

*Wren Press*  
NEWS OF THE REALM  
*Minnesota Renaissance Festival*



*August 29-30*

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EDITED BY - Rebecca Stevens Kirby

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# General News

## ROCK AROUND THE CLOCK

Just a reminder that bringing in your own gravel is prohibited. We need to keep track of where gravel is going and where it is needed.

## ALL TOGETHER NOW, 1 2 3...

Food, crafts and entertainment! Let's remember that even though we each work in a particular area of the show, we are all part of one village. So get to know your next door neighbor, invite an entertainer into your shop, or introduce yourself to someone in a shop, be it food or crafts. Not only does it make the village seem more real, the more people you know out here, the more fun you'll have!

## Commission for the King

The good King Henry and Queen Caroline are in need of crown jewels to adorn them and have decided to search throughout the kingdom for the artist best able to satisfy their desire for finery. And so a royal contest for the commission will be held. The royal jeweler is still deciding exactly what is needed and how much gold will spill forth from the King's coffers in reward. So watch for next week when the contest details will be announced...

## Congratulations!

Our congratulations to the Nilssons in shop 728 who are celebrating their 25th wedding anniversary. Run by and throw them a kiss.

And to Dana McDill, a crafter in shop 107 whose toy wooden boats will be in the December issue of **BETTER HOMES AND GARDENS**, our huzzahs to you!

Peter Potter, a potter at the Festival in shop 233 was featured this summer, in an article in the **STAR AND TRIBUNE**. He has been volunteering one day a week at an Adult Day Center helping older adults to organize and paint a mural. Way to go Peter, we're proud of you!

And to the star in our midst, Bruce Loesch, who was honored by the Cedar River Days Chamber of Commerce during their Cedar River Days.

KUDOS to Terry Foy (he's not always cookoo) for not allowing the line: "Shut the \_\_\_\_ up and go the \_\_\_\_ home!" as proposed by certain production staff members (see hee hee).

And just who is that "red hot lover" anyway? Some people really know how to make an affair blaze with excitement!

Any one who would like information about a small Renaissance Fair to be held in West Palm Beach, Florida, can find information at the Hall of Masters or ask your monitor.

## Lady Claudia's DESSERTS & DELACACIES

No Price Increases Since 1983!

### NEW FOODS

Hye Rollers • Hot Biscuit Pockets  
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### STILL FEATURING

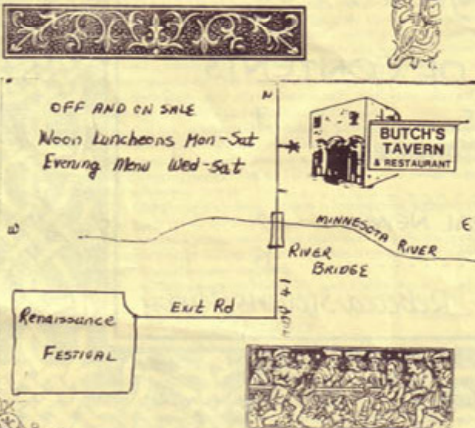
Giant Chocolate Dipped Strawberries  
Deli Fill Sandwiches  
Chocolate Decadence Cake

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Very Good Guy Discount Coupon

COSTUMED PARTICIPANTS ONLY  
Receive 25% Off Any Beverage Purchase

One Coupon Per Purchase Only  
Coupon Must Be Exchanged For Beverage Purchase

*Image Courtesy Of*  
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\*\*Free\* bag of ice with liquor or wine



## FOCUS ON FASHION THE CODPIECE COME-BACK



THEY'RE BACK! That sometimes not-so-inconspicuous accessory which all but disappeared in recent seasons is now being worn by *toutes les hommes*, but with a new twist: not just for support anymore, the codpiece shows up this season in bold, new colors; padded into shapes which the more modest might deem outrageous; and trimmed, puffed, slashed and bejeweled in a startling, if not shocking, array.

"The codpiece will most definitely become a necessary accoutrement to the well-dressed Renaissance man," predicts D'Arvignon, Renaissance Museum curator and fashion expert. D'Arvignon featured in the fashion parade at the Pavillion, models in all-white ensembles - save a dramatic splash of color - a brilliant red silk codpiece. The effect "was delicious!" oohed foppish trendsetter, *Beau Monde* (who featured the "Beau Monde Collection" at the gala) and who has been reported to appear at swank *sourees* sporting pearl-studded codpieces in silver lame. "They're TOO much fun," he quipped recently at the Duchess of Bedford's cotillion, drawing a snuff box from an elaborately fringed and tasseled codpiece, a personal favorite.

Though it might seem that only the daring would wear such a "gargantuan gew-gaw," as one wag has termed them, many of the more modest set are sporting even wilder versions hidden beneath skirted doublets. "Only the *nouveau riche* are tacky enough to display their wealth," sniffed the dashing Duke of Buckingham whose amethyst and diamond studded codpiece sparkled discreetly from beneath a pleated peplum. Yet some hide the decidedly gaudy accessory for other reasons:

The untold story. "It's my naughty little secret," whispered the Lord High Sheriff of Nottingham who performs a *tres* butch codpiece of black leather with a pocket for his watch, but is completely hidden under folds of mauve velvet. And at least one would-be dandy has been spotted purchasing an oh-so-trendy codpiece which also doubles as a coinpurse (how he modestly removes coins from it under his doublet peplum is a good question), yet many believe this same act is actually more of an attention-getter than by a complete display.

Still there are those, like HRH Prince Andrew, a decided fashion throw-back, who wouldn't be caught dead in one, at least not one of the more outrageous variety. "They're simply horrid!" his dowdy highness scoffed at a recent gala. Socialite Victoria Cooper confessed that she "likes what they accentuate," yet prefers a more natural silhouette and adds a caveat: "Big things don't necessarily come in large packages."

But whether worn for all to see, or hidden from general view, the codpiece is definitely this year's must-have for the fashionable male. "If you only buy one thing for this season," advises D'Arvignon, "it simply must be a fabulous, fun codpiece."

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## Renaissance Real Estate

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Shop 636-37 For Sale

- \* Prime center circle location
- \* Excellent Natural Light
- \* 15 year prime customer traffic pattern
- \* In the most beautiful area of the Faire!

\$5000.00

Contact Becky Schwalm [redacted] or in person weekly at the Faire.

### SHOP FOR SALE

- \* Built to Code
- \* Beam construction
- \* Enclosed and lockable loft and main floor
- \* Full 4' x 20' balcony
- \* Bifold front enclosure
- \* Opening skylight

#124 \$7500.00

### FOR SALE: SHEPHERD'S HURD #127

- \* 2yrs old, built to code
- \* 20' frontage
- \* clerestory windows
- \* good traffic location
- \* good back access
- \* \$5,900.00
- \* contact Judy or Gene at shop or [redacted]



### Shop 743 For Sale

Contact Ray Kelly at the shop during show hours or call during the week at [redacted]

- \* in prime location
- \* next to the Feast of Fantasy
- \* new, only two years old
- \* built to code

### GREAT LOCATION OPPORTUNITY!

- \* Post and beam construction
- \* 2-story
- \* Excellent Natural light
- \* private 10' x 12' back room
- \* loft and balcony
- \* 1985 shop design award

a good investment at \$11,500.00. Contact Mike or Pam at shop #126, The Wooden Chickens or call [redacted] (evenings).

### Shop For Sale

- \* prime front gate location
- \* oak beam construction
- \* tongue and groove pine interior
- \* brick floor
- \* native limestone fireplace
- \* sky lights

#226

\$12,500.00

## CAPTURES: RUPTURED CAPTIONS



Oh, Pearls! I thought you said your codpiece was studded with Earls!

No Beau Monde, you cannot borrow my dress!



Can you think up a silly caption to go with this week's Renaissance woodcut? Hear a good one-liner that would describe this scene? Well, send in your entry for this week's CAPTURE. The best one and the runners-up will be printed in the next issue. Leave your entries at the Hall of Masters during the show or drop them off in the office by noon Wednesday.

Eat, Drink and be Merry  
Join us for good luck  
Acting from the Blue Lion  
at the Scottish Cross

8:00 Saturday, September 5

Denise Delarais and Char Hrousek

Bring your favorite dish, beverage and music!

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# Crafts

LAST WEEKEND TO ORDER

## Satin Festival Jackets!

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Black Satin Jacket with your choice of Flannel or Quilted Lining

Includes the Festival Logo and your real or character name embroidered on the front.

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Make check payable to Bloomer, MN

For more information call Bill Lindem in \_\_\_\_\_



## HALL OF MASTERS

This week at the Hall of Masters the display categories are:  
Pottery, Clayworks, Drawings, Calligraphy, and Paperworks

Sept. 4, 5, 6 Fabric Arts, Fiber Arts, Weaving, Clothing Plantcraft, Featherwork, and Wickerworks

If you are exhibiting, please try to bring your work to the Hall by 8:30 AM. It enables the staff at the Hall to get the work up and on the walls by early in the day and it cuts down on the confusion. Preregistering the week before also helps us to better plan the layout of the show so that it looks great. So please do your part. It really helps make your work and the entire exhibit have a better presentation.

At the end of the weekend, please come to the Hall at 7:00 to pick up your work. It helps the staff to complete the closing and be able to leave on time after a long weekend if they don't have to hang around and wait for stragglers. If you do not pick your work up, we store it at the Hall during the week and cannot guarantee its safety. If you have forgotten to pick up your item you may pick it up on the following weekend at the Hall.



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## In the Service of Isabella

by  
Roger Bryan Kirby

Ferrara, June 4, 1501

We arrived at the Ferrara Castle two days later as Don Alphonso had requested, and were lodged in the servants quarters. I had finished a version of a *Plautus* translation and spent the better part of 5 days rehearsing the troupe. As all in my group were illiterate except for myself, rehearsal consisted of my reading the lines aloud and the actors repeating them back. We set up our platform by wheeling in our staging wagon into the inner courtyard. Isabella d'Este had arrived from Mantua with her servants from the Gonzaga household. My adversary from the show in the village was in the castle, but not likely to start trouble as he saw the favor that we had been shown by Don Alphonso. But I knew that I had made an enemy of the servant I had humiliated.

My return to Ferrara was a happy one as I had not seen my father in these last two years. We passed many a happy hour discussing the gossip of the court, its intrigues and developments. I supped with my former tutors and found that they were well pleased that I had attempted a translation of the classics. Together, my father and I visited the grave of my mother. She had fallen to the Black Plague 7 years ago. My father had sent me with the rest of the court to Mantua while he had stayed with her to the end. His friends and the court commented on his fearlessness in the face of the disease.

Our performance was greeted with much satisfaction by the court. We were praised for our presentation that held true to the concepts of the ancients. This I believe was because of the use of the phall in the costuming of the actors. I had chosen one that like my sword in the character of *Capitano*, accentuated my stature. At the conclusion of the presentation Don Alphonso conferred with his father, the Duke Ercole of Este. As the musicians prepared for a string quartet presentation, Don Alphonso rose and addressed the gathering. With high praises and lofty phrases, Don Alphonso complimented our troupe and offered us the patronage of the house of Este.

Once we had returned to our quarters, we actors celebrated our good fortune with excellent food and fine wine that had been provided us by the good Duke. My father embraced me and wept with pride as he welcomed us into the service of the house. My former tutors all visited our merry group and joined us in our celebration. My father was delighted to meet Julia, and kissing both her cheeks he swore an oath that our bastard child would be cared for as if the child were his own.

Our happy gathering was interrupted by the entrance of the son of the dog who had attacked us in the village but 7 days before. He entered the room and with stiff formality and obvious distaste announced that the Marquessa Isabella d'Este of Mantua wished to see me immediately. Fearing a trap, I was accompanied by several of my party, all with steel at hand. We arrived without incident at her quarters. Satisfied that no harm would befall me, my guard waited outside. I entered and knelt before Donna Isabella.

She ordered that I rise and she began to converse with me in a most pleasant and familiar way. She recalled, when I was a boy and she was a young woman receiving instructions, how I would tease her by turning flips as she was trying to concentrate on her Latin studies. She laughed and then turned serious. She asked if I was well disposed towards her. I responded that I loved her as one might love an elder sister. She was well pleased with my answer. Then she questioned me closely concerning my encounter with the servants of her household. I responded that if I had known that they were her servants, that my actions would have been much gentler in deed. This did not please her and she questioned my version of the incident. I explained the history of the event and on her urging left to detail unexplained. Upon learning of my relationship with the actress Julia, she started in comprehension.

She asked, "Do you believe that the child will be born a dwarf?" "Both my my father and I have been born so and so will my child, I believe. However, it has been known that a large child can be born of small parents," I replied.

She seemed well satisfied with my account of the encounter. Motioning me close, she asked if I would enter in her service. Thinking she meant for my troupe to enter her household, I stammered that I only had been recently sponsored by her brother. No, that was not what she meant. She wished me to enter into her service in a secret and hidden manner. I considered carefully her love towards her brother and her father. I reflected on the political situation between the house of Este and the house of Gonzaga which she had married into. I gave thought to my father's situation here at Ferrara in the service of the Duke of Este. I considered Julia and the child she bore.

"Yes, on the condition that in case of my death, discovery or imprisonment neither my father, Julia, or my bastard shall want for anything," I replied. This answer pleased her greatly and she called out "My priest, show yourself."

From behind a curtain emerged a young man of average appearance. In fact he was so average as to be most unusual. He was of average looks, of average height, of average bearing, of average clothing. She introduced him as my companion in my future endeavors in her behalf. She admonished us both to love the other as brother and to trust in each other completely.

"Now for your first task. As you know, my brother is to marry Lucretia Borgia." And so my mission in Rome began.

To be continued.....

### Cast of Characters

Donna Isabella d'Este, Marquessa of Mantua  
Don Alphonso d'Este, Marquis of Ferrara and brother of Isabella, betrothed to Lucretia  
Donna Lucretia Borgia, daughter of the Pope, betrothed to Alphonso  
Valentino Giovanni, the dwarf and leader of the commedia troupe  
Julia Vincenzo, commedia actress and sweetheart of Valentino