



THE RIVENVALE REVIEW



The Shire of Rivenvale's Quarterly Newsletter (July 2017)

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Nuria of Rivenvale &
Rose Coldrake of Rivenvale

Serving Trumbull, Mahoning & Columbiana Counties in Ohio

Calendar of Shire Events

July 2017

4 - No Weekly Meeting
11 - Weekly Meeting -
18 - Business Meeting-
25 - Weekly Meeting

August 2017

2 - No Weekly Meeting - (Pennsic War)
9 - No Weekly Meeting - (Pennsic War)
15 - Weekly Meeting
22 - Weekly Meeting
29 - Weekly Meeting

If you are interested in a specific topic not listed, please contact one of the Shire Officers with suggestions. If you wish to lead a session please let us know.

(If you find that you do not wish to participate in the evenings' scheduled activities, feel free to bring whatever you are working on.)

For the latest and most current event & meeting information, you are invited to browse the Shire's calendar at: www.Rivenvale.org.

This is the July 2017 issue of the Rivenvale Review, a publication of the Shire of Rivenvale of the Society for Creative Anachronism, Inc. (SCA, Inc.). The Rivenvale Review is edited by and available from Julie Taylor, 424 Seneca St, Niles, Ohio, 44446. It is not a corporate publication of the SCA, Inc., and does not delineate SCA, Inc. policies. Copyright © 2017 Society for Creative Anachronism, Inc. For information on reprinting photographs, articles, or artwork from this publication, please contact the Chronicler, who will assist you in contacting the original creator. This is intended to be an electronic publication. Hard copies available by request of the piece. Please respect the legal rights of our contributors.

Chronicler

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Vacant Positions:

- Rapier Marshall
- Deputy Chronicler
- Deputy Seneschal

If interested, in any of the above,
please contact our Seneschal

From the Chronicler

Timing is everything. Recently, I have asked numerous shire members what I consider a simple question, “What are you currently working on?”. The answer has been similar from many people, along the lines of: “You do realize that the Pennsic War is only Four Weeks (three weeks now) away”.

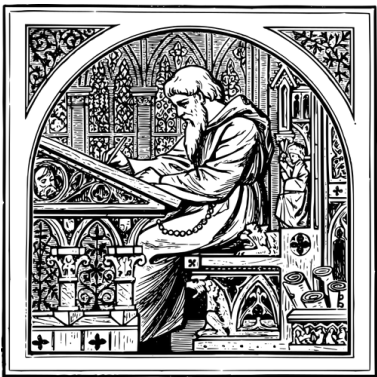
Thoughts of documenting a new project or trying a new recipe quickly go out the window this time of year. The season of Pre-Pennsic Panic has arrived for most. Statements such as “I need more garb”, “I need to make a new... “ fill the air. A shire member, whom shall remain nameless, was heard commenting that six (or perhaps 8) new pieces of garb needed to be made. I suspect that the one or two individuals who are reading this, are now thinking, “Was that me?”

In another two weeks we will be hearing, “Next year I am going to start in January” or similar declarations.

Yours truly is ever more thankful for having a life that demands simplicity.

I hope you enjoy this edition of the Rivenvale Review.

Humbly Yours, Friar Gillis



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Fig Tart and Cost of Spices



I am came across this recipe for a medieval fig tart:

Take figus & grynde hem smal; do þerin saffron & powdur fort. Close hem in foyles of dowe, & frye hem in oyle. Claryfye hony & flamme hem þerwyt; ete hem hote or colde. (Take figs & grind them small; do there-in saffron & powder fort. Close them in foils of dough, & fry them in oil. Clarify honey & baste them there-with; eat them hot or cold.) –*Curye on Inglis: English Culinary Manuscripts of the Fourteenth-Century*

While the recipe is straightforward, I will admit I never got around to making it. Instead, I found myself spending far too much time reading up about what made up the “Powder fort” and the cost of spice then and now.

Generally speaking, powder fort was a mixture of various spices. I expect it had regional and personal variations, consisting commonly of: black pepper, white pepper, ginger, cinnamon, cardamom, and clove.

So let's not talk recipe, let's talk money and the wages it took to buy some of these spices.

For reference:

Money goes as follows:
1 pound (L) = 20 shillings (s)
1 crown = 5 shillings
1 shilling = 12 pence (d)
1 penny = 4 farthings



In 1438 a Master Craftsmen in London would have earned approximately 8d per day. Keep in mind the workday was a considerably longer than our usual 8 hours per day.

Spice	No. of days Wages to Buy 100 g.
Cloves	0.98
Cinnamon	0.67
Ginger	0.33
Mace	1.13
Pepper	0.50
Saffron	5.04
Sugar	0.44
Brown Sugar	0.64

Checking in my pantry, I see my reasonably large container of ground cinnamon is 125 g. While it would take me probably the better part of year to use up that amount, I wouldn't want to pay over half of my daily income to buy it. Of course, our old friend saffron would be 5 days work to buy. Now, I appreciate the recipes that says “a pinch”



Persona Corner

Shire members were asked about their own personas and if there were items such as garb, accessories, or other items that complement their persona.

Friar Gillis—the pilgrimage.

Gillis has often found the devout life to be challenging. Having “good intentions” is not enough for his Bishop and the good Friar finds himself in continuous journey of penance. He has been imposed an obligation to make a pilgrimage to one of three holy sites: the City of Rome, the Holy Lands in Jerusalem or Santiago de Compostela in Northwestern Spain. The Friar is permitted modern travel by boat to the closest point on the continent, in his case Calais. Then must make his way by foot. Santiago de Compostela and Rome are nearly the same distance from Calais, being approximately 1000 miles. The route to Spain crosses the Pyrenees in Southern France but is less arduous than traveling across the Alps to Rome. The Holy Lands are not an option for the aging friar at nearly three times that distance and crosses numerous mountain ranges. The Friar has opted on making his pilgrimage to Santiago de Compostela, where the remains of St. James the Apostle are said to be kept. Following the resurrection, James had traveled to what is now Spain in order to spread the good news. Although he died in Jerusalem, his followers had his body returned to the area of Hispania.

In the year 1122 Pope Calixtus II granted the city various privileges, including an indulgence for those who journeyed here on pilgrimage, with special consideration given to those who made the pilgrimage in a year when the Feast of St. James (July 25) fell on a Sunday.

The journey for the Friar, there and back will take between 6 and 9 months depending upon timing. The Friar must arrive in Southern France after the heaviest snow has departed the mountains. Once through the mountains it will take another 40-50 days to reach the Cathedral in Santiago de Compostela. Much of the journey will find the friar sleeping under his cloak. When possible, he will stay in monasteries in some of the larger communities that will offer pilgrims a warm bed and a meal. Occasionally, a bed or food can be obtained from families along the way.



After spending several weeks recovering in Santiago de Compostela, the return trip home will begin.

Art Spotlight

All art work created by Leah Bitner



Leah grew up in the SCA, is the daughter of Lord Thorsten Stonehelvn and Lady Jendriska Bellasez of Rivenvale. Her art includes face painting, watercolors and creations using the “magic picture box”.



Also by Leah Bitner

Dragons

