



Raven's Cry

Barony of Rabens Cobe

Newsletter

Volume 17, Issue 5

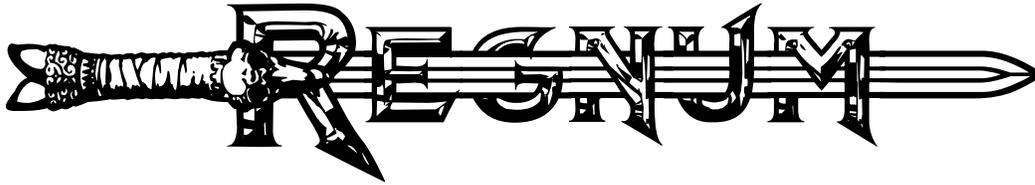
May, 2014

Anno Societas

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A word from your Baroness:

Happy Spring to everyone! Finally, the warm weather we love is here and the event schedule is in full swing. I have been to an event every weekend for almost the last month and have seen many friends that I love! Going to places outside of the barony is always fun but I love coming home again. We have the best barony in the Kingdom and in my mind, in the knowne world. And it is all because of you. I am always proud when I see A&S projects being displayed by one of our own or watch one of our fighters take the field. There is no greater reward for my job than to see you all shine!!

Now, as we head into the event season, please consider traveling to another area to attend something new. It is fun, first of all. And, it gives you a chance to catch up with old friends, make new friends and learn something completely different. I know that at this time in many of our lives, traveling can be prohibitive. It is expensive! But, if possible, travel.

We have a local event coming up in August, sponsored by our friends in Cathanar. They are bringing back Peasants Revolt and it promises to be a fun event. Let's all go and have some fun with our neighbors.

By the time this missive is published, Spring Crown Tournament will have taken place. Although I do not have a crystal ball, I know that someone will win (how's that for predicting the future? I should be a weatherman)! The future of Atlantia will be in good hands, of this I am positive. The Barony of Raven's Cove will be well represented. If you can make this event, please do. Always know that we will have a baronial presence on the list field that you can use for your viewing. Come out and support!

In Pride of Our Barony,

Katharine

Baroness Raven's Cove

From the Seneschal:

Greetings to everyone!

The coming of May comes in roaring with weather that makes its presence known. With that said, let's all make sure we are traveling as safely as possible when not only going to events but in all other areas of our lives.

It thrills me to see our little barony growing by leaps and bounds with the achievements of its members and the addition of new ones. The prospect of growing geographically thrills me as well. I hope this is something that will begin to happen very shortly.

Our officers are doing such a great job; I hope all of you continue to strive for excellence in your respective areas and begin to look for people for deputy positions if you don't have one. Train up your deputies; you never know when they may have to step in and help you out. Or, one day you may move on to bigger things and they will be the ones taking the lead. If you need help with anything, please do not hesitate to ask one of your fellow Covians.

Let us all remember that many hands make light work and continue to be the strong group that we are!

In service,
Lady Edan, Seneschal

From the Knight's Marshal

As we approach May we have much going on in our Levy. We have two fighters vying for the right to rule our fair kingdom in Crown Tourney. We have a brand new shield maiden (Lady Edan)...who held her own during her first practice ever. We should look forward to good things from her. We have another new fighter waiting in the wings (Lothian) and he will be joining us on the practice field as soon as his mundane Chirurgeon clears him. We also have Robert Carswell returning to the fold from abroad....It is nice to see the practice lyst filled with so many eager fighters. On the rapier front, we have Lord Christoph and Lady Naka making regular appearances to ply their skills. All in all things are looking up to make a great year in the area of combat arts.

~L

From the Chirurgion

Nothing bad to report...thank goodness. So...HYDRATE! HYDRATE! HYDRATE!

~L

From the Chatelain

HOLY COW WAS THAT A GREAT DEMO OR WHAT?!

I have received several e-mails and a few messages on the Book of Faces from people who spent time with us at the demo and now want to come to meetings, a&s, or fighter practices! Thank you to everyone who came out and spent their time to help grow the best little Barony in Atlantia!

A very special thanks to Lothian (Mark Lane) who took it upon himself to set us up with the space. He hasn't even been to his first official event yet and he has already gone above and beyond for us! Next time you see him be sure to thank him for his service.

~Lord Roland

Upcoming Events of Baronial Interest

The following listing includes events that members of the barony have expressed interest in attending as well as events being held by the barony itself. If you are a newcomer interested in attending any of these events please let a member of the barony know so that we may attempt to find car/crash space for you.

- Ruby Joust (Amelia VA)..... May 23-26
- Highland River Melees (Knoxville MD) June 6-8
- A Day in the Park (Concord NC) June 21

Building a Period Kit while on a Budget

By Lord Roland Brokentoath

We can all admit right here and now that fighting in the SCA is awesome. There is nothing quite like the flurry of combat and the sound of rattan on iron to awaken the ancestral urges we all feel. Yet there is a barrier to this satisfaction that many find insurmountable: the expense of a passable period kit. Fine period armor is usually fairly expensive to purchase from an established armourer and many lack



the resources and skill to fashion their own. So what is a burgeoning SCA fighter to do?

For a kit that is period, it is best to start from the helm and work your way down. I would start with the helm, specifically a bascinet. There are many good reasons for choosing a bascinet as the first helm of a new fighter.

Foremost, use of the bascinet style of helm was widespread and long lasting. They could be a 14th century German noble or perhaps an early 15th century English soldier. This gives the new

fighter a bit of wiggle room when it comes to choosing his or her persona. Bascinets are also easily padded in a variety of ways and the roomy insides make chinstraps easy to install. They also retain much of their resale value as bascinets are always in demand.

From a fighting standpoint, bascinets also have some fantastic glancing surfaces that could mean the difference between a shot landing "Good" and skipping harmlessly off of your helm. There are many armorers who offer "muntions grade" bascinets with prices ranging from \$150-\$250. Ironmonger Armoury has an impeccable reputation for quality and sells a basic bascinet for \$135. Web savvy and patient newbies might catch an even better deal on websites like "The Armour Archive" where second hand bascinets have been known to sell for as little as \$50.

**Note for the newcomer:*

If you are brand new, be sure to talk to your local Knight Marshal or experienced fighters before jumping at what might seem like a great deal. The Armour Archive is also a good source of reviews for armor.

Now on to body armor. There are a fair amount of personas that can be emulated using hidden armor. Many early period kits might consist of plastic pickle barrel armor form fitted and worn beneath period garb. Many fighters wear opulent surcotes and tabards over their hidden armor which lends a period appropriate look. However if

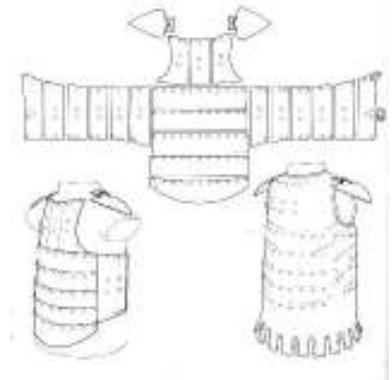
you still want your armor to show, you have a few options. First let's pick up our materials.

The cheapest material available to our burgeoning fighter is the plastic "pickle barrel." Obtaining a supply of plastic barrels is fairly easy. They can be found at many mom and pop style hardware stores. The barrels I have purchased typically run around \$20, but I am confident that a motivated person could find them cheaper. These barrels come in two common styles and a small range of colors. The most common color encountered is a horrendous blue, followed by a much more palatable black, the rarest being white. Sometimes you may even be able to find red and green plastic barrels.

The barrel styles I have encountered include a 50 gallon drum style and a screw lid style. My experience has shown that the plastic found in the screw lid type is thinner than the plastic of the drum type. However, while it might be thinner, the screw lid barrels have a more consistent thickness throughout the entire barrel. The drum type barrels vary in thickness depending upon the distance from the top and bottom of the barrel. Therefore, plastic near the middle is thinner than plastic found near the top or bottom of the barrel. It is a matter of personal preference which barrel style you choose.

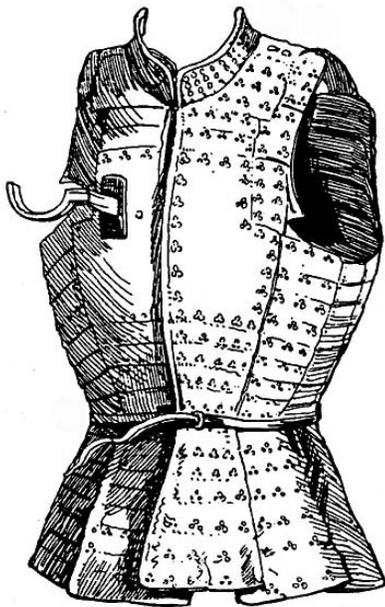
SPECIAL NOTE: Be sure to rinse out the inside of your barrel

before making your armor. Chances are these barrels may still contain residues left over by their former contents. Give them a good scrub before you put that next to your skin.



There are many styles of “transitional plate” that can be made using pickle barrel plastic. The “Coat of Plates” in the Wisby style is the perfect first armoring project for the fighter on a budget. This type of armor involves riveting a series of plates to the inside of a leather or cloth (heavy canvas works

best) cover. The plates themselves are rather simply shaped to fit the curve of the wearer’s body. This can be accomplished using a heat gun or by baking the plates in your oven (don’t go over 250°F) for a few minutes. Some fighters find that they are already fairly “barrel shaped” so shaping the plates is that much easier. There are numerous variations of this style of armor to satisfy your persona. Other styles of covered



armor include the “Corrazina” and the “Brigandine.” Patterns and tutorials for making each of these styles can be found on the Armour Archive or from websites like “Talbot’s Fine Accessories.”

Knees and elbows can be a bit tricky. These are a harder to make in plastic and maintain a period look because of the dishing necessary to get the correct shape. Luckily, mild steel knees and elbows are both plentiful and typically cheap. Once you have procured a set of knees/elbows it is a cinch to attach them to a set of shaped plastic vambraces or cuisses. To get a period look, simply cover the plastic in the same style of fabric you used for your torso protection. All you need is a can of 3-M spray adhesive and you are in business. Cut your fabric larger than but in the rough shape of the vambrace or cuisse. Spray both the cloth and the plastic surface and let it sit for 30-60 seconds until tacky. Then simply wrap the cloth around the plastic, smoothing out the surface as you go. Apply a bit of glue to the backside of the plastic and wrap the extra fabric around the cuisse or vambrace. Now you can attach your elbows or knees to a period looking piece and feel great about looking spiff on the cheap. For extra flair you can add two piece rivets or decorative studs in lines to your vambraces/cuisses to give the appearance of splinted leather.

So there you have it. All total this kit should run you less than \$250 from head to toe. Most of the expense will be in the purchase of the helm which is an item you shouldn't saving your pennies for. If you happen to already own a bascinet you can have yourself a more period looking kit for much less. Happy armoring!

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