



August 2007

# The Elfsea Tidings



AS XLII

## Plot to blow up Parliament Foiled, Guy Fawks Arrested: Charged with Treason

### Calender:

#### Fighter Practice

Sundays at 2:00 PM at [Trinity Park, Fort Worth](#)

Wednesdays at 7:00 PM at [Bedford Boys' Ranch](#)

Business Meeting Monday November 19th, 7:00 PM at  
the home of [Cealin and Pyro's](#)

Elfsea Moot: November 26h at the Coors Distribution  
center.

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## Lord and Lady Elfsea

Greetings to all good gentles from Dáire and Druinne.

November is a busy month for all of us with shopping and holidays and eventing. Three Kings, Defenders of the Roses, and Bordermarch Autumn Melees (BAM) fill our calendars.

Three Kings promises to be a wonderful event. We will take the Blue and White out for all to share during the day. Defenders of the Roses is always an exciting event, with opportunities for everyone to participate. BAM is a special event for us, as we mount our expedition and share meals and camping space. It is one of the few events where we organize a meal plan. If you are going and want to participate, please contact Druinne, as she is heading up this year's expedition and can fill you in on the details.

The winter feast season is a great time to start those much needed armor repairs and to get in some good practice time as well, since the weather will start to cool off. Remember that pre-registration for Gulf Wars will start soon. If you have never gone to Gulf War before, please contact Druinne as she is camp mom and can help with any questions that you may have about camping space and pre-registration procedures.

We hope that all of you have a good November and look forward to seeing you at events and at Moot and business meetings.

Pray know that we remain in faithful service,  
Dáire and Druinne

Seneschal

**No Report**



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Treasurer

*No Report*

Nautilus Pursuivant - Herald

*No Report*

Knights Marshal

*No Report*

Rapier Marshal

*No Report*

Archery Marshal

*No Report*

Minister of Arts and Sciences

Greetings!

I hope everyone had a great time at the Arlington Demo. People always enjoy seeing the arts of the Middle Ages come to life, especially if they can try their own hands at doing them.

For the next two months while we are all busy with holidays and family affairs, the official A&S nights will be cancelled. However we might have an un-official gathering to just hang out and work on projects away from the house. Look for details on the email list.

The next two months is also the perfect time to start working on any Kingdom A&S projects. It always takes longer than you think it will to perfect that entry or the documentation to go along with it. Remember there is typically a non-judge display at Kingdom A&S as well. This is a great opportunity to get commentary from people. Many are there at A&S waiting on their stuff to be judged and need something to do. So if you don't feel ready to enter Kingdom A&S, think about displaying helpful comments.

Remember any A&S competition is an opportunity to get comments; you don't have to enter just to win. Two local upcoming opportunities for winning or comments are Glaslyn's Artisan and Dragonsfire Tor Yule. Artisan will be the Saturday after Thanksgiving, so if you need a break after the Turkey making and shopping, stop by. They host a great event and always sponsor a Novice A&S competition.

DFT's Yule is on Dec. 15 and is the host for the Kingdom Eisteddfodd as well. Typically DFT's artisan



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champion is chosen from a Body of Work competition, so you must have 3+ pieces with documentation. But more details will be posted the closer we get to the event.

In Service to the Arts,  
HL Hanna von Dahl  
Elfsea MoAS

## Chronicler

As Life gets busy a dead lines are missed I find my self looking at even more travel and time at work in the coming months. With this in mind I am opening my office for bids .. bids to close at January Business meeting My replacement and I will work together to establish as smoth a tranision as possible

Greetings! To subscribe simply go to <http://lists.ansteorra.org> and subscribe to the Elfsea\_Newsletter list.

As always for submitting articles, pictures event reports, recipes, or anything else to be published in the newsletter send it to [Chronicler@elfsea.net](mailto:Chronicler@elfsea.net), or contact me if you need assistance in transferring any articles or artwork into digital format. A standard release for publication is required for all articles and artwork it may be found at <http://www.ansteorra.org/publications/forms/PubPerm.pdf>

In Service  
Darius of the Bells, OL  
Chronicler

## Hospitilar

Unto the Populace does Lady Adelaide, Barony Hospitaler, send greetings,

My report for this month is short and sweet. Our group was featured in an article on Sept 30, in the Star Telegram. In response to that, I have been contacted by four different families. I am also trying to arraigne a demo for Sat Oct 20, at the Arlington Library. All in all a very profitable month. Remember if you have friends or family that are interested in our group, I have business cards that you may have to hand out.  
Adelaide

## Virtual Scribe

**No Report**

Minster of Children (vacant)



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## Chamberlain

**No Report**

## Historian

Greetings Elfsea!

At this wondrous time of change we look forward to our future and so must I. It is almost time for me to step down as Historian of Elfsea as such I now open my office for application. If any one has any questions regarding this office please do not hesitate to call me.

Please send any pictures you are willing to share and stories of our events, please submit Pictures on disk or prints no e-mail.

In Service  
Rosalia di Bellavita, OP  
Historian

## Chirurgeon

**No Report**

## Suggestions for Improving A&S Documentation & Displays

Lady Hanna von Dahl

[dmcovel79@yahoo.com](mailto:dmcovel79@yahoo.com)

Elfsea MoAS

### Writing Better Documentation:

First read an Ansteorran Judging Sheet. Even if the competition / display will not be judged using the sheet, it provides the best guide line about what information should be included and how much detail is needed.

Located at: <http://moas.ansteorra.org/>

- 1) Concise - Make your points quickly, but answer the judges' questions: What? How? Why? Etc... Appendixes can be used to expand upon a particular aspect of the project if it is complicated. Typically, Judges will only read 10+ pages for Research Papers or at Kingdom A&S.
- 2) Organized – The paper flows in a clear, logical order. If appendixes are used, reference them in the body of the paper. Don't make a judge search for the answers. Use the judging sheet heading until you feel more



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comfortable with a different format.

- 3) **Well Researched** – Not only can you explain what you did, but you can explain what they did in period. If you did not use period materials, tell what those materials would be and why you did not use them. Include footnotes and a bibliography of your sources.
- 4) **Something extra** – sets it apart from average. Ex:
  - a. Pictures used to highlight points, but not to just take up space.
  - b. Lessons you learned while working on the project.
  - c. What you might do differently during the next project.
  - d. Appendix of Definitions of craft specific words (jargon) used in the documentation. This helps judges unfamiliar with the art form.

Try to always have a friend proof read your documentation. If they don't have a clue about your art form, that is a bonus. Not only can they catch your typos and your dyslectic moments, but they can tell you if the paper is confusing. Ask them if the paper explained the item or just left them with questions.

## Creating a Better Display

In General:

- 1) **Elevation & Height:** Use these things to your advantage. Do not have everything flat on the table, even if you enter a piece of poetry or a paper. Hatboxes, CD spindles, cones of thread, picture frames, etc. can be used to give dimension to your display. Different elevation levels are great for highlighting objects.
- 2) **Tablecloth:** Pick a color that sets off your items, but does not overwhelm them. Extra lengths of material are great. Have smaller squares of contrasting material to highlight individual items and to cover your height elements.
- 3) **Space:** Less is more. Give each item its own space. Don't crowd too many things, even in a Body of Work. Pick the best items to represent your work in different mediums, or display a progression of improvement in one medium. Thirty items jumbled together on a table does not look good, even if each item is spectacular work.
- 4) **Name Card:** Who are you? Unless it is an anonymous competition, claim your work. Make it easier for people to associate the two, since you will not be standing next to your stuff all the time. Someone will want to ask questions, but can't if they don't know who to ask.
- 5) **Item Cards:** What did you make? Yes, you should have documentation, but most will not read it. Create a **SHORT** summary of each item: Title, materials, technique used. 3x5 note card or smaller. Pick a readable font and print them out.
- 6) **Note pad:** Have a notepad with a pen on the table. If you talk to someone, encourage them to leave their name and email. You can follow up on their suggestions, ask or answer questions, or just say "Thank you."



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## Specifics for Garb:

- 1) **Dress Forms:** Use them if you have to beg or borrow from friends. Or come up with an alternative. I have a stand that is an old broken lamp and PVC pipe. Total cost: under \$10.00.
  - a. Be sure to cover the exposed areas of the form with some cloth of a neutral color.
- 2) **Accessorize:** Add the extras that finish an outfit, even if you did not make them. For example: a Norse woman must have amber; a Tutor woman must have pearls (Mardi Gras beads work).
- 3) **Don't be too Sensitive:** An article of clothing has a number of parts. You could do 90% of it right and only have a few flaws. Many will praise you for what you did right, and give suggestions for improvement. A few will concentrate on the flaws. Take both types of comments as helpful suggestions for the future, rather than as put-downs.

Note: This can apply to any art form, but this seems to happen with clothes more often than with other types of work. (From what I've noticed.)

## General Advice:

For important A&S completion or displays, such as Kingdom A&S, Laurels' Prize Tourney, or a baronial championship, take time to think about your display. Clear off a table of similar size to what you think will be available. Play with the item arrangement, table cloth colors, height elements, card placement, etc.

If you have a digital camera, take pictures of your different arrangements. This allows you to review them later or even print out your favorite and use it as a guide at the event. Maybe it will show you that there are too many things on the table, or that too many things of the same color are too close together. The picture can also show if your "star" item visually "pops" or is lost in the background. Or use graph paper and draw out your design.

The key is finding a system that works for you. Then when you get to the event you can set up your display quickly. But always remember to be flexible. The tables might be smaller or larger than you expected, or have an odd orientation. Yet if you have an idea of what works already, you can change the display to fit the allowed space more quickly than starting from nothing.



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