

Wye's Mouth

Being the December, 2012 edition of the Newsletter of the Shire of Wyewood, An Tir, SCA
Acting Chronicler (and still without the template!) Tvorimir Danilov

Baronial Progress

News! The Baronial candidates selected three answers from the first Meet and Greet / Interview, wrote a new vision statement, and contributed their resumes. These are now available on the Wyewood website. Please go read, and then come to our next Meet and Greet at the Round Table Pizza, 302 Southwest 43rd Street, Renton, WA near Archery Practice, at 1pm on January 5th. It'll go until at least 2:30.

http://wyewood.org/wye_candidates.html

While you're searching online, now for something completely different:
<http://www.flickr.com/photos/litlne/mo/6375849393/>

Possible New Site??

Please also inspect the photos of our tour of the Masons' Hall in Federal Way, provided by Lord Dietrich and Lady Kate.

<http://www.flickr.com/photos/29472063@N04/sets/72157632015146765/>

There are some ups and downs to them as a possible FCS site, but the chance to go back to weekly FCSes makes it worth looking at. Per Lord Constantine's request, Master Mir sent a proposal to the Masons for their meeting December 4, and will present their offer at the Feast.

From the Exchequer's Corner:

In solving a "Whodunit" they will often say "follow the money." Money says so much about a person or a group. Where it comes from, where it goes. It speaks to priorities, shared values, integrity (or lack thereof).

It has been my privilege for the last year and a half to manage the funds of Wyewood. I have thoroughly enjoyed this, not only because I love numbers, but because this is such a great group to work with. Hearing stories from other groups helps me to appreciate all the more the balanced and healthy way this group functions.

This is what following the money says about Wyewood:

We are a generous group.

We care about our populace.

We are focused on having fun while being responsible with our resources.

We like to help our neighbors.

We enjoy food, eating, feasting, and hosting.

Nobody is out to push their agenda on the group.

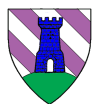
Glory sought is for the entire group, not just a select few.

OK, some of these impressions also come from the Officer and Business Meetings and not just from the

money numbers! The Business Meetings that can be fun and funny. A beautiful blend of serious and silly.

"Follow the money"! Yes, we see that Wyewood is a special kind of place with a special "State of Mynd".

"WAY TO GO WYEWOOD!"



In Happy service,
Lady Matillis atte hethe,
Exchequer of Wyewood

Isfahakh Mutajjan -

Fried Spinach (Al-Baghdadi)

Take spinach, cut off the lower roots and wash; then boil lightly in salt Water and dry.

Refine sesame oil, drop in the spinach and stir until fragrant. Chop up a little garlic and add. Sprinkle with fine-ground cumin, dry coriander and cinnamon, then remove.

Redaction 10/13/98 by Aedla and Pariselle

- 1 lb fresh spinach, cleaned and stemmed
- 1 clove garlic, squeezed
- 1/8 tsp coriander
- 1/4 tsp cinnamon
- 1/4 tsp cumin
- 2 tsp sesame oil

Parboil spinach in salted water, drain and squeeze out as much water as possible. Heat sesame oil and garlic in skillet. Add spinach, stir, then sprinkle on spices. Stir and heat through, serve.

Comments--excellent, unusual but very good. Next time suggested cooking garlic first, sprinkle other spices on top and add more salt.

It was suggested that a nice presentation might be to serve one of the meat dishes above over a large mound of rice, with spoonfuls of the spinach around it.

--Contributed by Lady Alianora Greymoor

"Smalls" in period: children or underwear?

by Wenyeva atte grene

Many SCA people use the term *smalls* to refer to children, as in "I was busy looking after my *smalls* so I missed the tournament." Many other SCA people find this usage irritating, and say things such as "*Smalls* were, in period, underclothes -- *not* children."

I decided to look into the matter, and the results surprised me. *Smalls* as a term for "children" is not *quite* period, but it's similar to a period usage. As a term for "underwear," it seems not to be period at all.

When in doubt, look it up

I looked it up in the *Oxford English Dictionary* and found the following under one of the listings of "small":

1. a. Persons or animals of small size or stature; little ones, children. (Now only with the.)

c1220 *Bestiary* 515 in *O.E.*

Misc., Ðe smale he wile ðus biswiken, ðe grete maiȝ he noȝt bigripen.

a1300 *E.E. Psalter* xvi. 16 Par leuinges to pair smale left pai.

1388 *WYCLIF Matt.* xviii. 6 Who so sclaundrith oon of these smale, that bileuen in me.

c1430 *Syr Tryam.* 1556 'A lytulle lower, Syr,' seyde hee, 'And let us smalle go wyth thee'.

b. A child, a little one.

1907 W. DE MORGAN *Alice-for-Short* xxx. 300 How much can you remember of all that time, Alice? You were only a small, you know. *Ibid.*, I wasn't such a small as all that. (...) 1968 *Guardian* 1 Apr. 7/3 Leave two smalls to the tender mercies of a baby sitter?

(Source: [Oxford English Dictionary, Second Edition, 1989](#).

You have to have a membership to access this, but if you have a library card you can possibly access it through your library's web site. Underlines are my addition.)

The *Middle English Dictionary* at <http://quod.lib.umich.edu/m/med/> also includes several citations of *smale* as a plural noun referring to children. Under the heading of *smāl*, definition 7b is a noun meaning "little ones, children; also, fig. the unlearned."

Digging deeper

Let's look a little more closely at some of the citations in the *OED* and the *MED*.

c1220 Bestiary 515 in O.E. Misc., *De smale* he wile ðus biswiken, ðe grete maiȝ he noȝt bigripen.

In this quotation from [an early English bestiary](#), the *smale* referred to are small fish being captured by a whale, in contrast to larger fish that the whale cannot catch. This citation does *not* refer to children.

Who so sclaundrith oon of these smale, that bileuen in me.

This is perhaps more familiar to many as "But whoso shall offend one of these little ones which believe in me" in the King James Version of the Bible.

c1390(c1350) NHom.(2) PSanct.(Vrn) 311/21: Hose sclaundrep eny of þeose smale þat in me leuen al by tale...

This citation, listed in the *MED*, is of course the same quotation as above. Here's another *MED* citation:

a1425(c1340) Rolle Psalter (LdMisc 286) 136.12: Blisful he that shal holde and nok his smale til the stone.

This is Psalm 136:9 as seen in [the Parallel Latin/English Psalter](#):

"Blessed be he that shall take and dash thy little ones against the rock." It's in Psalm 137 in the KJV: "Happy shall he be, that taketh and dasheth thy little ones against the stones."

For comparison's sake -- in Old English, as opposed to the Middle English seen above, it's much stranger to our eyes:

Eadig byþ se þe nimeþ and eac setep his agen bearn on þone æþelan stan.

(As seen in [the Paris Psalter](#).)

On to another verse:

a1500(c1340) Rolle Psalter (UC 64) 16.16: Thai ere fild of sonnes and thai left thaire leuyngis till thaire smale.

This is a version of the verse cited in the OED as "þar leuinges to þair smale left þai." It is Psalm 16:14 as seen in [the Parallel Latin/English Psalter](#): "They are full of children: and they have left to their little ones the rest of their substance." It is Psalm 17:14 in the *King James Version*: "they are full of children, and leave the rest of their substance to their babes."

In all of these citations save the first, *smale* seems clearly to be used as a plural noun, referring to children.

Smalls as underwear

The earliest citation given in the *OED* for *smalls* as underclothes is from Dickens in 1837. The similar term *small-clothes*, for breeches, is cited to 1796, and described in that citation as a then-"fashionable phrase." (Earlier usage of "small cloth" seems to refer to cloth that is very finely made, not to breeches or underwear.) So why do so many SCA members think of it as a period English term?

One possible answer comes from Eormenþryþ þe norþerne who e-mailed the following:

The reference to "smalls" as underclothes was made by Duchess Lao nearly 20 years ago at (An Tir) September Crown in Idaho. She referenced it to her persona which is/was Chinese. For her time as Queen, she asked the populace not to refer to children as smalls, because in her country (China) smalls were underclothes. Unfortunately, it's been taken out of context and taken to extremes over the years, and the original statement has been entirely lost except for those such as myself who actually heard her say it. Imagine that! 8^)
The reference has nothing to do with medieval western Europe that I am aware of.

Whether a Chinese equivalent of *smalls* was a period term is an issue for further research.

Conclusion

It does seem as if something *similar* to *smalls* was used in the 1200-1450 period, and *smalls* itself was definitely used in the 20th century. (The *OED* doesn't list any citations of this usage between the 15th and 20th centuries.) However, the period usage in plural was not *smalls*, it was *smale* or *smalle*.

Even when the rest of the sentence is relatively modern to our ears (such as in the c1430 citation), *smalls* is not used. (The etymology section of the *OED* listing notes that "The form *smale*, representing OE. disyllabic forms, is common in ME. and occurs as late as the 17th cent." So *smale* might be appropriate even in late SCA period.)

It appears as though calling children *smale* -- which is a plural noun -- is perfectly period for Middle English and possibly Early Modern English. *Smalls* with the -s is a 20th century usage when referring to children, and most likely no earlier than 19th century when referring to underclothes.



Wenyeve atte grene

10 September 2004

<http://slumberland.org/sca/>

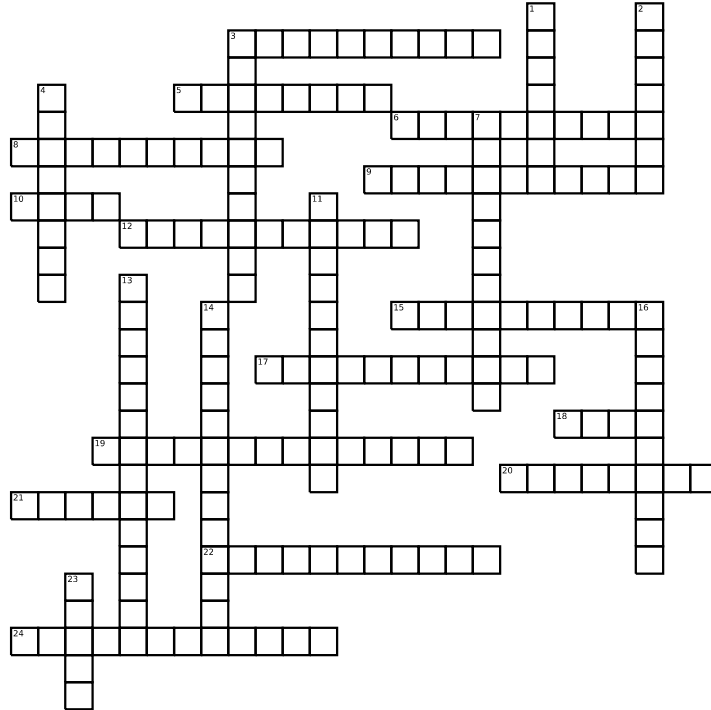
Corner o' the Mouth

Greetings, all! I am still sending out a newsletter in a clearly kluged format, but I still don't have the pretty format, and will have to get Wenyeve to fix a .pdf issue... but it's here! My thanks go out to Alianora, Athlyna, Wenyeve and Matillis who sent contributions for this issue. --Mir

AnTir Awards and Orders

Alianora Greymoor

A puzzle featuring some (but not all) of the awards and orders found in AnTir. If you need help, refer to the "Precedence, Awards and Orders" section in Kingdom Law.



Across

- 3 Given by the Sovereign for period armor.
- 5 Service given by teens of AnTir is recognized with this award.
- 6 Given by the Crown for period bardic arts.
- 8 An award offered by the Royal Consort to the combatant who finishes second in the Crown Lists.
- 9 She has reigned over a Principality.
- 10 This honor is given by the Royal Consort for period persona development.
- 12 An Order for those who demonstrate excellence and chivalry in the Art of War.
- 15 After you've completed your term as Kingdom Protector, you may be given this award.
- 17 Your skill in the Arts & Sciences may result in your admittance into this Order.
- 18 This Order is offered to those who have served as a Consort in a Kingdom.
- 19 This award is given by the Crown for outstanding efforts to the Kingdom and carries with it, an Award of Arms.
- 20 If you are a child of noble merit, the Crown may see fit to give you this honor.
- 21 This Peerage is given for great skill in the Arts & Sciences.
- 22 Typically a first recognition, this award is offered at the Crown's pleasure.
- 24 For substantial service to the Kingdom, you might be admitted into this Order.

Down

- 1 This Peerage is offered for great and long-sustained service to the Kingdom.
- 2 She has reigned over a Kingdom at least twice.
- 3 A recipient of this award has once been the Kingdom Arts and Sciences Champion
- 4 This Peerage contains two parts, the Knighthood and the Mastery-at-Arms.
- 7 This high honor is given by the Crown only once per reign.
- 11 The Queen may give you this token of personal favor.
- 13 Entry into this Order is offered for exceptional skill in Archery, Missile Combat, Thrown Weapons, and Siege Weapons.
- 14 For excellence in the Equestrian Arts, you may be admitted into this order.
- 16 Given for excellence in Rapier Combat, those in this Order typically use the title of Don or Donna.
- 23 He has reigned over a Kingdom at least once.

Kingdoms of the Known World Alianora Greymoor

S	O	I	T	A	E	S	M	L	E	B	L	E	R	D
D	R	R	A	N	A	N	A	L	A	S	R	N	M	I
N	T	E	N	I	N	T	D	L	E	V	N	E	T	A
A	E	S	A	D	T	D	D	I	A	A	S	D	W	C
L	T	D	C	C	L	O	D	D	H	S	T	H	A	S
T	I	S	R	M	I	S	B	I	T	N	H	I	C	
U	U	T	A	M	R	H	A	T	D	A	C	A	C	D
O	T	O	B	E	A	N	S	T	E	O	R	R	A	V
T	A	R	M	D	N	L	A	W	L	T	E	R	L	E
A	E	D	L	A	W	N	E	H	C	A	R	D	O	E
A	D	L	E	I	H	S	H	T	R	O	N	S	N	R
A	A	L	H	L	T	R	R	L	A	I	E	T	T	O
E	G	S	T	R	I	M	A	R	I	S	N	M	I	R
A	R	T	E	M	I	S	I	A	A	M	E	A	R	A
D	M	W	A	A	R	O	R	R	U	D	B	A	I	T

Aethelmeare
Ansteorra
AnTir
Artemisia
Atenveldt
Atlantia
Caid
Calontir
Drachenwald
Ealdormere
East
Gleann Abhann
Lochac
Meridies
Middle
Northshield
Outlands
Trimaris
West