

Worshipful Company of Broiderers of Lochac

Guild Newsletter, Issue 16 – Midwinter (October) 2003

From The Guildmaster



Greetings from Keridwen the Mouse, Guildmaster of the Worshipful Company of Broiderers.

Our patron has mentioned much of the news from Midwinter so I won't repeat it here. Thank you again to all those who made LOG pouches and presentation pieces that we gave to Their Majesties in court on behalf of the Company. I'm always impressed by the amount of effort and skill the company has at its disposal and I'm very proud to represent this group of talented and generous people at Kingdom Courts.

On the Sunday of Midwinter, Mistress Rowan and I presented a gift to Mistress Bess on behalf of the company, to thank her for her time as Guildmaster. The book was Jane Lemon's "Metal Thread Embroidery".

Also at Midwinter, I was able to get the royal cloaks and carpet back for repairs and extra work.

The cloaks were a few slips short when they were first made. I've assigned many of the new slips out, but there are still a few yet to be claimed. If you would like a chance to get involved, or you have a slip kit left over from the cloak project, please contact me soon. The cloaks have now been given back to Their Majesties so that they can impress the Knowne World at Pennsic, and will have the new slips applied when they return in September.

The carpet has a few joins starting to poke through. Structurally, there is no problem, but it doesn't look too good. This repair work will either be done in Rowany, or at the Guild's

event if there is time.

I recently attended the Mordenvale Baronial Investiture and met new WCoB members there. It was great to discuss ideas and to see the lovely new Mordenvale regalia made by the hardworking artisans of the Barony. I look forward to meeting more new people at the Guild's event in St Florians.

It has been mentioned on the WCoB mailing list, that we would like to see more pictures of the work of the WCoB members. Mistress Rowan and I are discussing revamping the WCoB webpage. Your help is always appreciated by sending us pictures or links to pictures on your own webpages. The idea of the Company is to share knowledge and ideas and to inspire and challenge each other to improve our skills. So help us improve our sharing ability.

mouse...

From the Guild Patron:



Greetings to all the Company!

The Company was very well represented at Midwinter Coronation, with the Company gifts to our outgoing Royalty, competitions and the presentation of the first set of LOG pouches.

The Company presentations were very well received by TRM Cornelius and Morwynna. Jane of Stockton worked a household badge for Cornelius, in split stitch on silk. Keredwin the Mouse beaded a hat for Morwynna, in 15thc Flemish truncated henin style.

The winner of this year's competitions overall and Champion of the Guild for the forthcoming year is Mistress Selivia de l'Estoile. Those who saw her Opus

Teutonicum work will agree that this is a fitting acknowledgement of her skill! Selivia was presented *in absentia* with a copy of *The Embroiderer's Story* by Thomasina Beck.

As a result of the LOG pouch competition, we were able to present the first batch of pouches to TRM Alaric and Nerissa. The winners of the competitions were Contarina la Bianca for an original design (in appliqué and intarsia), and Veronique of the Valley for a published design (Viking woolwork). Although the competition is past, we have many more past (and future!) recipients in need of a pouch. We will continue this as a Company project and hope to present another set of pouches at 12th night. I can still supply copies of the entire set of designs to anyone who is interested.

Many of you may not be aware that the Company also has an email list, which is a most enjoyable meeting of minds. If you would like to join the list, go to <http://www.sca.org.au/mailman/listinfo/wcob> and complete the form, or post to wcob@sca.org.au and ask to be put on the list. Also on communication, I would like to look at a faster and more cost-effective way of distributing these newsletters. Many people have already indicated their willingness to receive the newsletter by email. If you are happy to receive newsletters by email, please let me know.

Finally, a reminder that the competition for Spring Crown is voided work, and for 12th Night is Scandinavian embroidery – any style or time period.

Best regards
Rowan

A new badge for the Company

We have progressed somewhat with the plan to replace the Company badge with a new one in more period style. The current badge of the Company was inherited from our predecessor, the Lochac Needleworkers Guild. It was registered with the SCA College of Heraldry in 1987 as:

Gules, two pairs of closed scissors in saltire, Or (fig 1).

The Company has been discussing the adoption of a new device in more period style, based on those used by the London Livery Companies, but retaining links with the current device. Our first suggestion was *Gules, a chevron between three shears Or (fig 2)*



Fig 1



Fig 2

Crux Herald advised that this device conflicted with one already registered with the College of Heraldry. We had the choice of writing to the owner and requesting permission to conflict, or submitting a design with added differences. Crux suggested some alternatives (shown below in order):

Gules, three shears Or

Gules, a chevron engrailed between three shears Or

Gules, a chevron cotised between three shears Or.

Gules, a chevron between three shears and a bordure Or.

Gules, a chevron between three shears and a chief Or.



Discussions on the WcoB list and in person resulted in an astounding universal preference for the cotised chevron (the one in the middle). We then discovered that the shears should be upright, so the final version submitted to the College of Heraldry looks like this:



We have also obtained the required permission of Their Majesties to change both the name and the badge of the Company.

Thanks to all who contributed their ideas and comment to this process.

Rowan

The Guilds Event

Mouse and I travelled up to St Floz for the Guild event - a long trek, but in a good cause!

The day was colder and wetter than expected, but we had an excellent venue for the classes and feast and both were well attended. The Broderers and Fencers had the largest numbers and the most active programs.

Contarina talked about intarsia, showed some great closeups of the pouch (clearer than in Staniland) and had a good journal article on the topic. Acacia repeated her Bayeaux class for the many who had not attended it at Festival last year and we all admired her wall hanging once more! Mouse ran a class on Burrato and laxis, with large scale practice on carpet canvas (I have almost got the corners working). I did a class on laid goldwork, and a session on the next guild project - a banner for the Company.

Approaching Competitions

November Crown (Anaela)

Voided work

Twelfth Night (Krae Glas)

Scandinavian work

Next years comps will be announced in the November issue

It is customary to insert an article at this point on voided work which is the November competition, however when I started researching on the web to build an article, I found several ready made ones. So rather than supply a rehash of some very good work, I have supplied links to the sites for you.

<http://www.bayrose.org/needlework/VoidedWork.html>

This link by Sabina de la Bere (Robin Berry) contains background info, link to an in depth article, patterns and period examples and a bibliography and other weblinks.

The embedded article covers:

- ❑ Assisi embroidery,
- ❑ voided work in the 13th, 14th and 16th centuries,
- ❑ design elements,
- ❑ working a piece – practical hints

The second site is another SCA related site

<http://www.planetc.com/users/derwyddon/embroider.html>

This site by Clare de Estepa (Katherine Estep Stephenson), contains links to:

- ❑ Assisi class handouts,
- ❑ a list of primary sources and descriptions of them for Assisi work
- ❑ an article and photos of an original embroidered altar frontal by Maestra Clare done in the Spanish reserva style
- ❑ a bibliography

The article contains a discussion of how the elements of the style were closely adhered to within this original piece created by Maestra Clare and contains discussion on techniques and sources.

I hope you find these sites useful in researching and preparing your competition pieces.

Next issue will contain an article on Scandinavian embroidery (I promise, Maggie's already written it).

The Company Banner

The Company needs a banner to mark our presence in court during presentations, for procession at Guild events and other such occasions requiring suitable panoply.

I have designed a suitably ornate banner, based on the banner of an Italian merchant town, found in Neubecker "Heraldry, Sources and Meanings". It is made up of several parts, ideal for a project done by many people. The design was approved at the Guilds event, and several people made good suggestions regarding instructions, to ensure uniformity. We decided on a pair of patron saints from the many on offer: St Francis of Assisi and St Claire of Assisi and discussed materials.

In keeping with the period of the original, and wishing to improve everyone's skills just a little, the pieces are worked in splitstitch and laid gold. Most pieces are very small, so they provide a great introduction to a new technique! There will be detailed instructions and we plan to put worked examples up on the website, so you can see what they are meant to look like.

Acacia donated some fine twill silk as the ground for the splitstich pieces, and Contarina donated some heavy gold silk for the chevron of the badge. We still need to source some red and some blue silk brocade, with a suitable medieval pattern (about 70cm of each).

The sections are as follows:

- 1 Badge of the Company (on a rondel) - goldwork on red brocade
- 1 Text - "Worshipful Company of Broderers" (ring to go around rondel) - goldwork on red brocade
- 2 Images of patron saints of embroidery - splitstitch silk on silk, then appliquéd
- 2 Images of founders of the Company (Bess and Keridwen) - splitstitch silk, appliquéd (Bess and Keridwen get first option on themselves)
- 4 Devices of the Masters (Bess, Keridwen, Acacia, Vittoria) - splitstitch silk, appliquéd (Masters get first option on their own device)
- 16 Devices of Lochac - splitstitch silk, appliquéd (these will be replaced over time by the devices of new Masters)
- 20 'Lochac' crowned - Couched gold, with pearls, garnets and lapis, on red brocade
- Up to 50 devices of the Company - splitstitch silk, appliquéd (small, must be registered device, must be an apprentice or journeyman - everyone gets first option on their own device)

I have prepared the silk on linen ground for all the splitstitch pieces, and these will be ready to send out shortly.

By way of indication, my own device has taken about 5 hours to complete, so these are not large projects!

So far, St Francis and Keridwen have been taken, as have 3 'Lochacs' and 5 Lochac devices, plus some personal devices. So let me know which bit/s you would like...

Rowan

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Other Resources

West Kingdom Needlework Guild

Guild Mistress

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Email: rlberry@sprynet.com

Guild Website <http://users.drak.net/needlework>

Historic Needlework List

(For those who have e-mail.)

To subscribe mail

to: majordomo@Ansteorra.org with the message "subscribe h-needlework" or "subscribe h-needlework-digest" in the body of the message (do not include quotes).

To post messages to the HNW List:

mail to h-needlework@Ansteorra.org

Worshipful Company of Broiderers List

We have an email list for the purpose of discussing issues relating to the Guild in Lochac: to subscribe, send an email to majordomo@sca.org.au. Leave the subject line empty and put "subscribe wcob" in the text of your message. Once subscribed, you can email your messages to wcob@sca.org.au

From the chronicler

Firstly thank you to Alys for taking on the role of Chronicler during my recent reign.

I apologise for taking so long to get this issue out after stepping down –and my thanks to Rowan and Mouse for their patience with me as I tried to unpack from Festival, May Crown, New Zealand and Midwinter, finish the paperwork and find my computer again under the detris masquerading as my house (I'll find it again one day!).

I have started production of the November Crown issue – I aim to actually beat the deadline for a change.

This issue has been distributed in two formats – electronic and in hard copy for those who have not indicated they would like an electronic copy. If you would like to be added to the electronic mailing list, please supply an email address to either Rowan, Mouse or myself.

Oh, thank you to the Companie for our lovely reign gifts – they are being well used.

Morwynna