgang; the Heavy Tourney will be a light touch tourney; the Rapier Marshal in Charge is Marion, there will be a first blood tourney; Archery will be done by Maeve, fluffy stuffed animals will be the targets; Susanna will do A&S, there will be five categories: outerwear, containers, travel food, non-alcoholic beverages, and travelers games; Myrrh is doing feast; Senga is doing a tavern; William is in charge of the wenchies; Kisaiya will run the kids activities; Demetria will be handling the games. The charity is still in discussion. The current idea is to split the monies between the Red Cross and the Tri-County Rescue. Canton members will research different charities and the decision will be made at the February meeting.

**New business:** Gifts for Royals: Fiona and Brianna will be coordinating. Will need for Investiture and Baronial Birthday. No money can come from the canton coffers for this, donation from people only. For Investiture we will need three gifts, for Birthday four gifts. If you are donating, please tag your item with your name and if you have a preference of royal it should be given to. Fiona will post a list of whom gifts will be given to and she will also keep track of what is given to avoid repeats. Pica requested that each member of the canton think about what our canton goal should be for the year. We will discuss at the February meeting. Fighter Practices: We need people. A&S classes/projects will be worked on. Anyone is welcome. February practices will be on February 17<sup>th</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup> due to Ymir. Jonathan will check with Gaston County Parks and Recreation to see about getting approval for combat archery.

**Seneschal:** Warrant is being processed; quarterly reports are in..

**Exchequer:** \$1300.16 in account, report is not done.

**Marshal:** Inn on the Road event form signed.

**Rapier Marshal:** Report from Solstice is in. Practices for the next two months: Jan 13 at noon; Jan 27 at 11am; Feb. 17 and Feb. 24. Have new loaner stuff available.

**Deputy Web Minister:** We have server space available on the kingdom site. Need to decide whether we want to upload old site or put a new look on the kingdom server.

**MoAS:** There is an outbreak of card weaving. Classes continue on Tues.

**Herald:** Absent

**Chronicler:** Newsletter is out. Current subscription is \$5.50.

**Chatelaine:** Reports are in; 1 newcomer, working on loaner garb.

## THE SENESCHALE'S SENDING

Greetings dear friends. Here is an update on the state of the canton.

**IMPORTANT:** Our meeting site is changing. We are moving meetings to the Gaston-Lincoln Public Library, 1555 East Garrison Boulevard, in Gastonia, effective with the February 13th meeting. 7:00 pm as always.

Progress on our directory is going apace. There will be both an on-line and hard copy available. Thank you Mieszko and Maeve!

Kisaiya has agreed to spearhead our efforts to win a space on the kingdom pavilion. See her for questions.



There was great conversation about the specified charity (or charities) for Inn on the Road. Lydia will revisit this and take further and final input at our next meeting. So, do whatever research you want to do and let everyone know if you come upon the perfect charity.

In order to be somewhat ahead of the game regarding gifts, Fiona has agreed to coordinate this for 2002, and Brianna has agreed to assist her. Contact them if you have something to offer (items or ideas).

#### BIG ITEM:

At the February meeting our big agenda item is to determine a major goal for the canton for 2002.

The idea is that this goal is one, which provides a sense of direction for the other things we do this year. For example, if our goal is to maximize our A & S activity, we might do things like assist others in getting their A & S stuff to more events, have A & S activities specifically aimed toward fighters at our events (best documented useful armor), set up even more classes, work toward getting more of our folk teaching at colleges and universities, etc. If our goal is to increase membership, we could set a goal for a specific number of demos, increase publicity, etc.

So please talk to each other and generate ideas for goals. Here are some to start:

Increase membership

Increase fighting

Increase the number of events we do

Increase our visibility in the kingdom

We'll discuss this and come to a consensus at the February meeting.

We have need of an immediate deputy to Mieszko, who is our canton exchequer. He is stepping down as soon as possible. I will officially announce the opening at the February meeting. In the meantime, since he had not found a deputy, we need one who will act as a deputy for a stop gap measure. All who may be interested in either the deputy or full exchequer positions, please contact me at [weber697@bww.com](mailto:weber697@bww.com). If you think someone would be good please suggest them to me and I will inquire.

Thanks.

PICA

## THE CHATELAINE'S CALL

I'm still in contact with a young man who is interested in experiencing the SCA, but as he is currently without job/vehicle, it's only e-mail contact. He will be joining us at an upcoming fighter practice, I hope!

My first chatelaine's report has been submitted to the proper places, and confirmed received by the Kingdom Chatelaine.

I will be putting together business cards, pamphlets and possibly bookmarks for people to use at demos. I should have a stash of them ready by the end of the month. I will shoot for having a pile of each with me for the last fighter practice in January. If you have some pictures that you feel would help, send them to me via e-mail (or see me at a meeting/practice) and I might be able to use them. I am looking for anything and everything that helps describe the SCA experience.

New business:

Rose and I are planning to get together in the very near future to swap loaner garb. If anyone has any garb



they'd like to get rid of/donate, let me know, and we can make arrangements to add it to the stash. Also, several of us are planning to go through the garb and refurbish the pieces we can, salvage cloth when garments can't be maintained, and add where we have obvious lacks. If anyone has fabric/trim/etc that they'd like to donate, again, let me know.

That's it for me! Sorry I missed you all.

Sincerely,  
LADY SERAPHINA NETKA

## THE CHRONICLER'S MUSINGS

You know that February 14 is Valentine's Day. But did you know...

Although it is celebrated as a lovers' holiday today, with the giving of candy, flowers, or other gifts between couples in love, it originated in 5th Century Rome as a tribute to St. Valentine, a Catholic bishop.

For eight hundred years prior to the establishment of Valentine's Day, the Romans had practiced a pagan celebration in mid-February commemorating young men's rite of passage to the god Lupercus. The celebration featured a lottery in which young men would draw the names of teenage girls from a box. The girl assigned to each young man in that manner would be his sexual companion during the remaining year.

In an effort to do away with the pagan festival, Pope Gelasius ordered a slight change in the lottery. Instead of the names of young women, the box would contain the names of saints. Both men and women were allowed to draw from the box, and the game was to emulate the ways of the saint they drew during the rest of the year. Needless to say, many of the young Roman men were not too pleased with the rule changes.

Instead of the pagan god Lupercus, the Church looked for a suitable patron saint of love to take his place. They found an appropriate choice in Valentine, who, in AD 270 had been beheaded by Emperor Claudius.

Claudius had determined that married men made poor soldiers. So he banned marriage from his empire. But Valentine would secretly marry young men that came to him. When Claudius found out about Valentine, he first tried to convert him to paganism. But Valentine reversed the strategy, trying instead to convert Claudius. When he failed, he was stoned and beheaded.

During the days that Valentine was imprisoned, he fell in love with the blind daughter of his jailer. His love for her, and his great faith, managed to miraculously heal her from her blindness before his death. Before he was taken to his death, he signed a farewell message to her, "From your Valentine." The phrase has been used on his day ever since.

Although the lottery for women had been banned by the church, the mid-February holiday in commemoration of St. Valentine was still used by Roman men to seek the affection of women. It became a tradition for the men to give the ones they admired handwritten messages of affection, containing Valentine's name.

The first Valentine card grew out of this practice. The first true Valentine card was sent in 1415 by Charles, duke of Orleans, to his wife. He was imprisoned in the Tower of London at the time.

Cupid, another symbol of the holiday, became associated with it because he was the son of Venus, the Roman god of love and beauty. Cupid often appears on Valentine cards.

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Always in Service,  
LADY MAEVE

## HERALD'S CRY

Please forgive me for not making it to the meeting. I am recovering from the flu and I have lost my voice now for about a week.

The only thing that I have to report is this: I have two devices that are at Kingdom.

Una, the device that I have been working on is ready and all I need to do is schedule a time to get together so you can go over it and say yes or no.

I have been working on a name and device for a new comer to the group. He might be at the meeting tonight. I am finishing up the paper work for his submission and will be ready for next months' submission to Kingdom.

I haven't had the time to check on the Park for a meeting site but I do have a few days off next week and I will follow up on that.

New business: I am going to be teaching at University in Feb. Car pool / hotel share anyone?

Yours in Service (and running a fever)  
LD. OTTO VON SCHWYZ  
Cornet herald - Canton Aire Faucon

Just a reminder that A&S meeting nights are every Tuesday evening at Lady Susanna von Schweissguth ([needleznpinz@aol.com](mailto:needleznpinz@aol.com)). In addition, there are Sunday afternoon fighter practices at Biggerstaff Park every other Sunday. There will be A&S activity at these practices, and help available for projects you may be working on or learning about.

## ARTS AND SCIENCES CORNER

A&S Workshops- Thank you to everyone who has supported the A&S workshops this fall, including Lady Kisaiya, Lady Brianna, Lord Dammuth and their daughters; Lady Maeve and Lady Margaret.

Winter Solstice Report- Thank you to all the participants in Winter Solstice: Lady Seraphina Netka, Mistress Azza, Herrin Una von Scheib, Lady Fiona MacLeod, and Lady Sarah Montgomerie.

Thank you, also, to the judges: Lady Demetria degli Stasi, Lord Mieszko Salin, and Lord Otto von Schwyz.

Respectfully submitted,  
LADY SUSANNA VON SCHWEISSGUTH





## Cross Stitch Embroidery in the Middle Ages and Renaissance

### Part II

By Karen Larsdatter

On the top portion of the sampler, there are several cross-stitched figures in various stages of completion. One can even see evidence of unembroidered portions -- among the cross-stitched sections there are an elephant, a bird, and a rabbit which have been carefully marked onto the fabric (either via the punch-and-pounce method, or perhaps just pricked through the pattern and onto the cloth). Clearly, these motifs were from a pattern book or broadsheet, although there is no evident link between the motifs on the sampler and surviving examples of contemporary books or broadsheets. It is interesting to compare the cross stitched motifs on the Bostocke sampler, done in England, to an unfinished and unsigned German spot sampler of the early sixteenth century, done in cross stitch, long-armed cross stitch, double-sided Italian cross stitch, and double running stitches, pictured in Staniland's *Embroiderers*. Spot samplers featured individual motifs, or spots, arranged haphazardly; they were generally unsigned, and served as practice pieces of experienced embroiderers testing new designs, trial designs made before working a final piece, designs which later could be cut out of the linen and appliquéd to a final piece, or simply records of designs. <sup>5</sup> One motif that the two samplers have in common is the pelican in her piety, an image known to us in the SCA as the badge of the Order of the Pelican. Both the Bostocke sampler and the earlier anonymous German sampler have very nearly the same version of the motif -- of the bird piercing her breast to feed three young chicks, in a very geometrically rendered and symmetrical oak tree (although Bostocke adds a squirrel and unfinished bird to hers as well). In the Middle Ages and Renaissance, the image of the pelican in her piety had symbolic religious connotations, a graphic metaphor for the Crucifixion; it is a rather common image in art and embroidery in period. Period embroidery books routinely plagiarized patterns from earlier books; <sup>6</sup> it would not be shocking to discover that the Bostocke sampler and the German sampler have their origins in related pattern-books. While embroidery-books were being printed all over Europe, these were not the only books, which were responsible for the inspiration of Renaissance-era cross-stitch. The Oxburgh hangings -- a series of cross-stitched panels worked in silk on linen, and then applied to velvet -- feature colorful pictures of plants and animals. The designs were drawn up by professional embroiderers in the household of Elizabeth of Hardwick, the Countess of Shrewsbury; these drawings were in turn based on books such as Conrad Gesner's *Icones Animalium* (1560) and Pierre Pelon's *La Nature et Diversité des Poissons* (1555), as well as Mattioli's *Comentarii* (editions from 1568 and 1572). On some panels, such as "BYRD OF AMERICA," one can even see where the pattern has been drawn directly onto the linen. These embroideries were worked by Elizabeth and professional embroiderers under her own employ, as well as Mary, Queen of Scots, who was a prisoner in the custody of the Earl and Countess from 1569 to her execution in 1587. Elizabeth of Hardwick also commissioned or worked several other cross stitch pieces, including a folding screen with thirty octagonal cross stitched panels. Slips, embroideries worked onto canvas and then cut out and appliquéd to the background fabric (which was often velvet), were most often done in tent stitch, but there are a few examples of slips worked in cross stitch. <sup>7</sup> Slips generally depicted flowers and plants, although some featured insects, animals, heraldic monsters, people, and even coats of arms. As with other embroidery, slips could be inspired by designs in pattern books or illustrations in books like the herbals and bestiaries, which inspired the Oxburgh Hangings. The slips were applied to bed hangings, cushions, and other household furnishings; while clothing might be embroidered with similar patterns, it was easier to embroider directly onto the cloth, instead of embroidering a separate appliquéd. Several seventeenth century band samplers -- portable records of favorite patterns and stitches worked across long strips of linen <sup>8</sup> -- also feature cross-stitched patterns. Since band samplers were generally unsigned, it is near useless to define which samplers feature cross stitch; it would simply be easier to look for pictures of band samplers, and to determine which bands were in fact cross-stitched. Many of these samplers feature bands, which would be easy to adapt to create your own seventeenth century-style band sampler. Indeed,



many period cross stitch designs, with some creativity (and a little bit of graph paper), could be adapted for use on any number of projects -- garb trim, pouches, table linens -- the list is limited only by your imagination!

End Notes 1 Marie Schuette and Sigrid Mueller-Christiansen, *A Pictorial History of Western Embroidery*.

2 Kay Staniland, *Medieval Craftsmen: Embroiderers*, p. 36.

3 Timothy J. Mitchell, "Long-Armed Cross Stitch Embroidery,"

<http://ourworld.compuserve.com/homepages/Wymarc/cross.htm>

4 Joyce Miller, "A 14th-15th Century Embroidered Box from Westphalia (Germany),"

<http://web0.tiac.net/users/drbeer/joyce/emb/westbox/westbox.htm>

5 Liz Arthur, *Embroidery 1600-1700 at the Burrell Collection*, p. 61.

6 Kathleen Epstein, "Introduction: German Pattern Books," *German Renaissance Patterns for Embroidery*, p. 3.

7 Meg Andrews, "Slips: Late 16th/Early 17th Century (Elizabethan/Stuart) Embroidery,"

<http://www.victoriana.com/shops/andrews/slips.htm>

8 Joanna Foster, "Cross Stitch," *Needlework*, June 1997, p. 43. Bibliography Andrews, Meg. "Slips: Late 16th/Early 17th Century (Elizabethan/Stuart) Embroidery," <http://www.victoriana.com/shops/andrews/slips.htm>

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