



# QUID NUNC *Quarantine Edition*

The Official Newsletter of the Barony of Ruantallan

Oct. A.S LV 10th Edition

## From the Baroness

It is getting cold outside, what are you working on?

I cannot count the times I pulled the purple wool from the shelf, unfolded, and spread it on the floor, trying to imagine what I would create with it. It always ended up back on the shelf, until a couple of weeks ago. I was browsing Pinterest for inspiration and began diving a little deeper into Birka and the Viking age. I realized I had just enough material for a coat.

Some of the textiles found at Birka are fragments of wool, linen, and silk. Posaments made with wire and thread, tablet woven bands with silver and gold and metal wire.

I came across a website dedicated to Guldgubber (small gold-foil figures found in Scandinavia) and decided my coat would overlap like one of the figures found, lined with silk to help keep me insulated from the cold. To hold it closed, I would use tablet woven trim and attempt my hand at some posaments or perhaps some toggle or buttons. I have not decided yet. It is a project like all others, sometimes they get put to the side and forgotten. This one is still a work in progress.

Admiranda Gower  
Baroness of Ruantallan



# The Feminine Perspective

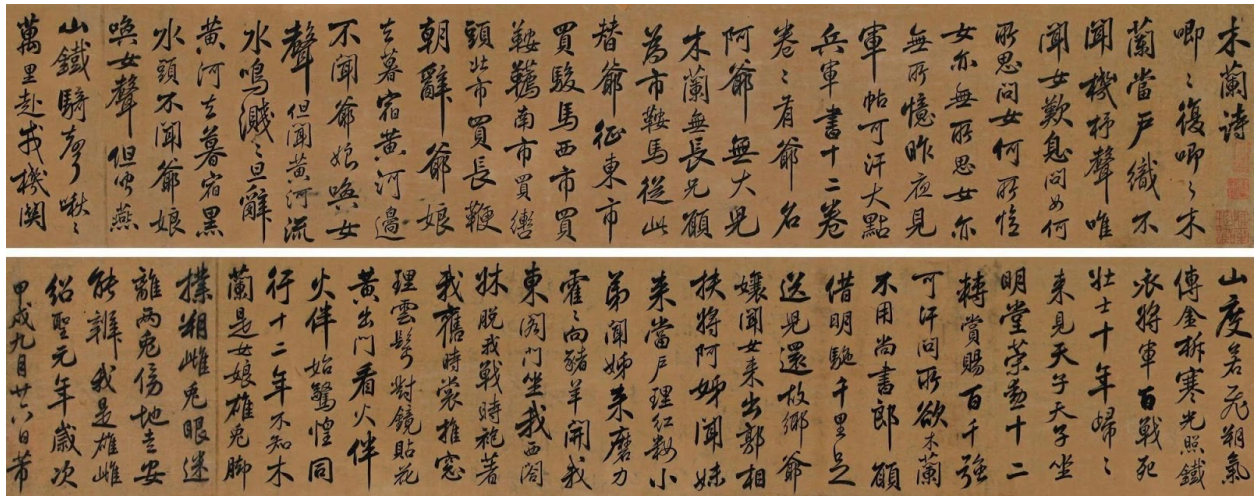
Greetings everyone... Isolda here. My work on the “Herstory in the Making” event in spring has inspired me to start writing a column with the intention to share various and sundry pieces of feminine pre-seventeenth century history, stories, and other interesting things. I am using the word “feminine” as it pertains to how we feel and how we see ourselves... our identity. I do not profess to be an expert, but I hope you enjoy this journey of learning with me.

## The Feminine Perspective

by Isolda Fairamay

For my first topic, I'd like to talk about a character many of us know but may not know a lot about: Mulan. The new live action movie version of “Mulan” is getting a lot of attention and many of us remember the animated version of the movie. There are a few differences between the movies, but I won't spoil anything by revealing them. The question that comes up for either version is: Was Mulan a real person?

The story of Mulan is thought to have originated from a folk tale from the fifth or sixth century CE in during China's North Wei Dynasty. The story has since been written and retold many times, with the earliest version likely being “The Ballad of Mulan.” penned by a calligrapher named Mi Fu in 1094 AD.



The basic story tells of Mulan, a female warrior who disguises herself as a man in order to fight for her family's honour. She eventually returns home, triumphant as a leader among men.



Though Mulan as an actual historical figure is mostly touted as a legend, recent reports may have found some truth to the existence of this woman, or in the very least, women like her. Anthropologists Christine Lee and Yahaira Gonzalez have found new physical scientific evidence of female warriors in what is now known as Mongolia. The study is a reanalysis of remains studied previously at 29 burial sites, but this time with a focus on females. Several remains of female bones that date from around the fourth to fifth century AD show markings that would be congruent with horseback riding and archery activities. Though these findings may be only hints, they do help to support the possibility of the existence of a heroine such as Mulan.

Whatever the truth may be, legend or legitimate, I am sure the renewed interest in this character through watching the new or old version of Disney's Mulan will inspire many new young Scadians to adopt a female Asian fighting persona.

Sources:

\*<https://mulanbook.com/pages/northern-wei/ballad-of-mulan>

\*<https://www.esquire.com/entertainment/movies/a33917170/real-hua-mulan-true-story-facts/>

\*<https://www.smithsonianmag.com/smart-news/researchers-uncover-new-evidence-warrior-women-inspired-legend-mulan-180974774/>

Thank you Isolda for bringing us this wonderful column and we hope to have many more like it from our new Deputy Chronicler!



# Magic Tablet Events

During this time of Challenging Quarantine, the Consuls and their Advisors have decided that all in person events are to be cancelled until further notice to prevent the spread of this plague. The Marvellous East Kingdom has put Magic Tablet events for us to feel connected. They are also continuing to do Ethereal Courts for us to be able to see and participate in Kingdom affairs. Long live the Consuls.

East Kingdom Magic Tablet Online Events

<https://www.eastkingdom.org/calendar-of-online-activities/>

Known World Entertainment Guide

<https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1xEZAwCca4IQham3TpxfWnonQscG668mmYgIMA18YZ-E/edit?fbclid=IwAR0xFJCCACefl8NZIV24Nc-VanJUCoyRIHbs2E8JzKXSbKWbtwWsA1Bs420#gid=0>

East Kingdom Ministry of Arts and Sciences (links to online classes and recordings)

<https://moas.eastkingdom.org>

East Kingdom Youtube Channel

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCgrji-lyH1IHYaX8kFPpLIQ>

Barony of Ruantallan Discord Channel (for information on this Discord Magic please contact Lord Oswald of Ruantallan)

<https://discord.gg/DW7SGn>

Pennsic University

[https://thing.pennsicuniversity.org/?fbclid=IwAR1B\\_NyYAFt\\_PHvMgEhjc5UXR-P\\_iRsh7OnJy9uCnkxAOGWpSSbLwSgZzkc](https://thing.pennsicuniversity.org/?fbclid=IwAR1B_NyYAFt_PHvMgEhjc5UXR-P_iRsh7OnJy9uCnkxAOGWpSSbLwSgZzkc)

## Guilds and Groups Highlights

One of the many great things about being in the Society is vast knowledge that the members have. One of the ways we can learn and share knowledge is through the various Groups and Guilds that have been formed. As Chronicler, I feel that we do not know enough about these groups and I endeavour to highlight some of the groups that are in the East Kingdom and the SCA. Two such groups are presented below (if you wish to have a group highlighted in further issues please email me at [chronichler@ruantallan.eastkingdom.org](mailto:chronichler@ruantallan.eastkingdom.org) ).

### Arachne's Web Lace Guild

#### 1. Purpose of Guild

Arachne's Web is a Guild dedicated to the study and making of the various lace forms of the late Medieval and Renaissance eras. Although people typically think of Bobbin Lace as our primary thrust, we have Sprang Lace, Knitted Lace, Filet Lace (on net), Needle Lace, and Knotted Lace (macrame and possibly Armenian lace). We also include the making of Lace Tools (bobbins, pillows, net) as additional skills. We have 3 Ranking levels – Apprentice (anyone with an interest in Lacemaking), Lace Maker (has paneled 3 items of lace, either all different or all the same style), and Lace Mistress (considered an expert in a lace style or several lace styles).

The Lace Guild was started back in the mists of time, and fell out of favor (or attendance, or interest) sometime in the 1990s. I was challenged by Mistress Pagan Graeme to find out what I could about the Guild, which led to me starting it up again in 2012. We have a charter (done by Mistress Nest) which is signed by TRMs Edward & Thyra at Birka in 2012. Very little was left of the old EK Lace Guild, but I was able to find much info in Atlantia, whose guild was still active. We then had meetings where we took the info I had obtained, shook out the bits that were no longer considered historically accurate (we eliminated crochet and tatting), and added a Depth option to the existing Breadth option for paneling and advancing in rank. We also added the Tools category fairly recently.

Currently we have an unofficial EK Arachne's Web Facebook Group, and recently obtained mention on the EK Guilds page, and an email [info@arachnesweb.eastkingdom.org](mailto:info@arachnesweb.eastkingdom.org) .

We have an old Yahoo group that is not really used anymore.

We are in the process of finding regional Deputies so that our Guild can grow. Currently, I am in the central region, and Lady Ciarnat is our Northern Deputy. I would like to have Deputies for Tir Mara, Central, and Southern Regions to hold meetings where I cannot attend.

## 2. If there are ranks within Guild and what they are:

### APPRENTICE

The only requirement for membership is an interest in lace and lace making. The badge is Sable, a spider's web Argent.

### LACE MAKER

#### Breadth Option

Samples of three different kinds of lacework must be submitted to a panel of three judges. (This panel may be made up of Lace Makers or lace Mistresses, with at least 1 Lace Mistress on the panel.) An example could be one each of bobbin lace, Laxis, and Lace tool. The applicant will be admitted if the samples display an adequate knowledge of the techniques.

#### Depth Option

Samples of three types of the same kind of lacework using different patterns and stitches must be submitted to a panel of 3 judges. (This panel may be made up of Lace Makers or lace Mistresses, with at least 1 Lace Mistress on the panel.) An example could be 3 samples of bobbin lace of different patterns possibly including plaited lace, leaves & tallies, and feathers on separate pieces, or different materials including linen, silk, and metal. Another example could be one each of Reticella, Punto in Aria, and Teneriffe.

The duties of a Lace Maker are to help instruct the Apprentices, to assist in judging submitted work, and to promote interest in laces. Any Lace Maker may sponsor a competition on behalf of the Guild if the Guild Mistress (Master) as been informed and there is no objection.

An argent spider is added to the badge.

### LACE MISTRESS (MASTER)

#### Breadth Option

This is a member who knows how to do at least four forms of lacework well and can produce excellent pieces in two. Pieces should be different from the ones used for the Lacemaker panel, and should be slightly more complex, demonstrating improved evenness and tension. This member should be able to tell the difference between period and post-period styles/stitches.

#### Depth Option.

This is a member who knows how to do at least four pieces with differing styles of a form of lacework well and can produce excellent pieces in two. Pieces should be different from the ones used for the Lacemaker panel and should be slightly more complex, demonstrating improved evenness and tension. This

member should be able to tell the difference between period and post-period styles/stitches.

The candidate shall have taught within the Society and served the Guild as a judge. Completed samples, appropriately finished, will be submitted for judging to a panel versed in the respective techniques submitted. (If there is a question as to judging service, Guild records may be supplied by the Guild Mistress. Samples of students' work may be used as proof of teaching if it was one-to-one rather than a formal class).

A Lace Mistress (Master) shall assist the Guild Mistress in teaching and coordinating lace making classes, judging submitted work, and sponsoring competitions. In addition, articles for publications are encouraged.

The badge can now be trimmed or set in Argent.

**GUILD MISTRESS (MASTER)** -This position may be held by someone of Lace Maker or Lace Mistress (Master) rank.

The duties are to maintain all records of judging panels, classes, special projects and members. The Principal is also responsible for selection of panels to examine the work of applicants for lace Maker and submitting work from Lace Mistress (Master) candidates to appropriate judges. IF these must be sent to another Kingdom, she (he) will be responsible for their distribution.

The Guild Mistress is responsible for organizing classes and coordinating help for apprentices. In addition, a personal, written progress report to the Queen will also be submitted at least once each reign. It is the responsibility of the Guild Mistress (Master) to coordinate the finishing of handkerchiefs i to be presented to the incoming Queen upon her Coronation. (Note: Other handkerchiefs and lace pieces may be done by members, at the discretion of the guild Mistress, for the Queen to use as largesse.)

As the Guild grows, deputies may be appointed for individual regions within the East Kingdom. These deputies will be appointed by the Guild Mistress (Master).

The Guild Mistress will select her (his) successor, mindful of the good and harmony of the Order. At the pleasure of the Queen, the transfer will take place at Kingdom Court and will be announced in The Pikestaff. Guild Mistress (Master) [and past office holders] will wear an appropriate level badge surrounded by a border Or.

### **3. Guild Badge or Heraldry**

There is no official design. The rank badges are described in Answer #2. We currently use any depiction of a spider web, with or without a spider.

### **4. Requirements for membership in your Guild**

An interest in lacemaking of any kind.



## Guilds and Groups Highlight (cont'd)

### 5. Any other information you would like to give to new potential members

Types of lace: Bobbin Lace, Embroidered Lace, Needle Lace, Filet Lace, Macrame, Sprang, Knit lace, Woven Lace.  
Also, the making of lace-making tools like bobbins, pillows, netting are included

Initially, working any of these types of lace in a non-period style is acceptable. However we don't accept types of lace outside our period, like tatting or crochet (although I regularly have disagreements with some who don't accept this). Once moving up in the ranks is desired, pre-1600 patterns and techniques are encouraged.

Thoughts about Arachne's Web,  
by Mistress Barbeta Kyrkeland, Guildmistress

The Second group that I wish to highlight is an unofficial group called

### The Empty Chalice

#### 1. Purpose of Group:

Here is our statement on our Facebook group, which I wrote myself: *"We of the Empty Chalice are proud to be members of the S.C.A. who chose not to imbibe. We embrace the vision that we are different, and we love this dream as much as the rest! We have found our niche, and want to let others know that, if you so choose, you can be a part of this group. We are simply offering to others the opportunity to be a part of the WONDERFUL game that is the S.C.A., but that have fears that they might put their sobriety in jeopardy. We are that safe place to go at events to find your strength in numbers! ALL ARE WELCOME!!!"*

#### 2. Brief History of the Group:

The group was started back in late 2013 by myself and Lady Sadb Halsdottir (Shawn Holstrum Davis) who is out of Glyn Dwfn. My husband, Mark (HL Aaron Brandtson of Briaroak) helped us some, mostly to design our device and set up our online Facebook group. This journey began when we discovered, purely, by accident, that we were both in recovery. Sadb and I sat down at an event and talked about how so many folks left the S.C.A. because they were constantly tempted to imbibe, and felt they had no other choice than to not attend. We decided at that time to begin this group. We came up with the



name “Empty Chalice” to signify that we were choosing not to fill the cup. Our (unofficial) device is a goblet with a hand over it to show that we are in control of our actions. We are ecstatic that Empty Chalice is currently active in 11 or more of the 22 kingdoms of the Knowne World. We have drawn attention from past royalty in our home Principality of the Summits, and then all over AnTir. And also in the Kingdoms of The West and Caid.

### 3. Goals of the Group:

To be present at events, often camping together and making our presence known at gate so that any one who wishes to meet and gather with others who have the same desire to stay sober can do so. We have banners and favors to signify who we are. We do not actively recruit, instead we allow others to come to us and ask questions. We don't preach or practice in the way of AA, but if the need arises we may have informal meetings at events.

### 4. Group Badge or Heraldry:

Here is our unofficial device: The Symbols in our device represent the 3 tenets of the Society: The embattlement wall symbolizes endurance, strength and integrity, which ties into the martial aspect. The Chalice symbolizes the artisan who creates the many various crafts, thus the arts aspect. And, finally, the hand, which symbolizes a two-fold purpose - the service we have to each other, as well as covering the cup to show a conscience choice.



### 5. Requirements for membership in the Group:

There are no official requirements to be a member of this fantastic group, in fact we have many who do not have addiction issues who are members. They choose to be members to support someone, as well as being in an encampment without addictive substances. All we ask is that whoever enters our group have a “desire” to be sober or support those who do.

### 6. Any other information you would like to give to new potential members:

I, as well as Sadb, are happy to answer any questions. Please join our group on Facebook . And WELCOME to everyone!

Yours in very grateful and humble service  
HL Deirdre ni Phadraig macGregor (Dea Potter)

## From the Chronicler

From Lady Asleif Gylfisdottir....

In this hard time, I am grateful to those that have reached out to me to help with content for the newsletter. I am also grateful to our Magic Tablet web minister, who has helped me with the email lists, so that the newsletter can get to everyone. Without your help this newsletter would be empty pages.



Quill and ink image from: <https://image.shutterstock.com/image-photo/quill-pen-ink-well-resting-600w-274453982.jpg>

Are you a fantastic story teller like our Baron? Can you out match our Heralds with tales of grandeur? Can you do research like our Deputy Chronicler? Then send your poems, stories and articles to the Chronicler so that our Barony can know of your greatness (and the greatness of the Barony) through the newsletter. Email: [chronicler@ruantallan.eastkingdom.org](mailto:chronicler@ruantallan.eastkingdom.org)

## Want to know More!

Check out these links...

Here are some links to various groups and other online discussions for the SCA.

<http://sca.org/>

<http://www.eastkingdom.org/>

<http://ruantallan.eastkingdom.org/>

Tir Mara A&S discussion group  
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/266068666886441/>

Canton of Seashire Facebook group  
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/117730954976944/>

Canton of Distance Shore Group  
<https://distantshore.eastkingdom.org/>

Canton of Ynys Y Gwaun  
<https://ynysygwaun.eastkingdom.org/>  
Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/1529682813926211/>

Stronghold of Ravensdale  
<https://ravensdale.eastkingdom.org/>

If you see anything that should be in this publication or if you have any Histories of or Ye Olde Tales of Ruantallan, please contact the Chronicler at the email below.  
[chronichler@ruantallan.eastkingdom.org](mailto:chronichler@ruantallan.eastkingdom.org)

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