
The Chanticleer

Monthly Newsletter of Barony Beyond the Mountain

August, 2018

Embroidery: In Search of the Lost Outline, Part 2 By Lady Carllein

For most of us, extant historical embroideries are only available through photographs, and those photos rarely provide the extreme close ups needed to see where threads have fallen out. The browned linen that shows through, where there once was a black silk outline, is hard to tell from brown silk stitches.

This 16th c. cross stitch (1) fragment gives a first impression of white plus bright colors, but closer examination reveals that the outline is



missing around the entire border of the figure. Just a few stray wisps of black silk, such as that on the edge of the right hand bell shape, help to verify that the thread that has fallen out was black. Having a black outline would produce a very different visual impression than at present.

Continued on Page 4



Baronial Officers:

Baron & Baroness - Baron Mark Red Hand, baron@bbm.eastkingdom.org, and Baroness Gwenllian ferch Llewellyn, baroness@bbm.eastkingdom.org

Seneschal – Lady Sisuil Butler, Seneschal@bbm.eastkingdom.org

Deputy - Mistress Elizabeth Vynehorn, vynehorn@gmail.com, and Lady Leandra deLeon, leandrasuz@aol.com

Chatelaine – Baroness Aurelia di Stellari, chatelaine@bbm.eastkingdom.org

Deputy – Sybill Teller, mpeckham83@gmail.com

Chronicler – Lady Johanna de Glastingburi, chronicler@bbm.eastkingdom.com

Company Captain of Archers – Rumhann MacDuibhsithe an Bhlog Seolta, archercap@bbm.eastkingdom.org

Exchequer – Lady Ciara McRobbie, exchequer@bbm.eastkingdom.org

Deputy - Lord Gwilym of Fflint, willied0296@yahoo.com

Herald – Mistress Camma an Daraich, herald@bbm.eastkingdom.org

Knight Marshall – Lord Angus Gove MacKinnon, knightmarshal@bbm.eastkingdom.org

Marshal of Fence – Vacant

Marshal of Thrown Weapons – Vacant

Mistress of Arts & Science – Becky, moas@bbm.eastkingdom.org

Minister of the List – Cordelia MacDougall, mol@bbm.eastkingdom.org

Web Minister – Lady Sisuil Butler, webminister@bbm.eastkingdom.org

Youth Marshal - Vacant

Combat Arts

NOTE: Practices are subject to change without notice. Please call ahead.

Archery

CT: BBM - Tuesdays – 5:30 p.m. Burlington, CT - Dorigen & Eloise's at 17 Bittersweet Lane, Burlington, CT. Contact Dorigen at 860-673-2240.

CT: Dragonship Haven: Sundays 12-3 pm (in season, weather permitting) Oxford, CT. DragonshipHaven@yahoogroups.com

Fencing

Thursdays, 7:30-10:00 p.m., Keefe Community Center, 11 Pine Street, Hamden, CT (hosted by Barony of Dragonship Haven). Contact the Fencing Marshal (Christophel) @fence@dragonshiphaven.eastkingdom.org.

Heavy-List Fighting

Wednesdays, 7 pm, Barony of Bergental at Bethesda Lutheran Church, 455 Island Pond Rd., Springfield, MA. Contact Knight Marshall of Barony of Bergental for more information.

Thursdays, 8-10 p.m., Keefe Community Center, 11 Pine Street, Hamden, CT, hosted by Barony of Dragonship Haven). Contact the marshal at heavy@dragonshiphaven.eastkingdom.org.

Thrown Weapons Practice

1st & 3rd Sunday, 64 Orchard St, Vernon, CT. Contact sisuile@gmail.com for times.

Baronial Champions:

Archery Champion: Baron Dorigen of Lewes

Fencing Champion: Sir Arnwult Aethelreding

Heavy Weapons Champion: Lord Gwilym of Fflint

Thrown Weapons Champion: Lord Rumhann MacDuibhsithe an Bhlog Seolta

Baronial Meeting:

Monday, August 20, 2018, 6:30-8:00 pm, Craigin Memorial Library, 8 Linwood Avenue, Colchester, CT, Norton Meeting Room B.

Arts & Science

Middle-Eastern Dance

Sundays, 1-4 p.m., Authur Murray Dance Studio, Glen Lochen Marketplace, 39 New London Turnpike, Glastonbury, CT. Contact Mistress Su'ad (Nancy Barrett) at 860-228-6933 (before 10 p.m.); nancysuad@gmail.com.

Dance

First Tuesday of month – 8:30-10:30 pm - Camelot Co-Housing 46 Sawyer Hill Rd. Berlin, MA (Quintavia)

Sewing

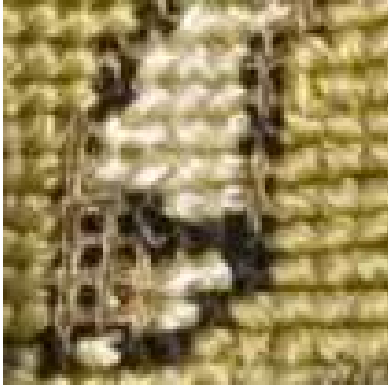
Sewing & Throwing is the 3rd Sunday, bring your string-based projects, hang out, throw sharp objects at wood. 64 Orchard St, Vernon, CT. Contact sisuile@gmail.com for times.

Viking Exhibit photos by Lady Johanna de Glastingburi

Embroidery: In Search of the Lost Outline, Part 2

Continued from Page 1

Here is a detail of a unicorn's hoof from the Oxburgh Hanging (2).



It is unusual in that some of the black outline is still there: a bit on the upper left, one stitch on the right, and circling the right side of the hoof. The brown color of the linen is typical of what shows when threads have fallen out. The threads remain pulled together, showing up as brown lines with darker areas on each side. That is what to look for if you are trying to figure out if an outline is gone, as compared to stitches in brown silk. The photographs available from most sources rarely have sufficient detail to make these assessments easy.

There are many pictures of embroideries attributed to Mary, Queen of Scots, on the website of the Victoria and Albert Museum. These can be downloaded which allows for more detail to be visible. A close examination shows many with areas where thread appears to be missing, but most often the outline for the figures is gone even when the figure is entirely or mainly intact. In a few cases, the outlines are still present. Since these are all attributed to the same person, and may have had similar handling over the centuries, the survival of some outlines may be due to varying quality of dye lots of the black silk.

The dye used to make black silk is likely the cause of the deterioration of these specific threads, as shown by the Plichto of Gioaventura Rosetti, subtitled Instruction I the Art of the Dyers, first printed in 1548. (3)

“To dye silk in black color...Take strong wine, that is vinegar of black wine, one bucket, eight pounds of gallnuts and one pound of Roman vitriol,

three ounces of gum arabic and make boil these three things together a half hour. Then take the silk and handle it through the said dye several times and let it stay in the said dye one night and then take it out.” It is then rinsed in a weaker vinegar solution, then washed with either “soft soap” or “black soap”.

The vinegar is acid, which is known to rot fabric over time. The “Roman vitriol” is, per the Oxford Living Dictionary, copper sulphate, which is still used as a mordant, but is also now used to kill algae and roots in sewer pipes. According to Corrosionpedia, it is used to corrode metal to test protective coatings. (4) Dissolved in water, it is acidic.

So the acid from dyeing would make the threads deteriorate and fall out over time. Some black thread has survived, and further instructions from the Plichto may provide a clue as to why. After dyeing for black, the cloth should spend over night in a soap solution of either “soft soap” or “black soap”. These lye soaps, which were sometimes quite harshly alkaline, would neutralize the acid in the fibers. (5) Whether this step is followed, or not, might account for the wide variation in quality seen in surviving black silk threads. The mystery of the missing outlines: solved.

(1) My photograph of item 2003.12.265 in the Bainbridge Collection at the University of Rhode Island Department of Textiles, Fashion Merchandising and Design.

(2) This detail comes from a download of one of the images that can be accessed via this page on the Victoria and Albert site:

<http://collections.vam.ac.uk/item/O137608/the-marian-hanging-hanging-mary-queen-of/> A number of images can be found by using > under the main image.

(3) The Plichto of Gioaventura Rosetti, translated by Edelstein ad Borghetty, MIT Press 1969, Section 124, page 148.

(4) <https://www.corrosionpedia.com/definition/5156/copper-sulfate>

(5) Of related interest: To Make Black Sope (class handout to make medieval soft soap from scratch) by Elska a Fjarfella (Susan Verberg), 2016 https://www.academia.edu/27755720/To_Make_Black_Sope_class_handout_to_make_medieval_soft_soap_from_scratch_



Glass beads mounted with brooches

Imported items were sometimes used to enhance local crafts. Here, Northern-style metal works have incorporated imported beads. The Vikings often adapted imported jewelry.

Cremation grave 14
9th century

Salisbury, United Kingdom, Museum

From the Viking Exhibit at Mystic Seaport

Archaeology News

<http://www.archaeology.org/news/>

7/26/18 - HEAT WAVE EXPOSES HISTORIC GARDENS AT STATELY ENGLISH HOME - DERBYSHIRE, ENGLAND—*BBC News* reports that the recent heat wave has revealed the plan of the historic gardens at Chatsworth House, which was built in the mid-sixteenth century on the River Derwent in central England as the seat of the Duke of Devonshire. The ornate flower beds and paths, seen as outlines in the scorched modern lawns, were planted in the late seventeenth century over an area of 105 acres. “It wasn’t a lost landscape or anything—we knew it was there,” said Steve Porter, head of gardens. “But the fact is, it’s normally a green lawn so everything is hidden underneath so it’s not visible.” For more, go to “The Archaeology of Gardens.” <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-derbyshire-44951970>

7/25/18 - MILITARY VETERANS UNCOVER SAXON WARRIOR - SALISBURY PLAIN, ENGLAND—*The Guardian* reports that an excavation next to Barrow Clump in southern England has uncovered the remains of a Saxon warrior who was buried in the sixth century A.D. The diggers included members of Operation Nightingale, a program that involves military veterans in archaeology. The Saxon soldier was

buried wearing a belt buckle and carrying a knife and tweezers. His pattern-welded sword, lifted intact from the grave, still bears traces of its wood and leather scabbard. The condition of the artifacts surprised the researchers, led by Richard Osgood of the Defense Infrastructure Organization, since the site has been damaged by plowing, badgers, and the moving of heavy equipment from the nearby military base. He suspects the Saxon occupants of the cemetery lived in a village in the valley below the hill. “It’s that Saxon thing of looking up the hill and knowing your ancestors are up there on a site that was already ancient and special,” he said. To read about the excavation of an Anglo-Saxon feasting hall, go to “The Kings of Kent.” <https://www.theguardian.com/science/2018/jul/25/soldiers-find-skeleton-of-saxon-warrior-on-salisbury-plain>



7/25/18 - BYZANTINE SEAL UNEARTHED IN BULGARIA - SOFIA, BULGARIA—*Archaeology in Bulgaria* reports that a lead seal belonging to Yolande of Montferrat, Empress Irene of the Byzantine Empire, has been discovered in the Eastern Rhodope Mountains of southeastern Bulgaria, at the site of the medieval fortress Lyutitsa. Empress Irene was the second wife of Emperor Andronicus II Palaeologus, who ruled from A.D. 1282 to 1328. Violina Kiryakova of the National Museum of History said the image on one side of the seal depicts the empress herself, while the Christian Virgin Mary with the Christ child on her lap are depicted on the obverse. To read about a recent discovery at the site of a Roman villa in Bulgaria, go to “Mirror, Mirror.” <http://archaeologyinbulgaria.com/2018/07/23/archaeology-in-bulgaria-reveals-ancient-roman-villa/>

eologists-find-seal-of-byzantine-empress-yolande-of-montferrat-in-bulgarias-lyutitsa-fortress/



7/24/18 - PICTISH SMITHY EXCAVATED IN ORKNEY - BRADFORD, ENGLAND—

Archaeologists led by Stephen Dockrill and Julie Bond of the University of Bradford are excavating the site of a Pictish copper smithy dating from the sixth to ninth centuries A.D. on the Scottish island of Rousay, according to a report in *The Scotsman*. “The analysis of the floor enables us to say with confidence where the smith worked, next to a hearth and two stone anvils,” Dockrill said. He added that carbon marks on the larger stone anvil could be marks from the smith’s knees and hands. The amount of light in the smithy was controlled by a door from the workshop onto a curved corridor. The lack of sunlight would have allowed the smithy to assess the temperature of the metal by its color, Dockrill explained. The smithy’s pivot stone, door jamb, and bar hole for the door are intact. An upright stone near the door is thought to have protected the large hearth from drafts. To read in-depth about archaeology on the Orkney Islands, go to “Neolithic Europe’s Remote Heart.” <https://www.scotsman.com/regions/inverness-highlands-islands/are-these-markings-the-handprint-of-a-pictish-man-1-4773260>

7/23/18 - MEDIEVAL SITE FOUND IN ICELAND - REYKJAVIK, ICELAND—*Iceland Monitor* reports that occupation layers dating from the ninth century to the fourteenth century A.D. were discovered during the construction of a parking lot in western Iceland’s Mosfellsdalur Valley. Archaeologist Ragnheiður Traustadóttir said a church had been built in the area in the twelfth century, but an earlier church may have stood on nearby Mosfell Hill. She thinks there could have been an early Icelandic village in the area. “We didn’t dig much, but we discovered three items, among them a baking plate, imported from Norway,” she said. The items are thought to have been imported in the eleventh century and used into the thirteenth century. “We also found a Norwegian sharpening tool and a piece of red jasper for making fire,” she added. To read in-depth about archaeology in Iceland, go to “The Blackener’s Cave.”

https://icelandmonitor.mbl.is/news/news/2018/07/23/archaeological_find_near_reykjavik/

7/17/18 - POSSIBLE NORMAN CEMETERY EXCAVATED IN SICILY - WROCLAW, POLAND—

Science in Poland reports that researchers led by Sławomir Moździoch of the Polish Academy of Sciences have discovered a medieval cemetery in Sicily, near the ruins of the church of San Michele del Golfo. After examining the bones from ten of the graves, the researchers were able to classify just five of the dead as three women and two children. The size and build of the bones suggests they may have been Normans from northern France, who conquered the island in addition to parts of southern Italy. “In the second half of the eleventh century, the island was recaptured from the Arabs by a Norman nobleman, Roger de Hauteville,” Moździoch explained. The church, which resembles those found in Western Europe, is also thought to have been built at this time, at a strategic location on a hill. Coins minted in Champagne and Lucca have been discovered within it. To read about the skeleton of a warrior recently discovered in northern Italy, go to “Late Antique TLC.”

<http://scienceinpoland.pap.pl/en/news/news%2C30216%2Cpolish-archaeologists-discover-medieval-graves-sicily.html>

7/11/18 - ADDITIONAL MOSAICS UNCOVERED AT HUQOQ SYNAGOGUE - CHAPEL HILL, NORTH CAROLINA—

A richly decorated fifth-century A.D. synagogue in northern Israel indicates that its Jewish village continued to thrive under Roman Christian rule, according to a *Live Science* report. Jodi Magness of the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill said the mosaic floors of the Huqoq synagogue are colorful and filled with figured scenes, even though it had been previously

thought that Jewish art of the period avoided the use of such images. Previously uncovered sections of the floors illustrate biblical stories such as Noah's ark, the parting of the Red Sea, the Tower of Babel, and Samson and the foxes. Newly discovered this year is a section depicting a tale from the book of Numbers in which Moses sends 12 spies into the land of Canaan to bring back information on the region's soil, fruit, and people. Depictions of elephants, cupids, and Alexander the Great are also found in the synagogue's mosaic floor. Magness thinks the pictures may have served to educate viewers, in addition to laying claim to Jewish heritage. "Some of the prayers and songs that were recited would have related to the scenes that were visible in the mosaics," she explained. To read about Byzantine mosaics recently discovered in Israel, go to "Gods of the Galilee." <https://www.livescience.com/63029-israel-mosaics-two-spies.html>



7/9/18 - TRACES OF ROMAN AND MEDIEVAL INDUSTRY FOUND IN ENGLAND -
 BOURNEMOUTH, ENGLAND—*The Daily Echo* reports that excavations near Poole Harbor in southern England have uncovered traces of past industrial activity in what is now an area noted for its natural beauty. A kiln and other workshops dating to the Roman period and a saltworks dating

to the medieval period are among the discoveries. "It's a real privilege to dig such a site from a time period we know very little about in this area, beyond the focal point of Corfe Castle," said Derek Pitman of Bournemouth University. The nearby castle ruins date to the eleventh century. For more on Roman-era England, go to "Tablet Time." <http://www.bournemouthcho.co.uk/news/16342708-amazing-medieval-discoveries-made-at-poole-harbour-dig/>

7/5/18 - MEDIEVAL GAME BOARD DISCOVERED IN SCOTLAND -

ABERDEENSHIRE, SCOTLAND—A game board thought to have been used to play Hnefatafl, a Norse strategy game, has been found in eastern Scotland, according to a report in *The Scotsman*. Archaeologist Ali Cameron of the Book of Deer Project said the game board dates to the medieval period. The team of researchers discovered it during the search for a Pictish-era monastery near the small village of Old Deer, where the Book of Deer, a volume of the Christian gospels containing the oldest-known written examples of Scottish Gaelic, was once held. "It is a very rare object and only a few have been found in Scotland, mainly on monastic or at least religious sites," Cameron said of the game board. A Christian symbol known as a Solomon's Knot had also been carved on the stone. In addition, Cameron and her team uncovered a layer of stone and several post holes from a wooden building that may be the remains of the Pictish monastery. Charcoal samples from the site have been sent out for dating. To read more about medieval gaming, go to "How the Other Half Played Chess in Medieval England." <https://www.scotsman.com/lifestyle/medieval-games-board-found-in-search-for-pictish-monastery-1-4764734>

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