



# The Worshipful Company of Broderers of Lochac

The Newsletter of the Embroidery Guild of the Kingdom of Lochac

Issue 20 - May Crown, 2005

## From the Guildmaster

By Mouse

I hope you all had a great Festival. Despite losing my voice and getting sick, I still had a brilliant time. I tried a few things I didn't have time to do at previous festivals and also managed to catch up with many, many old friends.

It was also very good to catch up with all the Company members who came to the meeting. Ah... This is the point I remember that I took notes at the meeting to tell everyone what happened.... Hmm They will be somewhere safe I'm sure... Best go look... Aha. Here they are. I was remarkably clever and put them in my notebook and not on tattered scraps of paper, as so often seems to happen.

2004 was a quiet year for the WCoB. Personally it has been a very interesting year for the heads of the Company with much changing of jobs and moving house. Our chronicler has had to resign and I'm pleased to have Jane Stockton as the new chronicler.

I'd also like other members of the Company to start taking control of projects within the Company so that the WCoB will continue to be visible and thrive even if some members take time out to have real life. Acacia has said she will organise the competitions in May. Who will run the competitions for me at Midwinter in Innilgard and 12th Night in Mordenvale? I figure I should be able to get to November Crown in Rowany and run that one personally.

It has been suggested that the WCoB have local representatives in each group. So far, the WCoB has concentrated on being a Kingdom wide group, but sometimes people have taken it upon themselves to

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organise regular local meetings in the name of the WCoB. This is a good thing and I know it can be very productive working as a team towards a larger project, or just to have someone around to chat with while you work to stave off boredom or to encourage and say the right thing to keep you going.

Elsewhere in this newsletter will be a list of groups and names of people who have volunteered to be the WCoB contact there. Please help complete this list and keep it up to date in the future. What will these people be required to do? I'd expect you do what any member of the company should do – share your knowledge of embroidery when



WCoB Meeting, Festival 2005

someone asks. On top of that, you can do as much or as little as you like. If there is enough interest in your area, start up some regular sewing sessions or a local project. But this will mean that lonely new embroiderers out there will have someone to contact to get them started and introduce them to the rest of the WCoB.

The big idea to come out of the Festival WCoB meeting was the idea of beginner's projects. The WCoB will design a number of projects to allow people to try a new stitch or technique. This will be something like the LOG pouch designs but the resulting object will be something that the embroiderer can use themselves. The ideas for the design were a Lochac populace pouch (the Lochac device without crown or wreath) and the newly registered WCoB device. Contarina and Jane volunteered to create some counted and non-counted charts respectively for us.

If you have other ideas for beginner projects – perhaps based your first project for a particular stitch please write it up and send it to us. Could someone come forward to co-ordinate the designs and organise to make the project happen? This will be a continual project but it would be good to see project designs appear on the web page in the next six months.

As Rowan has mentioned, the WCoB banner is very close to assembly. Please do your best to get your pieces finished in the next few months. After the

## From the Patron

By Rowan

The Company made our presentation of the Viking Woolwork cloak edges to Their Excellencies Draco and Serena at the War Court during Rowany Festival. They were very pleased with them – as those who will have read Serena's positive comments to the list can attest. Pictures of these latest gifts and previous presentations can be seen on the website at <http://www.sca.org.au/broiderers/presentations.htm>

Work is underway on the next set of presentations – an Elizabethan partlet for HRM Matilde, and a pair of

banner project is assembled, it has been suggested that the Order of the Pelican in Lochac needs a new cloak. The project would involve working the registered devices of all members of the pelican in cross-stitch. If you are heraldically inclined, perhaps you might like to take on the job of gathering the charts of all the devices. Let us know and we can discuss stitch counts.

And a final question for you all. Name your favourite embroidery source book and why. Manfred from Mainly Medieval is interested in selling us books (like that would be a challenge...:) And so he wants to know what books are the best to stock.

My nomination, as I gave at the meeting is Sarah Don's Traditional Embroidered Animals, Sally Milner Publishing, 1990. As a general interest embroidery book it has a huge amount in period and I tend to find many snippets of information to add to the various articles I've written.

Take note of the competitions coming up and please let me know if you have ideas for the 2007 competitions. One idea so far is for embroidery tools, now that Mistress Rowan has inspired us all with her classes.

And as we keep saying, this is your Guild so if you want something to happen, tell someone (or better still offer to organise it). I look forward to hearing about your latest projects.

Elizabethan gloves for HTM Stephen. These should be ready to present at Midwinter.

We had an enjoyable meeting at Festival, although some people missed it, due to a change in time between the draft and final programs. It was fun to admire everyone's work on the banner, see the treasures Leonie brought back and talk about plans for new projects and ideas for the Company. Members of the Company gave several classes during Festival, and these sparked some real

enthusiasm amongst the many who attended. Many people find embroidery somewhat daunting, so to show them that they too can make something – and enjoy the process – is a real gift.

Festival is usually the time when we announce the Company's champion for the year. Sadly, this year, there was no need to announce the Champion, as this is based on entries to competitions and these have been poor indeed this year. I do hope that some of the Company will be inspired by this next round of competitions to try something new: Seams/Handsewing, Convent Stitch, Research and Beading.

The Kingdom is still in need of more LOG pouches! If you are looking for a new small project, perhaps to try a new technique, consider making a pouch for the Lochac Order of Grace. Instructions and designs are available on the website, or you can create your own design based on period sources. Details at



*Completed Roundal from Company Banner*

[http://www.sca.org.au/broiderers/log\\_pouch\\_instructions.html](http://www.sca.org.au/broiderers/log_pouch_instructions.html)

The Company banner continues to progress and there is a more detailed project update elsewhere in this newsletter. It will be glorious when it is done...

Best Regards,  
Rowan

## The Company Banner - Update

By Rowan

I have received some more pieces for the banner and several other people have told me that will get on to their piece 'real soon now', which I hope is a positive sign! So far I have received back the following completed sections:

- ❖ 9 Lochac devices and 2 Masters (9 yet to come)
- ❖ 9 Lochac gold text (11 to come)
- ❖ 1 Supporter (3 to come)
- ❖ 15 Company member devices (as many as will)

All the completed pieces can be viewed online at [http://www.sca.org.au/broiderers/banner\\_bits.htm](http://www.sca.org.au/broiderers/banner_bits.htm)

With our new device passed at last, I have completed the central rondel – our device in laid gold, with the company name around it. The rondel is now appliquéd to the blue silk background, and the gold braid fretwork couched down.

The next stage is to put together the borders – and for this I need the remaining 11 Lochac gold pieces! Everything else can be appliquéd afterwards, but these are sewn together as part of the actual banner. If you are in need of more silk thread, let me know (a few people ran short). If you have a kit and not yet summoned up the courage to put needle to cloth, take a big breath and thread that needle... in five hours or so and it will be done! And if feel you cannot really do it, let me know – I will try and help or hand it on to someone else – we have a few people who were keen to do one and missed out.

Once the borders are on, we can apply the split stitch supporters and devices. A thick fringe in red and blue will be sewn around the border and finished banner will be hung from a painted pole, following the design of the piece on which it is based.

A reminder to those new to the project - 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). Personal devices of Company members can be added to the banner even once it is complete, so this offer will not expire once the banner is assembled.

Once it is complete, we will use the banner for official Company business – at Kingdom events for presentations to Their Majesties, and presentations of competition prizes, at the Guilds event each year, and at Festival.

It would be excellent to have the banner completed for the Guilds event later this year, so if you are reading this guiltily, take heart, you are not the only one, and pick up that needle!

**Upcoming Guild Competition Categories**

May Crown – Something New/Unfinished Objects  
 Midwinter Coronation – German Counted Work



*Mistress Rowan holding up the Company Banner at Festival 2005*



*Split Stitch Panel by Sabine du Bourbonnais*

**Updated Grading Information**

By Mouse

Recent changes in grading on the books. If you have been graded so far this year and your name isn't here, hassle the Master who did the grading and get her to send me the details. (Let's see if I can make this section a regular one to encourage people to be graded)

**New Apprentices**

- ❖ Finndabhair ingean ui Mheadhra – 1 piece, Lochac A&S champion pouch
- ❖ Kathleen o'Dubhghaill – 1 piece, Lochac cloak piece
- ❖ Dominica de Zeragoza – 1st piece, blackwork

## Competitions AS XL (2005)

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

*May, 2005 – St Florian-de-la-riviere.*

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 - Innilgard.*

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 – Rowany.*

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 – Mordenvale.*

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...

## Competitions AS XLI (2006)

### May Crown - seams, handsewing or seam decoration

*May, 2006*

### Midwinter coronation - convent stitch

*July, 2006*

### November Crown – Research with References

*November, 2006*

Minimum 300 word article on any embroidery subject or a drafting of a pattern from a pre-1600 source (eg painting or extant piece)

### 12th Night Coronation – Beading

*January, 2006*

## German Counted Work

By Jane Stockton

The next competition for the Company after May Crown is German Counted Work. Please find below a few Internet based resources for information on this topic. If you don't have access to the net, please contact me and I will send what I can via Australia Post.

- ❖ 15<sup>th</sup> C Brick Stitch Pouch – LOG Pouch Project - [http://www.sca.org.au/broiders/log\\_pouch\\_instructions.html](http://www.sca.org.au/broiders/log_pouch_instructions.html)
- ❖ Medieval Embroidery - <http://www.doctorbeer.com/joyce/emb/embroid.htm>
- ❖ Stitches Out of Time – <http://home.earthlink.net/~wymarc/asoot/west.htm>
- ❖ Historical Needlework Resources (check under "Period") - <http://medieval.webcon.net.au/>
- ❖ Whitework Embroidery - <http://www.bayrose.org/wkneedle/Articles/Whitework.html>
- ❖ 16<sup>th</sup> Century Samplers - <http://www.dragonbear.com/samplers.html>

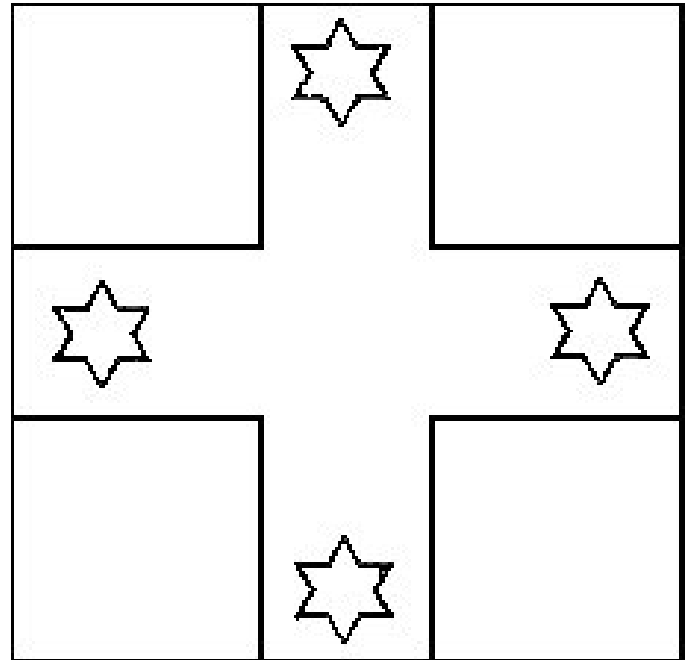
## Local Group Contacts

Being a list of possible contacts for all baronies and shires in Lochac. If there is no contact listed for your area, feel free to nominate yourself! Please contact the Guild Master to nominate.

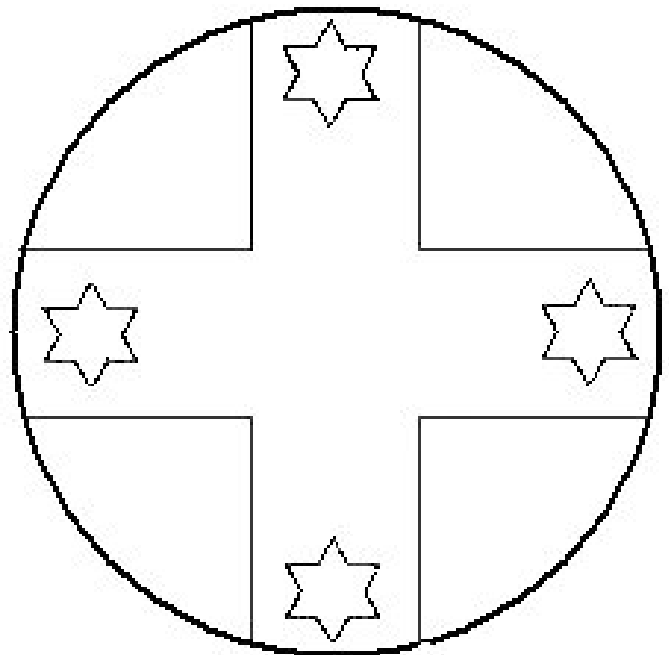
- ❖ Agaricus
- ❖ Aneala
- ❖ Arrowsreach
- ❖ Bacchus Wood
- ❖ Bordescros
- ❖ Colles Ardorum
- ❖ Darton - *Marienna Jensdottir*
- ❖ Dismal Fogs
- ❖ Ildhafn - *Constance de Coligny*
- ❖ Innilgard
- ❖ Krae Glas
- ❖ Mordenvale - *Jane Stockton*
- ❖ Politarchopolis - *Rowan Perigynne*
- ❖ River Haven
- ❖ Rowany - *Keridwen the Mouse*
- ❖ Saint Florian de la Riviere
- ❖ Southron Gaard
- ❖ Stormhold
- ❖ Torlyon
- ❖ Ynys Fawr

## Populace Badge Patterns

Below are two patterns for the Lochac populace badge. These are patterns for any type of surface/non-counted embroidery work. The next newsletter (Midwinter Coronation) will contain patterns for counted thread techniques.



*Split Stitch Lochac Device from WCoB Banner*



## From the Chronicler

By Jane Stockton

Hi Everyone, I'm the new Chronicler. I hope you like my first effort. What I would like to do here is to ask for some help from you. I need some contributions. So below, I'm going to list some questions. If you take the time to answer the questions, we will have the basis of an article for the newsletter. If you want to write the whole piece yourself, that's great, but if you would like some help, that is fine too, as I'd love to help!

- ❖ What project are you working on?
- ❖ What is it for? (something to finish the perfect outfit,?competition entry? just something to learn a new technique?)
- ❖ What materials are you using? Why?
- ❖ How long have you been working on it and how long do you estimate you have to go to completion?
- ❖ Have you had any problems?
- ❖ Have you had any victories?
- ❖ Would you do anything differently next time?
- ❖ Are you enjoying working on the project?

Send to: [jane\\_stockton@webcon.net.au](mailto:jane_stockton@webcon.net.au)

## Subscription Information

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.

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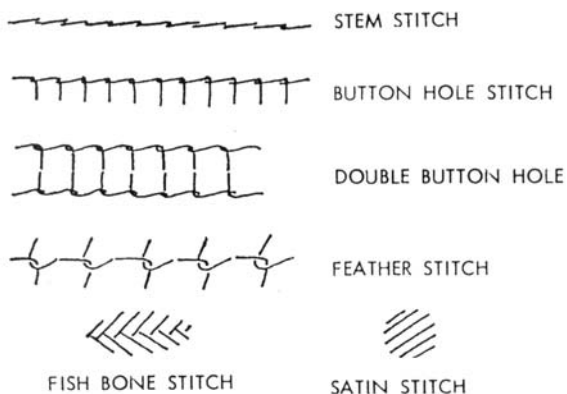
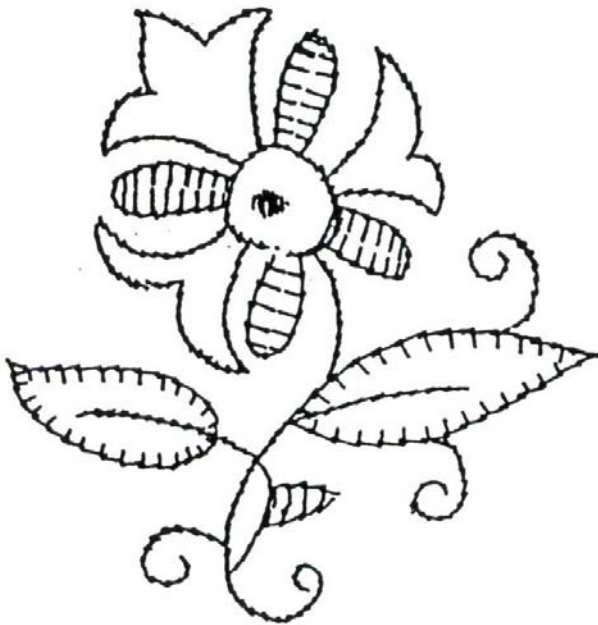
## Pattern Page - Gillyflower

By Jane Stockton

The following pattern is taken from an early 17<sup>th</sup> Century men's shirt, held at the Warwick Museum in England. The shirt is a natural coloured linen, embroidered with red silk. The shirt is covered in a series of rows of floral motifs.

The patterns are similar (but not exactly the same) to motifs found in "*A Scholehouse for the Needle*" by Richard Schorleyker and also on a shirt held at the Victoria and Albert Museum.

This pattern could be used to decorate a variety of items but a nice small scale project to use this pattern on is a small scent bag.



### Materials

- ❖ Piece of medium weight linen in natural or white
- ❖ Silk or cotton embroidery thread
- ❖ Perle cotton in white or colour matching motif thread colour
- ❖ Herbs or cotton wadding with scented oil

### Instructions

- ❖ Transfer the design onto the piece of linen
- ❖ Embroider the design using 2 strands of thread (if using cotton such as DMC or silk such as Maderia)
- ❖ Cut out the motif and cut a piece of linen the same size.
- ❖ Sew these two pieces together to form a small sachet.
- ❖ Fill with cotton batting or herbs (there are some great recipes for Elizabethan scent mixes on the web!)
- ❖ Sew the top closed.
- ❖ Sew around the edges of the pouch using the perle thread in a small buttonhole stitch.
- ❖ Once you have gone around the edge once, continue a second row of stitches. This time skip three stitches, do two buttonhole stitches in the one section, then skip three and repeat. This will give you a series of loops around the edge that look quite cute.
- ❖ Sew ribbon or use loops oversewn with buttonhole stitch to make a small hanging loop on one corner.