



Minister's Musings

Greetings unto the Members of the Embellishers' Guild,

This is just a short missive to touch on some of the things we are working towards with the Guild.

The Samples Box: We need samples of various embellishment techniques. Please consider making one for the box, whatever technique(s) you enjoy doing. The only constraint is that the sample should be no bigger than about 4 by 6 inches (and about 1/2 in thick). Those of you who work in metal or wood, please consider adding some of your work to the collection. We should have the box finished and hopefully well on its way to being full, by 12th Night when we will present our final petition for full Guild status.

Our Contest: 'A Thing and Its Embellishment'. This contest will run at 12th Night and is open to anyone in the Kingdom. Both the thing (any item that can be embellished) and the embellishment technique should be period appropriate. Please don't put Viking runes on an Elizabethan wood box, for example. A small amount of documentation, basically what, when, where, who that will fit on a 4 by 6 index card or 1/2 a sheet of paper is required. The person who makes the 'thing' does not have to be the person who does the embellishment. So enter as a team! The contest winners will be decided by the Guild officers and anyone they care to consult. This is really informal, but a chance to show off what you can do!

Embellishment Techniques: We are working on refining and enlarging the list of acceptable embellishment techniques for Guild Challenges. If you have suggestions and ideas please offer them up on the weblis or speak to an officer. We'd love to hear them!

Guild Members Listing: I got side tracked with real life, but am hoping to get the guild members listing, including ranks challenged and passed and so on, on the web soon. Until then, feel free to email me with questions about your ranks. I will do my best to answer them.

Autumn War and September Crown: We will have meetings at both these events. One day of Autumn war, I hope to offer space for people to come and talk about and display what they are currently working on. At September Crown we will be running a number of Challenges. We will have our own pavilion on or near the erics, and can perhaps do a display there as well.

If you have any ideas or suggestions about anything to do with the Guild, please get in touch with any of the guild officers or write to the Guild email list.

Looking forward to seeing everyone at upcoming events!

Your Servant,

Aelianora de Wyntringham
Guild Minister

Upcoming Events

Autumn War

August 12-16, 2010

Barony of Blatha An Oir

Tir Righ Investiture

August 28-29, 2010

Shire of Lionsdale

September Crown

September 3-6, 2010

Barony of Glymm Mere

There will be challenges offered at some of these events, possibly all. You must make arrangements ahead of time if you wish to challenge for a guild level. If you will be attending one of these events, or any even, and wish to challenge, please contact our Guild Challenge Deputy, Gwendolyn of Castle Court (contact info below) or your Regional Challenge Deputy (contacts available on the website).

In the next issue of *Embellish!* (October, 2010)

- News and reports from our recent events
- Updates on challenges

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Embellishment? What's That?

by HL Giana Visconti

Reprinted for the benefit of our newer members.

Have you ever added trim to your garb? Embroidered a drawstring pouch? Added lace to a headscarf or cuff? Painted or tooled a bit of leather? Or maybe carved or painted a wooden box? That's embellishment.

According the *American Heritage Dictionary*, to embellish is "to make beautiful, as by ornamentation; decorate." And embellishment is "the act of embellishing or the state of being embellished. Something that embellishes; a decoration." In short, embellishment is making things more beautiful, and people have been doing it since the beginning of time.

So what sorts of things fall into the category of embellishment? One of the first things we usually think of is embroidery. All of the numerous forms of embroidery—opus anglicanum, or nué, canvas work, blackwork, cross stitch—are types of embellishment. But they aren't the only forms of embellishment.

Embellishment also includes things like appliqué, beadwork, many types of leatherwork, metalwork, woodworking, fabric painting, knitting, quilting, braiding, lace work, tablet and inkle weaving, ceramic work, or any other form of decorating an object.

In the Embellishers' Guild, we bring together people who love doing embellishment in any form. Through challenges and contests, displays, largesse projects, and just getting together for "show and tell," we encourage each other, teach each other, and motivate each other so we can spread our art throughout the Kingdom and the Known World. But mostly we gather together to share the joy of embellishing. We hope you'll join in the fun!

Call for Submissions

We would love to know about your favorite forms of embellishment! If you would be willing to write up an article for *Embellish!* please send me a note (e-mail address is on the sidebar). I can help by giving you questions to answer to help with your article if you'd like. If you don't want to do an article, photos of your work with some information for captions would also make a wonderful addition to the newsletter.