



The Worshipful Company of Broderers of Lochac

Embroidery Guild of the Kingdom of Lochac - Issue 18, May 2004

From the Guildmaster

Greetings all.

I hope you are all recovered from Festival and have managed to get the dust out of everything. It was fabulous to see everyone at festival and to get such great feedback and new ideas about how the Company should run in future. Your involvement is appreciated and actually vital to keeping the Company the going as it is.

We continue to exceed expectations. The mix up of venues for the meeting at festival actually came as a blessing. The Festival A&S officer remarked to me afterwards, "you wouldn't have fit in the place you were assigned".

Congratulations to our newest Master of the Company, Mistress Rowan Perigryne. The Masters of the Company have been watching her work for some time and are pleased with the level of work in both needleworking skills and teaching. I was very happy to finally make this official. I'm a little disappointed that the announcement was a little rushed (but the look on Rowan's face was priceless). Perhaps we could create a ceremony for the Combined Guilds event to celebrate our new Master.

Congratulations also to Jane Stockton, our yearly champion, which was also announced at festival. It is wonderful to see members of the Company get involved in the various competitions and projects. It certainly keeps inspiring me to try new ideas and techniques.

You will find the Ordinance changes in this newsletter. I hope to have the next years' worth of competitions published in the midwinter issue to bring us into line with our new rules. Thank you all for the competition suggestions. These will feature next year. Please think about contributing articles on future competition topics. One of the strengths of the Company is our ability to share information. Please share what you know with us.

Also discussed at the meeting was the idea of a company affiliation badge that people could wear. We discussed that any such badge would need to wait until our new badge was passed with the heralds. We were also not sure how guild affiliation was expressed in period. We need to prove what tokens are documentable before authorising their use.

Other ideas thrown about were to add the making of Mouse Guard pouches to our LOG pouch project. The need for LOG pouches is currently greater than the need for Mouse Guard pouches and the Mouse Guard pouch needs very little embroidery. But we will endeavour to get a pattern out soon for you to play with.

Also we discussed the idea of a UFO (un finished object) swap meet at the Combined Guilds event. The range of ideas involved handing such items to someone else to get them out of your life, or explaining the object to get new inspiration, or even counselling where a project has gone horribly wrong. I'll be looking for someone to facilitate the session when we have a date and venue for Combined Guilds. The last I heard was that Combined Guilds might be in Rowany in August, but I haven't heard anything concrete from the prospective steward.

Thank you to Bartolomeo for taking on the task of Company Chronicler. He is already making his presence felt in this role. Thank you to Jane Stockton for agreeing to look after the new webpages. Thank you for Rowan for all her work on the new webpages and I look forward to seeing them soon.

Another thanks to Rowan for her amazing organisational work on the banner project and thank you to all the Company members for taking projects and completing them. Now that the rush of festival is past, I should get stitching in earnest again.

Mouse



From the Patron

Greetings to all the Company!

The Company was well represented at Rowany Festival, with members conducting classes, manning the Company display at the Laurels Prize Tourney, gathering for an excellent meeting, and recognising our new Champion.

The winner of this past year's competitions overall and Champion of the Guild for the forthcoming year is Jane Stockton. Although relatively new to the Company, Jane's work has been both prolific and skilled, and well deserves this recognition. Jane was presented with a large set of wooden embroidery frames as her prize.



The WCoB display table at Rowany Festival

Several members showed progress on their LOG pouches. Jane has completed an Elizabethan style and Bartolomeo is working his in German counted work. There are many more past (and future!) recipients in need of a token for this award and we will be making another presentation of pouches to TRM at Midwinter. I can still supply copies of the entire set of designs to anyone who is interested.

The Company presentations are underway for TRM ÆEdward and Yolande, to be presented at Midwinter. We have become justly well known for the quality of these gifts, and several other guilds are now planning to emulate this practice. I am still seeking pictures of some previous presentations, LOG pouches and any other member work for publication on the website. If you have a picture to contribute, please let me know.

We are still awaiting approval of our new badge from the College of Heralds. Lady Sabine du Bourbonnais has taken over the role of Crux pro tem and is also a member of the Company. Sabine has been very helpful in digging through the files, but has advised that sadly our submission was not sent to Laurel 6 months ago, as we had thought. She has now sent it on and we look forward to hearing of its progress in another 3-4 months.

This will delay the completion of the Company Banner, but we can concentrate on completing all the other sections in the meantime. I have written in more detail on this project elsewhere in this newsletter.

Best regards, *Rowan*

From the Chronicler

Greetings all.

I hope this issue finds you all happy and well. It is never nice to begin things with an apology... but here goes! Apologies for the tardiness of this issue, I blame Real Life and a dose of a post-Festival chest infection (ack, that dust!).

I hope you enjoy this newsletter as much as I enjoyed putting it together. A big thanks to Morwynna for her efforts as Chronicler, she did a great job and we all owe her a debt of thanks.

This issue is quite a full one and I hope you enjoy reading it. We have some interesting articles planned for future issues, especially on subjects that will coincide with future competition themes, but I am still on the lookout for more submissions. Not just articles but I would also like to make book and website reviews a regular feature, and speaking of the web, if you find a particularly useful site or retailer let me know so I can add them to our Resources section. If you have any feedback, I'd love to hear it.

In service,
Bartolomeo



The Company Banner- Project Update

The Company Banner project is moving ahead, with all the materials now in hand and many elements complete or underway.

The kits for the split stitch Lochac devices and the devices for the members of the company were sent out from October onwards. As yet, I've not received any complete Masters devices, nor any of the four supporters, but I know these are progressing. So far I have received back the following completed sections:

- 6 Lochac devices: Marienna, Finá, Constance, Amelise, Kareina and Nicolette
- 9 Company member devices: Marienna, Finá, Bartolomeo, Yvonne, Murghein, Marit, Aelfrythe, Gwir and Rowan.

If you would like to have your device on the banner, you must a) have a registered device, and b) be a ranked member of the company (ie have submitted one piece for grading). There is no time limit to this offer – personal devices can be added to the banner even once it is complete, and I hope that it becomes an ongoing record of the strength of the Company.

The kits for the Lochac goldwork were handed out at Festival (and a few posted). These show the word Lochac with a crown above, and are worked in gold jap on red silk. The completed pieces will be sewn together to form a red border around the banner, with the Lochac devices applied over the joins.

The centre of the banner will be a rondel with our badge and the name of the Company, all worked in couched gold jap on red silk. Sadly, this section must await the approval by the College of Heralds before work can begin.

The completed banner will be a marvellously over-the-top creation, well suited to proclaim the skill of the Company.

Rowan

Five Period Embroidery Stitches

Part III – Chain Stitch

By Jane Stockton

Background

Chain stitch was used throughout the SCA period. It was often used as a fill stitch and also for things such as stems on vines or plants, or as the frame for detached buttonhole popular in late Elizabethan stitching.

Technique

Bring the thread up at the top of the line and hold it down with the left thumb. Insert the needle where it last emerged and bring the point out a short distance away. Pull the thread through, keeping the working thread under the needle point.



Periods and Cultures

Figure 1 - Chain Stitch

This stitch was used widely by the following cultures (but not limited to), in the following circumstances:

- Byzantine and Coptic –used as a filling stitch
- Egyptian Islamic – 9th – 16th Centuries,
- Anglo Saxon - Vestments, secular garments
- Norman - Vestments, Ceremonial garments, Bayeaux Tapestry (in wool)
- Germanic Lands – 13th Century – altar panels.
- English – 12th – 14th Century - Opus Anglicanum - Vestments, seal bags
- Tudor and Elizabethan – Secular embroidering gains popularity, (decline of use in religious settings due to Reformation and rise of Protestantism in England), wall hangings, secular garments, bed hangings, cushions, book bindings, book bags.

Materials

Chain stitch can be done with just about any thread used in embroidery. It works well with wool yarns, cotton and silk thread. When starting off, wool is a great way to learn. I would recommend something like Anchor or DMC Tapestry wool. It can be worked on a ground (your base fabric) of linen, cotton or wool. In period, wool on wool was fairly common, as was silk thread on a linen ground.

Design Sources

One of the problems associated with research into textiles, is that very few textiles survive today. Those that do tend to be ones that belonged to churches or royal or noble families, who had the means to protect what were in many cases family or national treasures. As such, we must turn to more permanent survivals, such as stonework, illuminated manuscripts, metal work etc.

Patterns to Practice With

Over the page are two patterns based on period sources that I have put together for those who might like to try a simple design. When stitching, try outlining the pattern in a darker colour, and then filling with a lighter colour.

Either of the patterns below would make a lovely decoration for around a neckline, cuffs or possibly along the front edge of a cloak.

Examples to Stitch



Figure 2 – Repeating flower and vine motif from the 1568 “New Modelbuch” of Nicolas Bassée. However, this type of pattern was common in Northern Europe from the 13th century on.

This pattern would look very nice and be quite authentic done in white thread on white linen, especially as part of some sort of table linen.

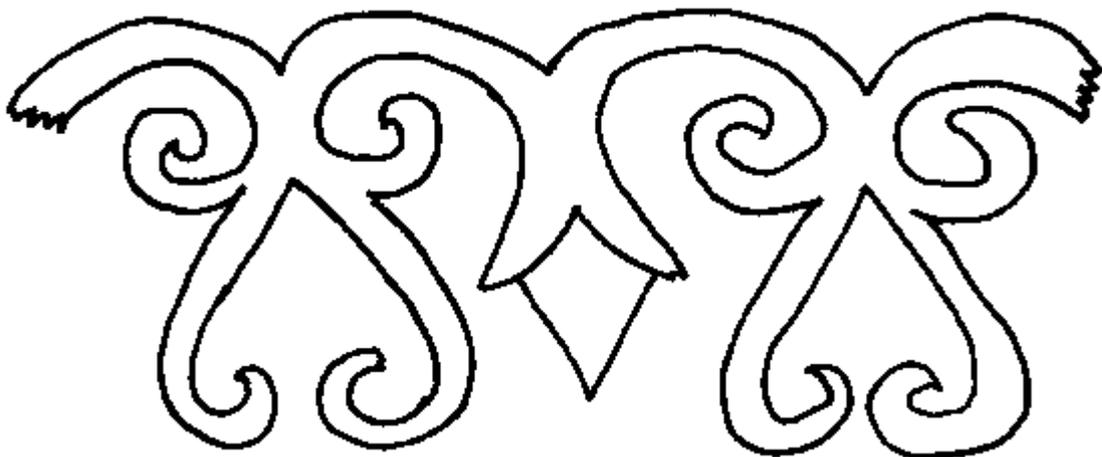


Figure 3 – Viking collar pattern from Valsgårde. Possibly Byzantine inspired design. This re-drawing from <http://www.cs.vassar.edu/~capriest/vikembroid.html>

Try outlining this pattern in a lighter or darker colour to the fill colour. Would make a great pattern for collar and cuffs.

Congratulations!

At Rowany Festival AS XXXVIII (April 2004) Mistress Rowan was inducted as the newest Master of the Company. Congratulations Rowan, well deserved!

Those who were at the Festival meeting may remember Rowan's comments that she didn't quite have enough master level works completed to achieve Master status. It was the various in depth research projects she undertook as part of the Kingdom carpet, LOG pouch and Company Banner projects which counted as her final Master grade piece. Well done Rowan!

Changes to the WCoB Ordinances

1. Change the wording "Principality" to "Kingdom" throughout.

2. Change section 3.3.6, from:

3.3.6 Changes to Company ranks will only occur at Principality events, Company events or the Rowany Festival. If distance is a problem, then photographic evidence of work is acceptable, but members should send the actual work where possible.

To

3.3.6 Ranking of works may be done at any time by an Master of the Company. If distance is a problem, then photographic evidence of work is acceptable, but members should send the actual work where possible. The changes to Company ranking will only take effect once the grading is passed to the Guildmaster to be put on the Company records.

3. Change Section 4, from:

4. The Company will hold four competitions each year at the four Principality events. The categories for the competitions will be set by the Guildmaster and announced at or before the Principality event preceding the one at which the competition will be held, e.g. the category for Spring Coronet will be announced at or before Midwinter Investiture. It is preferable that all categories for a year be announced at once.

To

4. The Company will hold four competitions each year at the four Kingdom events. The categories for the competitions will be set by the Guildmaster and announced 18 months in advance of the event at which the competition will be held, e.g. the category for Spring Coronet will be announced at or before May Crown the preceding year. It is preferable that all categories for a year be announced at once. Newsletter articles for the competition should appear 12 months before the competition.

(Due to space restrictions in this issue I have only included the changes. The Ordinances can be read in full on the WCoB website at www.sca.org.au/broiderers and a copy of the Ordinances will be included in the Midwinter issue, in July 2004. – Bartolomeo)



...News Flash!...

The new version of the Worshipful Company of Broderers website is up and running!

If you haven't checked it out yet, you can do so at www.sca.org.au/broiderers . Mistress Rowan spent quite a lot of time and effort on it, and has handed over the reigns for future maintenance and updating of it to the new Webmistress, Jane Stockton.

Don't forget that this is our site as a group, so if there are any additions you would like to suggest, or if you spot any mistakes or omissions, you can post these comments to the WCoB email list or get in touch with the Webmistress. If you would like pictures of your work included, these should be sent to the Webmistress along with your details, a description of the work etc.

Guild Competitions Calendar - AS XXXIX

May Crown Tourney – Something New

May, 2004 – Politarchoopolis, ACT

Something New - once again it is time to step outside your 'comfort zone' and try your hand at something new! All entries should be your first attempt at a new technique.

(Note: Lochac A & S Competition is "Lace in a period usage" – for example handkerchief, garb, accessory etc in a style, technique and usage consistent with period examples.)

Midwinter Investiture – Embroidered Outer Garments

July, 2004 – Riverhaven, QLD

Embroidery on an outer garment, in any technique. Style, technique and usage should be consistent with period examples. (LOG pouches will also be judged)

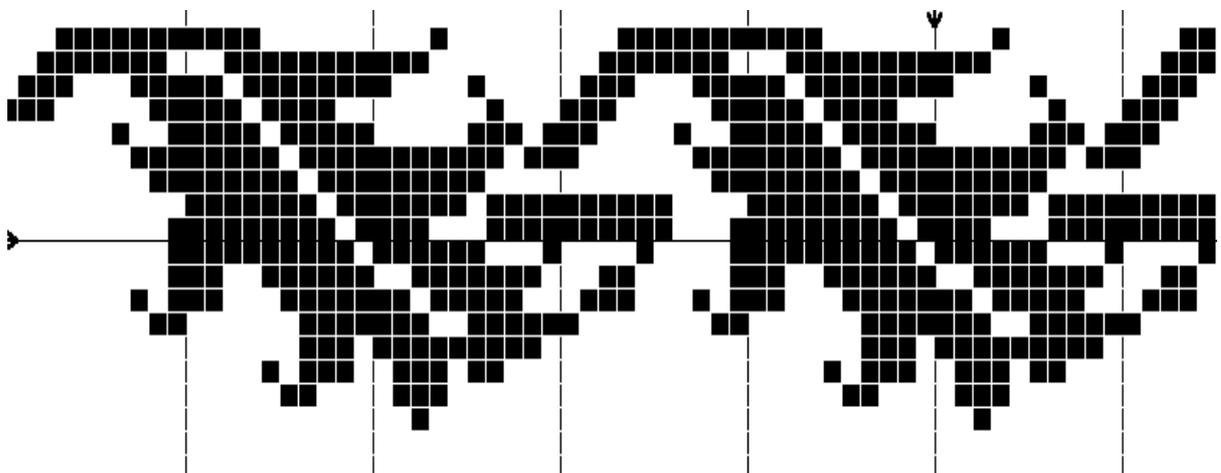
(Note: Lochac A & S Competition is "Elizabethan Sweet Bags" – Elizabethan embroidered pouches.)

November Crown Tourney – Needlework To A Given Pattern

November, 2004 – Ildhafn, New Zealand

A piece of needlework to a given design, technique open.

The original charted design is suitable for various types of counted thread work (ie drawn thread, lakis, long armed cross stitch, counted thread etc). You may wish to try a non-counted version of the same design in other techniques (ie stem stitch, outline stitch etc).



This leaf pattern above comes from "The True Perfection of Design" by Giovanni Ostaus, in Venice, 1567, as charted by Susan Evans 1989, Falconwood Press.

12th Night Investiture - Blackwork

January, 2005 – Shire of Arrowsreach, VIC

Blackwork – a finished item of blackwork. (LOG pouches will also be judged)

(Note: Lochac A & S Competition is "Blackwork on an everyday item".)

Guild Competitions Calendar - AS XXXX

May Crown Tourney – Something New & UFOs (unfinished objects)

May, 2005 – Venue to be announced.

Two competitions for the price of one! Time to step outside your 'comfort zone' and try your hand at something new again (all entries should be your first attempt at a new technique) and/or time to dust off that unfinished piece of work and allow it to see the light of day.

Midwinter Investiture – German Counted Thread Work

July, 2005 - Venue to be announced.

German Counted Thread work - Look for more information and some pointers on design sources and techniques in future issues of this newsletter.

November Crown Tourney – Embroidery For Abuse

November, 2005 – Venue to be announced.

Hard working embroidered items! Watch for ideas in future editions of this newsletter (some possibilities include fighting tabards, favours, embroidered garments for children etc). As always, all items should be able to be documented.

12th Night Investiture – Bunnies!

January, 2006 – Venue to be announced.

A needlework item with a design of bunnies, remember all designs should be based on period items and/or patterns. Extra points will be awarded if you find a bunny pattern nobody has seen before! This one should be fun...



One of the aims of the guild in setting competitions is to encourage guild members to extend themselves to try new things, to research period techniques and materials, or to try that little bit harder to make something to a high standard. WCoB competitions are a relaxed and friendly affair, and we would encourage everyone to enter, no matter what your skill level.

You will often see mention made of 'documentable' techniques, designs or uses. Please don't be put off by this! We often stress this point to reinforce that what we are trying to do is to not just make beautiful and useful items, but ones which attempt to accurately reflect period styles, techniques and materials (where possible).

The person who wins and/or places in the most competitions during the year is awarded the title of **Guild Champion**.

The competitions are held at the 4 Kingdom events during the year, and the competition cycle follows the 'SCA year' which starts in May.

For information on how to enter WCoB competitions, tips on documentation, how to send your entry if you are unable to attend, or any other competition queries, please contact the Guild Master or Patron. The WCoB email list (see Resources) is also an ideal forum for posting queries and discussions about competitions.

Resources

The Worshipful Company of Broderers on the web.

www.sca.org.au/broderers/

The Worshipful Company of Broderers email list.

For how-to information, to view the archives or to subscribe visit:

<http://www.sca.org.au/mailman/listinfo/wcob>

Subscriptions

The Worshipful Company of Broderers newsletter is published four times a year to coincide with the four main Kingdom events in the Lochac calendar:

- May Crown Tourney
- Midwinter Investiture (July)
- November Crown Tourney
- 12th Night Investiture (January)

This newsletter is provided free of charge and issues of the newsletter can either be collected at the four events listed above, posted to those who are unable to attend, or sent via email. In order to keep the cost to the Patron at a minimum, a minimal donation of \$2.00 (or four 50c stamps) to cover the cost of postage would be appreciated, but isn't mandatory. Electronic copies of the newsletter sent via email are sent as pdf (Adobe Acrobat) files.

Please address any address corrections or changes, email subscription changes or general subscription queries to the Chronicler.

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