

# The King's Garb



The Issue of Deception and Disguise  
August ASXXXVI (2001 A.D.)

***“Still, the experience of our times shows these princes to have done great things who have had little regard for good faith, and have been able by astuteness to confuse men's brains .”***

***-Niccolo Machiavelli (1469-1527)***

Wow, another month another Garb. Happily, this month's issue is filled with contributions. Yes, I am amazed too. This is, of course, a beautiful thing and I would like to extend my thanks to all who contributed to making this Garb. In fact I had so many contributions that I didn't even have room for the article that I wrote, the third part of *Swords and Steel: A Metallurgical Miscellany*. The article, which attempts to explain the heat-treating process with respect to steel, had little to do with deceit and deception so it will have to wait until next issue.

So what's up with the theme this month? Well, the dark arts of deceit and disguise often receive bad press. In our Society however, it can be used to our advantage. Whether it is making a Van Cozy or disguising your dome tent to appear a little less out of place, many things can be made to appear a little more period and a little less mundane with the slightest bit of effort. The only limit to your deceit is your imagination.

Lastly, you may have noticed that the Garb is in a new format. This is to hopefully allow a more rapid translation to a web page for the Myrgan Wood website. If you have any cooler ways to do it while still allowing it to translate into a cyber-Garb, let me know.

Your chronicler,

ARMATUS

Armatus

### ***The Bimonthly Blurb of the Baron and Baroness of Myrgan Wood***

Greetings and salutations unto the populace of Myrgan Wood from your Baron and Baroness, Raoul and Roxanne!

The war tabards looked fantastic on the field at Quad War. Thank you to everyone who helped with that project. Thank you also to those who went to the efforts of adding the dags to the pavilion. They dressed things up quite nicely. Many hands make light work, or so the saying goes. It is truly amazing what we can accomplish when we work together.

Our thoughts must now turn to Moorish Tavern (lets not let that beautiful shield go back - it's ours to keep!!!). We hope to see many of you there enjoying the hospitality of our neighbours to the East. It is rumoured that the site is something to behold! We must also prepare to witness the stepping down of our own Highnesses in favour of the Tanist and Tanista of Avacal, Sir Albrecht (who is originally from MW), and Lady Maraghai at Investiture in Valley Wold. If you are interested in contributing to the commemoration of this event please contact us soonest.

The heartiest of Congratulations are offered to the new Lady Lina Joya!! Also to the new Chief of Clan Gunn, Ferghail (who also happens to be the recipient of a shiny new Elm Leaf in Spring!! Squire Gann also deserves Congratulations for his Elm Leaf in Autumn!! If you feel that there is someone that you feel is worthy of recognition, please talk to us or write a letter to the appropriate royalty.

The Cover is: *The Conjurer*, a painting attributed to Hieronymus Bosch (c. 1453-1516). It currently resides in Musée Municipal, Saint-Germain-en-Laye. Interestingly enough it seems there are some who do not believe Bosch actually painted this. How appropriate for an issue on deception!

## The Van Cozy or The Making of Grantham Keep

*contributed by Lina Joya of Grantham's Keep*



The Van Cozy is a canvas roof section from which I hang gold fabric side panels to completely cover my van. The roof section needs to be made of a heavy canvas weight fabric to support the weight of the side panels. Side panels are very lightweight drapery fabric that is opaque. You could use old drapes or sheets. The fabric does not need to be waterproof assuming your van does not leak.

To make the roof section, measure the length and width of your van's roof. Cut the top panel to these measures, accounting for seam allowances if you can't use selvedge edges. Next cut the front, back, and two side panels to match the top panel as shown below:



My side and end pieces are 24" wide x the length required. Before sewing these panels to the top panel fold the pieces in half lengthwise. Measure down 2" and sew a channel 2" wide. This channel will be underneath, with dags in front to hide it. The channel does two things. It gives a strong base to attach the side drapes and it prevents the dag edges from tearing upwards. Finished side and end pieces are 20" wide. Stitch then cut the dags along one edge.



Please note: the canvas I used frayed like crazy when I cut. I used pinking shears to cut my dag edges and still had to zig zag all edges to keep them from fraying away to nothing.

Next sew the edge opposite to the dags to the roof top. I used an overlap seam. Overlap pieces  $\frac{1}{2}$ " and stitch along edges. This gives a strong flat seam. I had selvedge edges to work with, the canvas just happened to be the same width as my van. If you have cut your fabric you will need to use a flat felled seam (ie blue jean seam) Your canvas should now look like the first diagram. Bring the corner pieces in and sew together to form a box shape (think: lid for a box). My van isn't square so I had to overlap these corners at odd angles to make them fit.

The side drape panels are just that, literally. They are old drapes I safety pin on the channel hanging behind the dags. Why safety pins? It works for me. I'm too lazy (and cheap) to put in grommets and sew on ties. I am not a big fan of Velcro (I hate what happens in the wash). I wanted to be able to take all of the pieces apart to wash them. They all fold up nice and flat to store and pack.

The entire Van Cozy goes into a Rubbermaid tote which on site becomes a nice waterproof container to stash mundane stuff (or fill with ice and beer) which I cover with a matching cozy to make a table. After all you need someplace to set your beer.

## Cross Dressing-Not Just a Modern Pastime

*Contributed by Elizabeth the Vacillant*

If you have ever felt embarrassed, ladies, that you have donned men's garb at an event, be comforted in the knowledge that throughout history, there have been many women who have braved the frontiers of the "man's world" and have dared to present themselves as men. Imagine yourself a wealthy noble who is travelling in haste (although escorted) and finding yourself pursued by some power-hungry and greedy noble. Whatever shall you do? Well, many ladies, such as Eleanor of Aquitaine (it was rumoured), clothed herself in manly garb in order to return home to her lands after her divorce from Louis (I believe the VII), the King of France. After all, she was the richest woman in Europe, and what better booty to claim than the most beautiful and cultured woman of her time. In this way, she avoided an undesirable marriage: I don't think that screaming on the back of a horse and being carried away to some tyrant's castle was in her plans, so she had no qualms about cross dressing. So neither should you! You too, can deter the desire of some bad little Viking boy. Another reason why women cross-dressed was to attain power. Joan of Arc, for religious reasons, donned herself in manly garb to make herself a soldier of God. By donning on men's clothing, she removed the taint of what then was considered the weaker sex, and also made herself undesirable to the French troops. Consider this: If she were to wear women's clothing, how long would it have taken until she was ravaged by the infantry of her own country? Her attire must have made her seem a much more holier figure in the eyes of her countrymen, and since their lives revolved around religion, her clothing made her a subject of reverence, and thus, a beacon of power. There was even a rumour of a female pope in Rome, who was only discovered because she gave birth, but as of yet, I cannot confirm

this with other sources (it is mentioned in *Clothes Make the Man: Female Cross Dressing in Medieval Europe* by Hotchkiss at the University Library). Besides, fighting in a dress is unpractical, and who needs to be fashion conscious when you're beating the crap out of...oops, I mean honourably fighting an opponent on the field. Some other women have dressed as a man for love. If you were in love with someone of the clerical order, the only way you would ever get to live side by side with them was to dress as a monk, and there have been a few instances in history where this has occurred. In one case, the only reason that anyone ever found out that the monk was a woman was when they were unjustly accused of rape by another female...you can't plow fields when you don't have a hoe! So there you have it: women dressed as men to escape marriage or rape, attain power, or gain the intimacy of love. So what were those actors on the Shakespearean theatre dressing as women for anyway? Men rarely cross-dressed because to assume a female identity was to assume a weaker power, so it did not occur as much in society. The Church had much influence over the lives of people, and as a patriarchal institution, it perpetuated the idea that women were weak (the fall of Eve was their model). And as such, women sometimes were forced to dress as a man to attain their desires or keep the wolves at bay. Ladies in the SCA know all about the latter, now don't we?

## ***Web Links***

The SCA Corporate Homepage

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

The Kingdom of An Tir's Homepage

<http://www.antir.sca.org/>

The Principality of Avacal's Homepage

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

Myrgan Wood's Homepage

<http://www.theringlord.com/mw/>

Games of the Viking an Anglo-Saxon Age

<http://www.regia.org/games.htm>

Some introductory SCA combat stuff

<http://ic.net/~blues/fight.htm>

A Mongolian Resource Page

[http://members.tripod.com/Mongolian\\_Page/](http://members.tripod.com/Mongolian_Page/)

The Divine Comedy Online

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

A Source of Pope Joan Information

[http://www.urbanlegends.com/religion/pope\\_joan.html](http://www.urbanlegends.com/religion/pope_joan.html)



The fate of falsifiers in Dante's *Divine Comedy*.

## ***Armatus' Interesting Fact o' the Month***

Was there a female pope? Here is one story regarding the existence of a female pope here described by Bartholomew Platina, a 15<sup>th</sup> century Vatican aid,

*"Pope John VIII: John, of English extraction, was born at Mentz and is said to have arrived at Popedom by evil art; for disguising herself like a man, whereas she was a woman, she went when young with her paramour, a learned man, to Athens, and made such progress in learning under the professors there that, coming to Rome, she met with few that could equal, much less go beyond her, even in the knowledge of the scriptures; and by her learned and ingenious readings and disputations, she acquired so great respect and authority that upon the death of Leo (as Martin says) by common consent she was chosen Pope in his room. As she was going to the Lateran Church between the Colossean Theatre (so called from Nero's Colossus) and St. Clement's her travail came upon her, and she died upon the place, having sat two years, one month, and four days, and was buried there without any pomp."*

There are many, many variations to this tale. So, is there truth to the story? Well, it seems not. John VIII does not appear to have any contemporary references to back up the story. Indeed there are different times when the female pope was said to have reigned. In addition to multiple time periods there were many different names given to her other than Joan. While for a period following her mention in the thirteenth century the story was generally accepted as true, it seems that no modern historians accept the story of the female pope as true. The long and short of the matter is that there is no contemporaneous historical source among the papal histories knowing anything about her and no mention is made of her until the middle of the thirteenth century. Thus, though it may be impossible to completely disprove her, there is little hard evidence to back up her existence.

## **The Art of Deception While Camping or "How To Hide In Plain Site"**

***Contributed by Chikaku Kawa no "Shunzei"***

- \* Cozies are a wonderful means of disguising what must be left outside the tent. Coolers, stoves, lawn chairs, and water jugs can all be hidden using a simple fabric (i.e. brown or greys, as the less visible the fabric the less eye catching your deception) Cozies can be custom made to fit if you're sewing machine competent, or use the pillow case method if sewing straight lines is more within your grasp.
- \* Need a place to entertain but your dome tent lacks space? Use the outdoors. Upholstery fabric can be purchased with rubber backing and used as a mat outside your tent; try for a piece about 4x7. Purchase a couple of large pillows or cover up some blow-up furniture (here's what to do with that chunk of crushed velvet you found at Value Village) and add a couple of tiki torches for friendly lighting. This gives you a number of seating options, the lights make it welcoming and easy to find, and the refreshments are close to hand. These are things that fold up and fit in the small spots of car packing. Try to buy the tiki torches with the plastic inserts that can be capped off for travel, it's worth the extra buck or two to not clean light fluid out of your sleeping bag.
- \* Have a dome tent that needs some sense of medieval to it? Dags, dags and more dags. Make dags using the colours from your device and run them down the guy ropes. This not only ingratiates you with your neighbouring campers but lets people know who's there. You can also attach your device to your tent door flap or on all sides of the tent fly using sticky sided velcro tabs. The tabs hold really well, are reusable, and don't leave sticky marks like a folded up piece of duct tape does.

## **A Word on Volunteerism**

***Contributed by Roxanne Delaroche***

The health, vitality, and even survival of a society such as ours depends on the volunteerism of its members (both those who support financially, and those who support with time and effort). I have heard it said recently that volunteerism is dying. I'd like to relate to you some observations that I have made over the last few months.

- \* When it was decided that war tabards for the fighters was something that was desired, nine people showed up to help cut out and organize the material. Two people serged twenty-two tabards.
- \* We have a tavern every month. Someone has to organize each of these. The Curia offered at the very beginning to each take a turn doing this work. Now, there are other members of the group approaching us to take a turn.
- \* At Quad War there was a class scheduled with people signed up to participate. The teacher was unavailable. It was one from Myrgan Wood who agreed to, on the spur of the moment, ensure that these people were not disappointed.
- \* A month ago we announced that Myrgan Wood was to host Avacal November Coronet Tournament. Before the announcement was finished there were four people calling out that they would like to help with the event.

The person who made the comment that volunteerism is in decline cannot know Myrgan Wood or its people very well. I am proud to be a member of this Barony full of volunteers. Thank you each and everyone for everything that you do.

### ***Moorish Tavern Event Copy***

Calling all fighters to defend our borders against the kingdoms of An Tir and Artemesia. Again we must beat back the foe and keep the shield of Honour. The time has come again for us to gather at Moorish Tavern, We will have archery, light fighting, heavy fighting to satisfy the warriors. We will have arts and science displays for the ladies and gentlemen and also a children's tourney. There will be an auction held after feast. And Merchants are welcome. Bardic circle will be held after feast so bring your singing voices and stories. The site opens Friday, August 3rd at 5 p.m. and closes on Sunday, August 5th at 4 p.m. There will be soup and breads available Friday night for those who come in hungry. Saturday morning there will be available a light breakfast to start the day.

Site fees are: \$10.00 for adults \$4.00 for kids (6-12)

Feast fees are: \$8.00 for adults \$3.00 for kids (6-12)

Feast is limited to 100. Contact Autocrat to make paid reservations for feast and site. Lap warmers are free for site and feast. Friday night soup is \$2.00. Saturday morning is free will donation. Merchant fees are \$3.00

Directions: From Canada, take highway 10 south (which turns into 3 US) and turn west on Highway 43. There will be signs posted on the corners to turn into the Lake Metigoshe area and the State Park to follow.

The site is handicap accessible. There are dorms for those who do not wish to camp for the same fees. Space is limited to 60 women's dorm and 60 in men's dorm. This is a WET site, but discretion is requested in keeping mundane containers out of sight. The site is open to mundanes, as in years before, until 5pm, per agreement with the park authorities. So be advised, you may wish to secure your valuables or have someone watch over them when you're not present. We will try to have people available to walk with these folk to explain our activities and keep them out of things but a little extra caution doesn't hurt.

Autocrat: Ruadnit ingen Troightthigh (Rowena)

Beth Heilman

600 21st ST NW Minot, ND 58703

(701)852-3778 or (701)852-9060

### ***Announcing an Arts and Science Competition at August Investiture***

The A&S Champion of Myrgan Wood, N'Talia (that's me) will be host a friendly competition in conjunction with the A&S Officer for Myrgan Wood, Lady Lina Joya of Grantham Keep, and A&S Champion of Avacal, Honourable Lady Johanna Katrine.

Following the lead of m'lord Armatus and the King's Garb theme for the month of August of "Deception & Disguise", the theme for this competition will be "Best disguise of a mundane item used for camping/eventing".

The rules for this are quite simple:

1. Item must be mundane in nature
2. Disguise must 'look' period
3. Item should be functional

Entrance forms should be available at the troll booth. Please fill out the appropriate information and we will group the entrants into categories. Forms can be left at the troll both OR left with Lady Lina or N'talia (me).

The judging of this competition will take place at some point on Saturday afternoon/evening. There will be prizes awarded. We will announce during the day exactly where and when the competition will take place. Smaller and portable entries will be brought to a central location. Other items that are not easily moved will be visited on an individual basis.

For any questions regarding this competition, please contact myself:

[ntalia\\_sca@hotmail.com](mailto:ntalia_sca@hotmail.com)

If your questions arise during the event, you will most likely find me somewhere along merchant row. We will be flying a dark green banner with a silver thread and gold needle.

## ***August Investiture of Viscount Sir Albrecht and HE Maraigha – Event Copy***

August 17 - 19 AS XXXVI  
(noon to noon Fri to Sun)  
Boy Scout Camp south of Moose Jaw, SK

Directions: Take Hwy #2 south through Moose Jaw, from the south edge of the city continue south 3.1 km to left turn (east) at SCA sign. Continue east for 1.6 km to T junction the turn right (south). Drive 1.3 km to junction and turn left (east). Continue to Boy Scout camp sign, turn right (south), follow dirt road to parking area.

Costs: Adults \$15, 4-14 years \$7.50, 0-4 years free; single day \$10; special price for merchants, please contact autocrat

Site Features: quiet areas, bonfire area, children's program, Tyger's Pride Tavern, pit toilets and potable water on site but no showers

Important note: Vehicles are not normally allowed on the property. We have been granted special permission to take vehicles in to load and unload but you **MUST** stay on or next to the road!!

Volunteers: Pied Piper, Water Bearer, Constable, and Troll volunteers are needed, please contact the autocrats.

Schedule: (tentative as per TH whim)  
Saturday (August 18)  
9:00 a.m. Pelicans' Council  
9:30 a.m. Lists Open for Heavy and Archery Championships  
9:45 a.m. Laurels' Council  
10:00 a.m. Lists Close for Archery Championship, Target Archery begins  
10:30 a.m. Knights' Council  
12:00 p.m. Final Court of Gunther and Catriona / Investiture of Albrecht and Maraigha  
2:00 p.m. Lists Close, Heavy Championship Begins  
4:00 p.m. Combat Archery portion of Championship  
5:30 p.m. Squires' Tournament  
7:30 p.m. First Court of Albrecht and Maraigha

Sunday (August 19)  
9:30 a.m. Curia  
12:00 Site closes

Autocrat contacts: Lord Christopher Gow  
(Douglas Smith) (306) 693-1456  
MJKDAS@hotmail.com Lady Alessandra da Pavia  
(Susan Pomedli) (306) 694-1748  
SPOMEDLI@hotmail.com

When you register remember to mention the following:

1. If you will be taking advantage of the \$15 special at the tavern.
2. If you have children that will be attending the fireside supper &/or the pied piper programs &/or the children's tourney
3. If you will be merchanting.
4. If you wish to register for the classes offered: Carving tools sharpening (\$40, includes materials) and Carving a celtic spoon (\$10, includes materials)
5. If you are interested in visiting a local store on Sunday (opening specially for us) African Art Creations.

Pied Piper Schedule: (youngest age limit of 4, helpers with babies permitted, volunteers appreciated) run by Lady Laurretta Toulouse  
Saturday  
9 - 11am various activities, books, games, etc.  
12:30 - 4:30 archery, building helmets and shields, children's tournament (I have the info for the appropriate armour standards if you are interested - R), friendship bracelets  
5 - 6:30 children only campfire with hot dogs etc.

Sunday  
9 - 12 various activities

## Events

### *August*

Moorish Tavern – Midewinde - August 3-5  
Avacal Investiture - Valley Wold – August 18  
Avacal Sergeant's Trials – Borealis - August 25

### *September*

Crown - September 1  
Harvest Feast - Bitter End – September 22  
Vinfest - Vingard – September 29

### *October*

Myrgan Wood Anniversary – October 26

### *November*

Coronet - November 24

### *Regular Events*

Fighting Practice is held:

-every Sunday at 2pm near The Ukrainian Poetess on the UofS campus  
-every Wednesday at 7pm, **relocated** near Kinsman Park on Spadina Crescent (across from the Mendel Art Gallery) it has been suggested that those not intending to fight dress in garb as this is a very visible location



## July Business Meeting Minutes

### **Baron and Baroness**

-thanks for support at Quad War  
-Moorish Tavern approaches

### **Exchequer:**

-suggests looking into a trailer  
-needs milage from Ferghail

### **Minister of Arts&Sciences:**

-4 students attended the mead making class  
-no more classes until the fall

### **Chronicler:**

-new Garb is out

### **Chatelaine:**

-Shakespeare on the Saskatchewan  
July 15th, 7-7:45pm contact Elizabeth if interested  
-school demo in Biggar went well, earned \$125

### **Constable:**

-if anyone has lost or found anything from Quad War, contact Artorius

### **Master of Stables:**

-fight practice as usual

### **Herald:**

-recent awards include:  
-Elm Leaf in Spring;- Ferghail (Celtic Games)  
-Elm Leaf in Autumn; Gann (Celtic Games)  
-Award of Arms; Lina (Quad War)  
-Gout de Sang, Princesses Knot, Silver Griffon; Zared (Coronet)

### **Seneschal:**

-nothing to report

### **Other Business:**

- Myrgan Wood will host November Coronet on November 24th

## Myrgan Wood Officers List

**Baron and Baroness:** Their Excellencies Don Raoul and HL Roxanne Delaroche  
(mka Duane and Tracy Walker) Ph:651-2599  
[duane.walker@sk.sympatico.ca](mailto:duane.walker@sk.sympatico.ca)

**Seneschal:** HL Grimolfr Grjotgardsson  
(mka Mike Klassen) Ph:(306)-477-8214  
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**Chatelaine:** Elizabeth the Vacillant  
(mka Charman Hawkins) Ph:978-1209  
[ceh484@mail.usask.ca](mailto:ceh484@mail.usask.ca)

**Exchequer:** HE Chikaku Kawa no "Shunzei"  
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**Chronicler:** Armatus  
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**Minister of Arts and Science:** Lady Lina Joya  
(mka Pixie Glasser) Ph:978-2788

**Master of Stables:** Lord Rogan the Skinpeeler  
(mka Dave Tarry) Ph:477-1717  
[dntarry@sk.sympatico.ca](mailto:dntarry@sk.sympatico.ca)

**Master of Lights:** Position vacant

**Herald:** Fergail  
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**Constable:** Artorius  
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**Chirurgion:** Lady Zared Mackeen  
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**Master of Web:** Kurtis Wagner  
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**Champion of Sword:** Lord Rogan the Skinpeeler  
(mka Dave Tarry) Ph:477-1717  
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**Rapier Champion:** Robert of Clan Gunn  
(mka Robert Simpson) Ph:852-9252

**Champion of Arts and Sciences:** N'talia  
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[ntalia\\_sca@hotmail.com](mailto:ntalia_sca@hotmail.com)

## Other Assorted Contacts

**King & Queen of An Tir:** Aveloc & Mahliqa  
(mka Harvey Palmer & Tayissa Chadwick)

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**Prince & Princess of Avacal:**

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Maraigha (mka Lianna Shannon)

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**Contact person for Willomere (Prince Albert):**

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