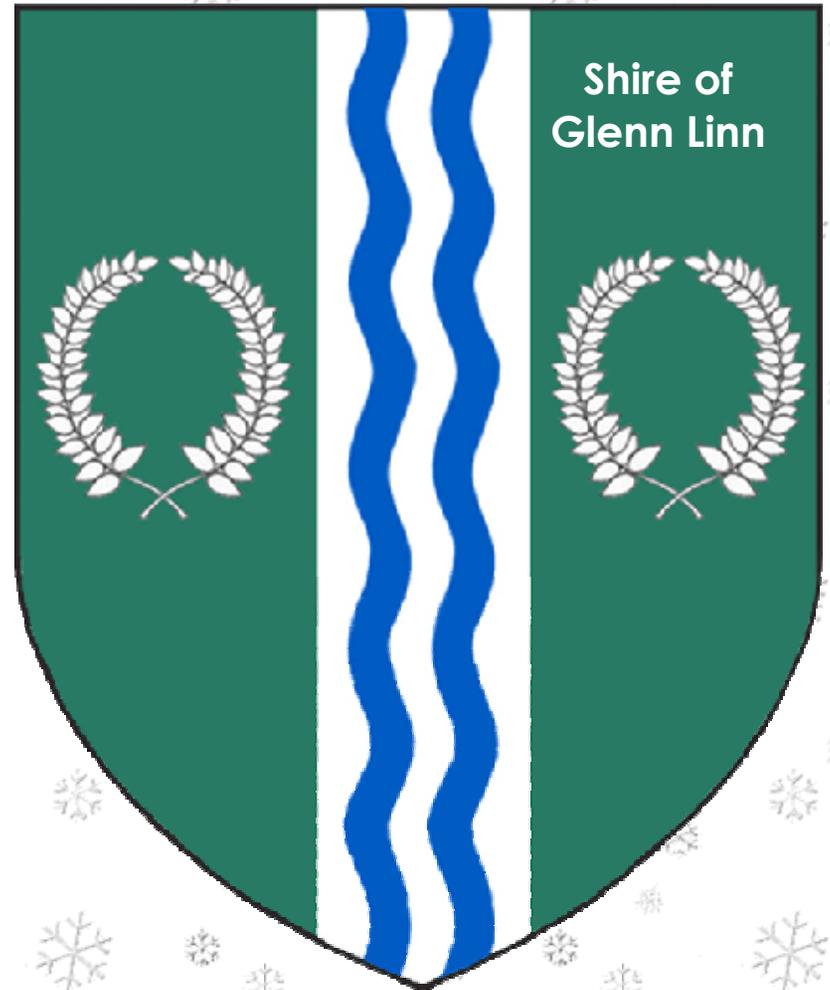


the
Cascadian



winter 2006-07

anno societatis xli

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the feast of fools

During the Middle Ages, the Feast of Fools was celebrated each year on, or around January 1 through out Europe. The festival was one where social classes were put aside, and everyone took part in frivolity. The youth, normally in subordinate roles, would elect one of their own as the Lord of Misrule to lead the celebration, which included absurd rituals, the wearing of costumes and masks, dancing and revelry within the church building. Many of the customs of the Feast of Fools mocked the high offices of the church, which repeatedly tried to ban it. Despite the church's distaste for the bawdy celebration, the tradition continued into the sixteenth century.





Glenn Linn regular meetings

Business Meeting:

Second Wednesday of the month at 7:00 pm
Glens Falls National Bank on Glen Street
Winter/Spring Dates: 1/10, 2/14, 3/14, 4/11, 5/9

Dance Practice immediately follows

Heavy Weapons Fight Practice:

Saturday (weekly) at 1 p.m.
Queensbury Racquet Club

Contact Knight Marshal, Lord Decan (m.k.a. Tim Bruhns) at 527-1048 to confirm time, or schedule additional practices

A & S Meetings:

Second or third Sunday of the month at 6:15 pm
Lady Moreta's home

Contact Minister of Arts & Science, Lady Moreta (m.k.a. Kim Jones) at 743-9421 to confirm date and time.

Youth Combat Practice:

1st and 3rd Thursdays of each month at 6 p.m.
Queensbury Racquet Club

Contact Lady Frigga (m.k.a. Jen Haley) at 792-7923 with questions (9am – 9pm).

Athena's Thimble (Albany/Glens Falls Chapter):

1/14 at 1:30 – Tatting
2/4 at 1:30 – Needlelace
Ruth's home in Albany

Contact Lady Moreta at 743-9421 for further details.

Brewers' Workshop

Monthly meetings held at Lady Frigga and Lord Asgar's home
Contact Lady Frigga for dates.

from the chatelaine

Greetings unto the wonderful Gentles of the shire of Glenn Linn from your Chatelaine,

As the cold weather focuses our activities and interests indoors, participation need not wane, but only shift for a few months. The cycle of the seasons allowed those of history a natural downtime. Today it allows us to recoup and recover from the hecticness of warm weather activities and our travels afar.

Here in our fair shire there are many activities still happening and some that are just beginning. Some gentles will continue to hone already learned skills, and others will try new things. Monthly meetings and potluck dinners make it easy to continue sharing knowledge and simple to learn something new. Combat practices continue for heavy list and youth combat. The current list of Glenn Linn's happenings is long, and it's growing each week. We are also very lucky to have the activity filled Barony of the Concordia of the Snows just a short drive south of us. Some upcoming meetings are listed here in this newsletter. Or post a query to the Glenn Linn Yahoo! group if you don't see what interests you most. There are many other lists that might find one's interest as well.

For whatever personal reason we each choose to participate, remember the underlying purpose of the SCA - to learn about and recreate the arts and skills, the honor and chivalry of the Middle Ages and early Renaissance. There is so much to choose from, to learn or teach -- a lifetime of fun easily awaits anyone who simply wants it! The wonderfulness of it is that we have a blast doing it all, and especially with friends of old and yet unmet!

Happy Holidays!
Frigga

from the knight marshal

Well, Greetings to the fair populace of our ever-growing Shire. The war season is again gone; the melee events are growing fewer and farer between. Now is the time to start working on equipment, training the new recruits and drilling and practicing single combats. Yes, I know what about melees? and yes melees are fun and exciting. The fact remains that singles fighting is just as important, and in the wintertime far more practical.

Now by the time you read this it will probably be mid winter or so. So I propose the following to all fighters of the Glenn both youth and heavy, young and old, experienced and new. Before winter is over and we head outside to practice in the park again, and before we step out onto the next battle field, I urge you all to pick up some weapons that you're not that familiar with. If all you've ever fought with is a shield try a pole-arm, or

drop the shield and take another weapon, and of course vice versa. And I don't want to hear any historical arguments. If you can find a culture that only used one weapons form well then kudos to you. With our numbers growing both on the field and off being able to pick up any weapon that is need is a huge asset to our newly revamped 3rd division. I would like to give special mention to spears anyone who has a spear should bring it to every practice so it my be used in honing spear skills which is something that our shire is greatly lacking in experience. I know we all love melees but why are we neglecting the most effective melee weapon? I give you this challenge to all fighters in the shire if your not authorized in every weapon pick one that your not and authorize in it next spring at the next fighting event you go to.

Respectfully submitted by

Lord Deacon de Chatillion

Knight Marshal of the Shire of Glen Linn

courtesy in the sca

by Lord Asgar Rolgson

People in the SCA talk and act a little differently than most mundanes. It is often described as courteous behavior. But what exactly is courtesy and how do we implement it? Courtesy is the serene discourse and actions that lifts us to our more noble selves. It consists of treating others with respect, politeness and kindness. Should it become a part of your self it will make life easier on you and those around you.

Conversing with others in the SCA is really not a difficult undertaking. Addressing others as "M'Lord or M'Lady" with a warm smile will typically disarm the addressee and they will normally place you in their comfort zone. If you would like to have someone help you accomplish something you would get a far better reaction if you were to ask rather than tell. Praise of others' accomplishments rather than your own will reveal yourself as someone with a kind heart and others will want you around. Conversely, if you were to fault others frequently they will think you will fault them and will probably hang out with you less.

Actions and body language are another important aspect of courtesy. Smiling frequently brings people at ease. Helping others, whether at events or not, will show that you think a lot about other people's well-being. Handling other people's property only after given proper permission shows that you are respectful of others.

By implementing these aspects of courtesy you will find the SCA more enjoyable. Others will treat you better and you will have more friends than ever thought of. If applied to your real life the world seems a little lighter and less stressful.

shire Business notes

Following are notes taken from the monthly business meetings minutes on topics that are not covered elsewhere in this newsletter. For the full minutes, see the Files section of our Yahoo group (<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/Glennlinn/>).

Shire Membership:

38 adults/17 youth (including paid and non-paid members).

Awards:

Lady Freygerðr in stórraða Halladóttir (Frigga) accepted into the Order of the Silver Crescent at Tiltyards. Oran y Maen presented Award of Arms at Tiltyard.

Officer Positions:

Herald – Christoph announced that he would need to step down from this office in the September meeting. In December, Julien agreed to fill the role and a mid-term appointment was made. *Mistress of List* - Ratburc will fill this position as deputy to the Knight Marshal. She has begun working with Deacon to compile complete information of all fighters to be submitted to Kingdom in March.

Librarian – Isabella has informally taken on this role and is working on building a library complete with a catalog of books, which can be viewed in the Yahoo! Group files.

Upcoming Glenn Linn Events:

Blades & Blarney X – event announcement with details can be found in this *Cascadian*. Menu has been sketched out, and budget submitted.

War Camp – Preliminary informal brainstorming has begun. Proposed dates are June 29 – July 1. Oran has volunteered to autocrat. Initial planning meeting scheduled for January 11 (place TBD).

Purchases/Expenses:

Storage shed has been secured at Springfield mini-storage on Harrison Ave. in S.G.F.

Indoor site for fight practice has yet to be secured. Court at Queensbury Racquet Club is being rented as needed until permanent location can be scheduled.

Two copies of *Known World Handbook* purchased for library. Acquisitions submitted for heavy list loaner shields, and for youth combat helmets and gloves.

Fabric and supplies for loaner tabards, tunics and shire favors.

Demos:

Demo at ACC for Pagan Pride Day on Sept. 30.

Boy Scout demo at Jackson Height Elementary School on Nov. 1.

Blades and Blarney x: mathgamain's Double Dog Dare

Hosted by the Shire of Glenn Linn - Glens Falls, NY
Saturday, February 17, 2007

Regale the thrill of rapier combat and celebrate the 10th anniversary of Blades & Blarney!

THE TOURNAMENTS

A momentary indulgence while Math discourses on math:

For early Indo-Europeans, two was not just any number more than one, but a quantity that merited its own grammatical category -- the dual. Light and dark, left and right, on or off. But some scholars reject that the world can be divided into two, dismissing the dichotomy of the cup as half empty or half full, instead asserting a third possibility: The cup is the wrong size.

MATHGAMAIN'S DOUBLE DOG DARE fills the day to the brim with one part Double Elim and one part -- well, it wouldn't be B&B without some surprises! Let's just say, that it may give some of you flashbacks to gym class :-O Are you tough enough to take up the challenge? I dare you -- no, I double dog dare you!

Though tradition has shown winning isn't the major focus of this event, this year's Tournament and Challenge PRIZES will be particularly special to commemorate the 10th anniversary of this annual reminder of just how fun fencing can be.

Please remember to wear NON-MARKING shoes. (If in doubt, bring an alternate pair.)

- ** The site opens at 10am.
 - ** The list field will open at 11am for inspections and authorizations.
 - ** The first part of the tournament will begin at noon
 - ** Upon its completion, a break for refreshments to replenish your energies.
 - ** The second part of the tournament will commence about 2pm.
 - ** If time permits, afterward there will be a round-table discussion on fencing melee, with the delectable feast to follow!
- Any questions concerning the tournament should be directed to Sir Mathgamain O'Brien (Brian Kennedy, mathbk@yahoo.com).

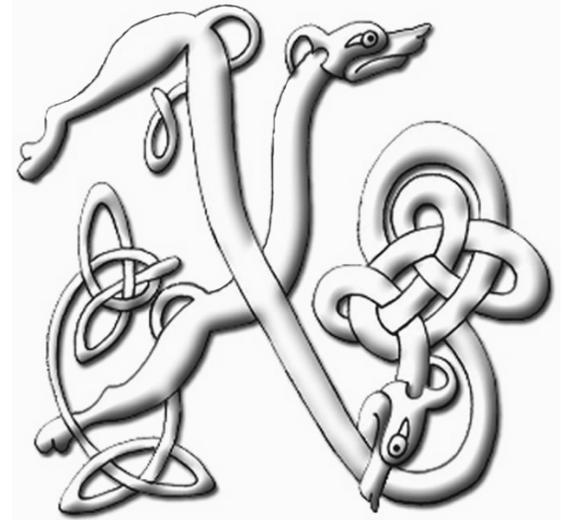
THE FEAST

Don't forget your feast gear! In addition to the sumptuous dayboard you have come to expect, we are delighted to announce that this year we will be having a feast after the tournament to commemorate a decade of B&B.

A&S AND OTHER ACTIVITIES

Along with the fencing, fencing and more fencing, there will be children's activities, a gaming table, and A&S classes for those more at home with

needle than sword.
AND there are two A&S Challenges to prepare for: an Embroidery Challenge for the needleworkers out there AND a Makers Choice Challenge (all art forms welcome)! See next page for guidelines.



THE SITE is completely handicapped accessible. The site is dry. Open flame at the feast table is acceptable if tended safely. Please park in the rear of the building.

First Baptist Church of Glens Falls, 100 Maple Street, Glens Falls, NY 12801 (For directions, see the event listings in the Pikestaff, on line at the event website, or ask Frigga or Lleucu).

Site Opens: 10:00am

Site Closes: 9:00pm

Event Fees:

Site: Adults \$12, 12&under \$6, poppets are free (includes dayboard).

Feast: Reserve for feast by January 27th, 2007. Adult \$8, age 6-12 \$5. Limited seating. The only reservation is a paid reservation, additional seats may be available on the day of the event. Don't forget your feast gear! For anyone requiring dietary restrictions, please notify the Feastocrat with any questions or concerns.

Send Reservations to:

B&BX's Feastocrat: Lady Lleucu ferch Robert, mka Kris Nusskern, 11A Fulton Ave, Glens Falls, NY 12801

Make Checks Payable to: SCA,Inc. - Shire of Glenn Linn

Autocrat:

Lady Frigga Halladottir mka Jen Haley frigga_of_glennlinn@hotmail.com 518-321-6692 (9am - 9pm only)

Feastocrat: Lady Lleucu ferch Robert mka Kristina Nusskern woodswoman28@yahoo.com 518-761-2047

VISIT THE EVENT WEBSITE for more details:

<http://d-128-95-70-126.dhcp4.washington.edu/~scribejm/BBX/>

the B&Bx arts & science challenge

We invite you to make your point of a different kind, and wield a needle in the B&B Embroidery Challenge:

GUIDELINES:

- 1 - Any medieval embroidery technique, any colors are acceptable.
- 2 - The item must include the Roman numeral X (for the 10th year).
- 3 - The item must also include either:
one dog (or dog's head) and one blade (rapier)
OR two dogs (or dog's heads)
OR two blades
- 4 - The design can be part of or attached to something.
- 5 - Period materials are preferred, but not required.

THE B&BX MAKERS CHOICE CHALLENGE

We invite you to participate in a competition to construct an item of your choice in the medium of your choice from leathercraft and woodcarving to illumination and confections -- maker's choice!

GUIDELINES:

- 1 - Any medieval crafting technique, any colors are acceptable.
- 2 - The item must include the Roman numeral X (for the 10th year).
- 3 - The item must also include either:
one dog (or dog's head) and one blade (rapier)
OR two dogs (or dog's heads)
OR two blades
- 4 - The design can be part of or attached to something.
- 5 - Period materials are preferred, but not required

Please direct any questions to Lady Moreta atte Birchwode (Kim Jones, moreta@adelphia.net)

ATTENTION:

Both the Autocrat and Feastocrat need help with Blades & Blarney.

We need:

- Cooks and help with food prep
- Servers for feast
- Help with setup
- Troll help
- Help making site tokens

To assist contact: Frigga at 792-7923 (9am – 9pm) or frigga_of_glennlinn@yahoo.com; or Lleucu at 761-2047 (6pm - 10pm) or woodswoman28@yahoo.com

Buttons, Buttons, what kind of Buttons?

by Lady Moreta atte Birchwode

Button selection is a quandary for the modern medieval recreationist. We see many examples of the use of buttons in paintings, sculptures, and illustrations in costume and fashion books. There is also confusion at times on how certain garb was fastened due to the origin of the word "button". Originally deriving from French, button meant to fasten. "She buttoned her gown" could mean that it was laced. At first buttons were used as decoration and continued to be a means of displaying wealth by the use of multiple buttons on one item of clothing. There is also the problem of locating and affording period style buttons, especially when one piece of garb should have a few dozen buttons. However, there are solutions that are period!

During the 13th century, buttons were custom made for the upper classes of gold and silver, decorated with gems, miniatures, and carvings of ivory. Some of these were hallmarked and recorded in the guild record books. In 13th century France clerks and the lower classes were only allowed to wear cloth and thread covered buttons. A French royal mandate dictated that metal buttons be made by the specific metal guilds, i.e.- gold, iron, wire, copper, brass and etain (pewter- then an alloy of tin and copper) was in effect from the 14th to the 18th centuries¹. The late 15th century British Pewter's Guild had "definite standards of content for each grade of pewter" dictating the percentages of tin mixed with copper or lead and antimony².

The authors also mention that " as early as the 12th century crudely made bone buttons were worn in France." Wood was used for forms and molds in making cloth covered buttons. The existence of embroidered buttons (metallic thread on silk or linen, called *passementerie*) in France is shown by a law of 1559 placing this type of maker into the lace maker's guild. We can assume that this kind of button was being made for a while prior to this date³.

Accessories of Dress by Lester & Oerke point out that until the 1300's buttons were basically ornamental and garments were fastened by lacing. At this point in time, the buttons were often set close together, even touching, and could run from shoulder to elbow

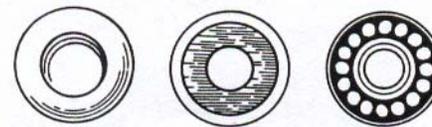


Figure 562. Earliest Types of Buttons Seen on Monumental Effigies

Large button with depressed center, embossed button, and large button with small metal bosses.

or elbow to knuckle. Once buttonholes began to be widely used in the 1300's, fitted garments became fashionable with buttons down the front- even going up to the chin⁴.

But, WHAT STYLE of BUTTONS were there? "The earliest types of button seen

upon monumental effigies were circular in shape, sometimes with depressed centers and frequently showing ornamental bosses. ... The half sphere and pyramidal shapes are often seen upon effigies of 1300.”⁵ Two types of shank buttons dredged from the Thames were made of bronze, while others found were “a wooden form covered with a thin sheet of brass, the shank made of cat gut ... & a wooden button worked over in silk.”⁶

Medieval Costume and Fashion by Norris shows five other 13th and 14th century buttons- four spherical or half spherical with shanks, and one a flattish circle with a floral shape (perhaps stamped on or cast) with a stud rather than a shank. An account dated 1352 for buttons lists “48 gold buttons for 2 pairs of dog gloves covered with kid, with 4 boutons de perles at the bottom.”⁷ They would have had loops of cord rather than buttonholes.

The most informative source on buttons I have found is *Textiles and Clothing c. 1150- c.1450 (Medieval Finds from Excavations in London)* by Crowfoot, Pritchard, and Staniland. Not only are there photos of cloth buttons, buttonholes, and eyelets, but there are also instructions on how they were made! Why do I mention eyelets in conjunction with buttons? According to the authors, metal buttons may have been attached to clothing by inserting the shanks through eyelets and secured with a lace passed through the shanks. This would have allowed the buttons to be transferred from garment to garment easily. Eyelets found in a late 14th century deposit (fig. 138, p. 164) show that eyelets were formed using a two-ply silk thread to sew “two complete circuits of buttonhole stitch.”⁸ The eyelet thread ran from eyelet to eyelet.

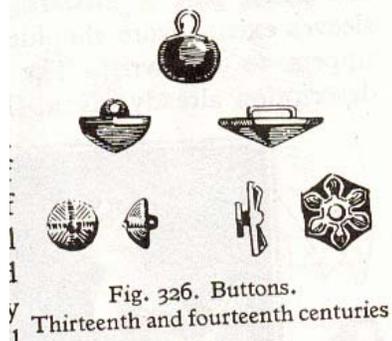


Fig. 326. Buttons. Thirteenth and fourteenth centuries

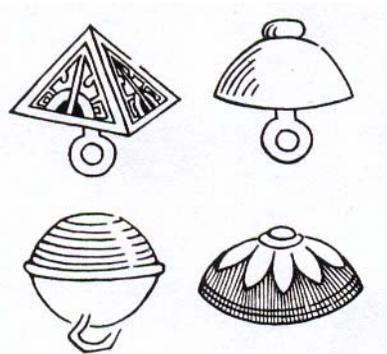


Figure 563. Pyramidal and Half-Sphere Buttons, 1300

From upper left: Bronze button, each face decorated with a trefoil; bronze button. Lower: Wooden form covered with sheet brass; silk-covered wooden form.

The buttons found in 13th and 14th century London deposits were made from tin, pewter, bronze, and brass. “Buttons in the 14th century became settings for jewels. In 1351 ... The Duke of Orleans had a set of gold buttons, each with a diamond surrounded

by four pearls.”⁹ Cloth buttons from the 14th century have been found in Greenland and the Netherlands as well as in London. The ones found in London are of several types. Some were cloth circles filled and gathered into well packed domes, “then strengthened by concentric rings of stitches stabbed vertically through all thicknesses.”¹⁰ At this stage they may have been shrunk for compaction. Other cloth buttons were flatter without any stiffening inside of them. One of the flat types may have covered a flat disk made from wood or horn, or possibly been just for decoration.

Photos of cloth wad buttons attached to sleeve fragments show a multitude attached close together on the sleeve edge. The photo on page 168 showed a more conservative use of buttons- only 12 small ones that don’t even go up to the elbow. The buttons were attached to the sleeve edge of the garment using silk threads, which were then wrapped to form a shank. The buttonholes were worked in silk thread (fig. 142, p. 168) and one 14th century example shows that the buttonhole area has a silk facing with a tablet woven edge (fig. 142, p. 168). Buttonholes were slit and then worked with a buttonhole stitch, with the thread running on to the next buttonhole. However, “there is no visible evidence of a circuit of running stitches around the hole to hold the 2 layers together and to strengthen the vulnerable cut slits.”¹¹ There were no special techniques used to stabilize the ends of the slits such as a thread bar until the 16th century.

To return to our cost problem of the need for tons of buttons- one way is to make them out of the scraps from the garb itself. The other is to have one set of metal buttons and use the eyelet method for sharing, as was done in period.

Documentation & References

- 1-3. *The Complete Button Book*, Lillian Smith Albert and Kathryn Kent, John Edwards, Publisher, Stratford, CT, 1949.
- 4-6. *Accessories of Dress*, Katherine Lester and Bess Oerke, Charles A. Bennett Co., Inc., Peoria, 1940.
On pg. 564 has a sketch of a lady at Sawtre, Hampshire 1404 with buttons from elbow to knuckles.
The sketch of a brass of 1400 shows buttons up under the chin of a lady, and buttons on the inner sleeve going down to the knuckles.
7. *Medieval Costume and Fashion*, Herbert Norris, Dover Publications, Inc., Mineola, 1999.
Fig. 97 on pg. 82 shows boots buttoned up the front.
On pg. 120 is a shoe buttoned at the outside ankle (1154- 1216).
There are the usual front and sleeve buttons else where, including plate XIV showing a sideless surcote with decorative buttons.
- 8-11. *Textiles and Clothing c.1150-1450*, Elisabeth Crowfoot, Frances

Pritchard, and Kay Staniland, Museum of London, 1992,
Pp. 166-167 , figures 141 & 142 show sleeves found in a 14 th century
deposit (2nd half) with wad buttons.

A Visual History of Costume- The Fourteenth and Fifteenth Centuries,
Margaret Scott, 1986, B. T. Batsford Ltd., London, ISBN 0 7134 4857.

Pg. 44 & 45 show female and male weepers from the tomb of
Edward 111 (137-1386) with front buttons and buttonholes, the
male with sleeve buttons up to the elbow.

Historic Costume in Pictures, Braun & Schneider, Dover Publications,
Inc., New York, 1975, ISBN 0 486 23150 X.

Plates 17 (14th century) to 23 (first half of 15th century).

Plate 17 shows edge buttons on the front of male hunting garb.

Some of the more unusual uses of buttons are;

Plate 18 has a male cotehardie with a side thigh slit- the buttons are
not buttoned although there are buttonholes (14th cent.).

Plate 21 a lady's lower over sleeve is secured with buttons- there is
no upper over sleeve. A full length male robe or coat shows 2
buttons then a gap between the next set of 2 all the way down the
front (14th cent. Italy)

Plate 23 shows 4 buttons on a lady's over dress upper sleeve (no
lower sleeve) (15th cent. - first half).

The other plates show the buttons on the fronts and sleeves of male
and female garb.

other events we might attend

A Market Day A Birka – Hosted by the Barony of Stonemarche –
Manchester, NH – Friday, January 26th – Saturday, January 27th.
Indoor fighting, fencing, and youth combat tournaments.
Merchants, medieval fashion show, children's activities, Bardic
entertainment, Nordic themed A&S display/workshop and an
Evening Ball.

At the Sign of the Dancing Fox – Hosted by the Shire of Nordenhalle
– Kingston, NY – Saturday, February 3rd. Love is once again in the
air as the Bhakail Branslers perform to the delight of all at the
Dancing Fox. The day will be filled with food, flirting, fashion and
fun!

Coldwood's Parentalia – Hosted by the Shire of Coldwood –
Plattsburg, NY – Saturday, February 10th. 3 Entres will be served in
hopes friends will bring Side Dishes to let all enjoy. The Dread
Baron will be hosting fighting in the snow (if Temperatures aren't
too brisk) again to resolve any old quarrels and/or just have fun,
since all the fighters seem to enjoy it so.

Winter War 10 – Hosted by the Shire of Northern Outpost –
Potsdam, NY – Saturday, February 24th. Knock the rust off the
armour, dust off the bow, it's time once again for Winter War!
There will be melee combat all day, and the location allows for
combat archers. Classes will be held throughout the day as well,
for those of a more scholarly persuasion.

Hrim Schola XI – Hosted by the Shire of Frosted Hills – Millbrook, NY –
Saturday, March 10th. Annual schola celebrating the fiber arts.
Classes will be scheduled throughout the day with enough time in
between to enjoy Oksana Goncharova's sideboard, shop and
schmooze. Come, teach, learn, eat, shop, enjoy!

And there's more...

**For a full listing of these events, including site fees, rules and
directions, along with other event listings in the East Kingdom, go
to <http://www.eastkingdom.org> or see the Pikestaff.**

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Submissions: Original articles and artwork with relevance to the
Middle Ages and the SCA are welcome. The Chronicler will do her
best to include all submissions in the next Cascadian. 3

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