



QUID NUNC *Quarantine Edition*

The Official Newsletter of the Barony of Ruantallan

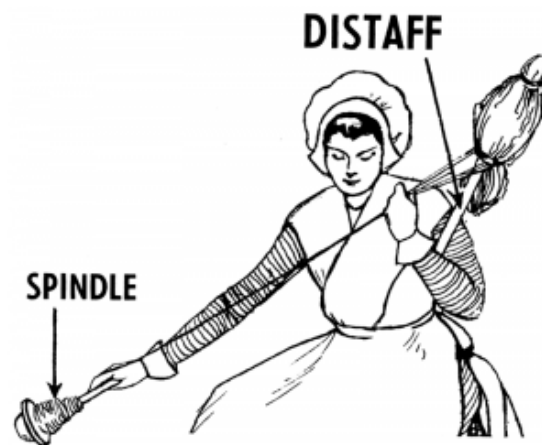
Jan. A.S LV 11th Edition

The Feminine Perspective

Happy Distaff Day!

By Isolda Fairamay

After a period of merrymaking, the New Year arrives, as does the time to get back to regular life. In medieval times, Distaff Day, falling on January 7th, signaled the day women returned to work. A distaff is the wooden rod (staff) that holds flax or wool on the spinning wheel. As spinning was primarily women's work, this is how Distaff Day was named. It may also have been called Roc Day or Rock Day, with Roc being a Northern European term for a distaff. Because spinning was customarily women's work, the distaff became the traditional



Source: <https://www.tudorsociety.com/happy-st-distaffs-day/>

symbol for the domain of women as well as a term used to describe the female branch of the family.

Mythologically speaking, Frigg, or Frigga, a goddess known as the Queen of Asgaard in Norse mythology, was also known as the patroness of spinners and weavers. The pattern of stars in the belt of the constellation of Orion is known as Frigg's distaff and can be thought of as Frigg spinning the night sky.

Frigg Spinning in the Night Sky

Source: <https://www.themerryspinner.com/theeternalthreadspring2018classroom/2018/4/26/frigg-and-the-valkyrie>

Today, Distaff Day is still marked by spinning communities as a time to celebrate spinning and weaving with workshops, festivals with vendors or simply getting together at local fibre shops. And of course today, spinning is not relegated to women only, everyone can enjoy it!





Spinners gather for Distaff Day in Lansing, N.Y.

Source: https://www.lancasterfarming.com/news/main_edition/fiber-spinning-community-celebrates-roc-day/article_d0cfeff9-0fa0-51d3-a07a-ba93295c1db3.html

Maybe not this year, but perhaps next year, once we get our plague under control, we can gather to celebrate Distaff Day in person. Hmm...sounds like a wonderful theme for an SCA event!

<https://spinoffmagazine.com/saint-distaffs-day-rocks/>

<https://ingebretsensknits.wordpress.com/2019/01/08/at-the-close-of-st-distaff-day/>

<https://www.almanac.com/fact/distaff-day-the-day-after-epiphany-january-holiday>

<https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/distaff>

<https://www.tudorsociety.com/happy-st-distaffs-day/>

<https://www.themerryspinner.com/theeternalthreadspring2018classroom/2018/4/26/frigg-and-the-valkyrie>

https://www.lancasterfarming.com/news/main_edition/fiber-spinning-community-celebrates-roc-day/article_d0cfeff9-0fa0-51d3-a07a-ba93295c1db3.html

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

To Live the Dream

Helping Us to Live the Dream While He Lived His Dream: The Passing of David Leese

By Isolda Fairamay

Many of us may not know who David Leese was, but many of us have enjoyed his dream. L.O.R.D.A. (Lansdowne Outdoor Recreational Development Association), is the location of many of our Barony of Ruantallan War Camps as well as Siege of Castle Theodore events in the Canton of Distant Shore.



David Leese 1939-2020

Source: Obituaries, The Chronicle Herald

Mr. Leese had a vision of opening an accessible outdoor park which would allow seniors and those with disabilities to enjoy the outdoors in a beautiful setting, free of charge. L.O.R.D.A. opened in 1986 and since then has welcomed visitors over many a summer. David and his father, the late Joseph Leese, received a number of awards for their work on this beautiful site including Awards of Merit

from the Nova Scotia Department of Fisheries, the Award of Excellence for Innovation and Leadership from the Canada 2000 Parks and Recreation Association, the Rick Hansen Excellence Award, as well as the Queen's Diamond Jubilee Medal in 2012.

“He was always a courteous, accommodating, kind man.” ~ The Honourable Lady Lyssa Ingen Faelain, Autocrat of many recent Baronial War Camps



Ruantallan Archery Championship, War Camp, 2018

Photo by Isolda Fairamay (Chris Hulme Colin)

There have been countless wonderful memories made during events held at LORDA. It has been a particularly wonderful site for hosting archery

tournaments as well as siege events. We have camped there in the hot summer sun and the cold summer rain. We have enjoyed cooling off in the little creek hidden in the trees, as well as picking up our annual supply of maple syrup made onsite. We have enjoyed campfires filled with bardic entertainment, dancing on the field, evenings at The Thirsty Hound, dining outdoors with Our Baron and Baroness, and hosting Royalty so that members of the populace could receive East Kingdom awards right here in our home barony. Most of all, we have enjoyed the fellowship of camping in an area that allowed to be together while having our own space.

“...he was always so helpful and willing to work with us and make us comfortable.” ~ Former Barony of Ruantallan Seneschal, Mistress Briana Douglase



Siege of Castle Theodore, 2014
Photo by Sigrid Raudfeldrdottir (Emily Colin)

This is our thank you to David Leese for living his dream by creating such a beautiful place so that the Barony of Ruantallan can continue to Live the Dream too.

Sources:

- https://eaglesfuneralhome.com/tribute/details/1134/David-Leese/obituary.html?fbclid=IwAR3Z2mLmV9hUINjHanDRd4olxWZILKtC6p2L9iTUOF_WJkZfuDpNng717yU
- The Chronicle Herald Obituaries

Magic Tablet Events

During this time of Challenging Time, 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. To help us feel connected, the East Kingdom and various guilds and groups have put up Magic Tablet events. They are also continuing to do Ethereal Courts for us to be able to see and participate in Kingdom affairs. Long live the Consuls.

Virtual Janus Gathering Jan. 23rd 6pm (Barony of Ruantallan gathering)
<https://www.facebook.com/events/252612892946606>

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>

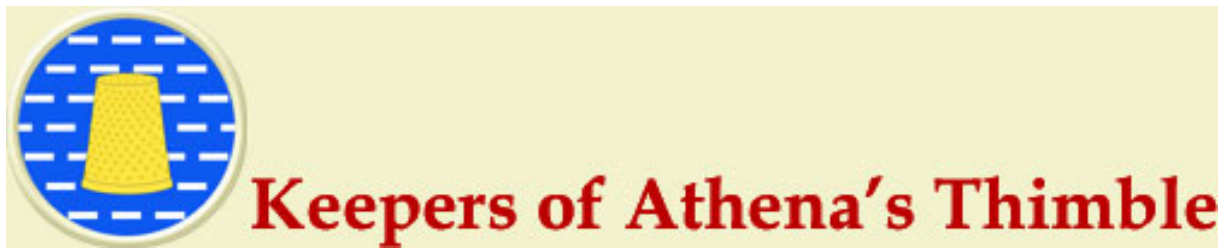
East Kingdom Ministry of Arts and Sciences (links to online classes and recordings)
<https://moas.eastkingdom.org>

East Kingdom Youtube Channel
<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCgrji-lyH1IHYaX8kFPpLIQ>

Barony of Ruantallan Discord Channel
<https://discord.gg/DW7SGn>

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. One such group is presented below (if you wish to have a group highlighted in further issues please email me at chronichler@ruantallan.eastkingdom.org).



1. Purpose of Guild

The Keepers of Athena's Thimble, also known as the East Kingdom Embroidery Guild, seeks and shares knowledge in researching and creating pre-17th century embroidery.

2. Brief History of the Group

The Keepers of Athena's Thimble officially came into being on January 12, 1985 (AS XIX) with a petition to the Crown of the East to form a guild.

Founding Petition text:

We the undersigned, known in the Kingdom of the East, for dedication to the Art of Needlework, do pray the regard of the Crown of the East to this petition. It is our intention to found a guild to cultivate the Art of Broidery. Said guild, to be called The Keepers of Athena's Thimble, will be open to any member of the Kingdom demonstrating proficiency in and desiring to expand their knowledge of

Guilds and Groups Highlights (cont'd)

the historical forms of Needlework. Thus will the Realm be embellished and its people enriched.

We ask this in accordance with the ancient custom of the Laurel Kingdom of the East. Submitted this 12th day of January, AS XIX, at Twelfth Night in the Barony of Delftwood.

Founding Members: Anne of Hatfield, Meghan Mac Ian, Katherine Gilliesfleur, Elizabeth Nic Ian, Cassadoria Finiala, Geoffrey d'Ayr

3. If there are ranks within Guild and what they are

Though members are not required to participate in the ranking system, the guild does recognize five ranks based on demonstrated expertise. They are: **Apprentice**, **Journeyman**, **Craftsman**, **Artisan**, and **Needlemistress/master**.

New members to the guild are **Apprentices**; this level is open to anyone with an interest in the needle arts.

Journeyman requires ranking in four of the needlework categories recognized by the guild, including competence in two.

Craftsman requires ranking in eight categories, four of which must be competent.

Artisan requires ranking in all twelve categories, with competency in eight.

Those who hold Craftsman or Artisan rank may add the word "Pearl" to their rank if at least half of the required number of Competencies (at least two for Craftsman or four for Artisan) are Period Competencies.

Needlemistress/master requires expert rank in at least four categories, competency in at least four categories, and working knowledge in the remaining four categories.

4. Goals of the Group

To share a love of the decorative needlework done in the Middle Ages and Renaissance.

5. Requirements for membership in your Guild

The only requirement for membership is a desire to learn and share your knowledge and skill with others.

6. Guild Badge or Heraldry

The above symbol of the Thimble is the Guild Badge. We also use an owl, on a thimble, holding a needle as a badge. Guild members are encouraged to embroider it as they see fit!

Guilds and Groups Highlights (cont'd)



Vienna de la Mer's rendering of the Athena's Thimble badge

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

Please come and join us! Unfortunately due to the pandemic we aren't able to meet in person, but we do have online meetings, called solars, where we share what we're working or just talk about embroidery in general. We're also having our annual Embroidery Schola virtually this year on Saturday, February 6th, and encourage folks to join in! <https://www.eastkingdom.org/event-details/?eid=3695>

Here is the Athena's Thimble Facebook group
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/athenasthimble/>

From the Chronicler

From Lady Asleif Gylfisdottir....

I am grateful to everyone who has helped me during these trying times of social distancing. I am especially grateful to my Deputy Chronicler who inspires me to do better and has been a fantastic in not only suggesting articles but also, sending me her wonderful articles. Without her 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 and Baroness? 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

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

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BARONIAL OFFICERS

Baron Percival Gower

baron@ruantallan.eastkingdom.org

Baroness Admiranda Gower

baroness@ruantallan.eastkingdom.org

Seneschal

Sir Spurius Genucius Rutlius
seneschal@ruantallan.eastkingdom.org

Deputy Seneschal

Maestra Alessandra Francesca di Milano
alessandra@bellaliant.net

Chancellor of the Exchequer

Mistress Elizabeth Darnley
exchequer@ruantallan.eastkingdom.org

Knight Marshall

Lady Maired Drake
knightmarshall@ruantallan.eastkingdom.org

Chronicler

Asleif Gylfisdottir of Ruantallan
chronicler@ruantallan.eastkingdom.org

Minister of Arts and Sciences

Lady Ciorstaidh Twygge of Skyhill
mas@ruantallan.eastkingdom.org

Minister of the Lists

Lady Mawdlyn Atwater
mol@ruantallan.eastkingdom.org

Chatelaine

Lord Oswald of Ruantallan
chatelaine@ruantallan.eastkingdom.org

Webmaster

Lady Esperanza de Cordoba
webmaster@ruantallan.eastkingdom.org

Herald/Persuivant

Lord Conn mac Branain
Herald@ruantallan.eastkingdom.org