



# The Higher Word

Barony of Ered Sul

Anno Societatis LIII

June 2018

Words from the  
Coronet

Calendar

Event Details

Awards

Non-Fiction  
Facts

Marketplace

Officers

Open Positions

The Lower Word

Games

The Fine Print

## Words from the Coronet

Greetings Great and Noble populace of Ered Sul,

The time has come that we, Robert and Kolfinna Av Bergen, Baron and Baroness of Ered Sul, call upon you to gather your armies. Prepare to go a Viking. The time has come to reclaim OUR lands. This battle will take place July 12th-15th at Mormon Lake, Highlands War 24, the Battle of Confey. Bring your Archers, Rapier, Hard Suit Fighters, and your young fighters as the smalls will have battles to conduct. Also bring your artisans, drummers, dancers and bards as there will be much to revel before and after the battles. See you all at Highlands War 24, the Battle of Confey.

Yours in Service to the Dream

Robert and Kolfinna



Between 1462-1470. Bibliotheque Nationale de France, Paris. Manuscript, Arsenal ms. 5073 rés. folio 15.

# Calendar

June 2018

Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
					1	2 Kingdom Collegium
3 Kingdom Collegium	4	5	6 ☾	7	8	9 Freya's Feast
10	11	12	13 ● A&S Night	14	15	16 ✱
17	18	19	20 ☾	21	22	23 ✱
24 Aten U	25	26	27	28 ○	29	30 ✱

## Events

### Kingdom Collegium

June 2<sup>nd</sup> – 3<sup>rd</sup>

Have you ever wanted to try your hand at embroidery? How about learning more about calligraphy and illumination? Or patterning a tunic? Learn that and more at the Kingdom Arts & Sciences Collegium. Join us for a fun-filled weekend of experimentation and learning!

Site open 8am-6pm Saturday and 8am-5pm Sunday. Classes begin at 9am and run till 4pm. There will be a lunch break from 12pm- pm. Court will be at 4:30pm Saturday.

Site: University of Advancing Technology 2625W. Baseline Rd., Tempe, AZ 85283

Site fee: \$12, \$5 member discount, Children 16 and under free.

Site Steward: Mistress Aoife inghean Oisín, OL. [terrival@gmail.com](mailto:terrival@gmail.com) 602-999-1518

### Freya's Feast (Shire of Windale)

June 9<sup>th</sup>

Calling all fantastic fun lovers of fabulous frivolity, the Shire of Windale invites you to its second annual Freya's Fest. Yes, it is that time again to let loose and celebrate the upcoming summer. Come join us for a day of classes beginning at 11am. Learn about historic games (bring your chookies!), learn how to make a wreath of leaves or flowers for your hair, or make a fun mask that

Freya, the Norse goddess of love, beauty, fertility, gold, war and death (she was a woman of many talents) would be proud of...and above all, have fun. During the event there will be a lovely side board of fruits, veggies, meats, cheeses, breads, tea, lemonade and sweet available for nourishment. You are invited to bring a dessert to share and be entered the populace's choice competition. The day will end with a secret surprise that you will not want to miss out on!

#### Site Registration:

Adult event registration \$10.00

Adult member discount event registration \$5.00.

All youth (0-17) free. This includes a side board of snacks.

**Site:** 520 4th Ave Kingman AZ 86401

**Directions:** Take your best route to Kingman. Take Andy Devine to 4th Street, cross the tracks going south. Take Topekato 6th st, again turning south. Turn west on 4th Ave. 520 4th Ave. (last place on the left)

**Event Steward:** Nathalia O'Neill (Natalie Jones) 575-418-8207 irishlatinal8@yahoo.com

**Assistant Steward:** Rooster O'Neill (Kenneth Kratman) 928-293-5670  
cotchman24@hotmail.com

## **BES Arts & Sciences – Camp Kitchen**

June 13<sup>th</sup>

Thorpe Park Adult Center at 6pm

Come to June A/S where Suzanne McMillan (due to mundane happenings Brittany will substitute. Thank you Brittany) will give lessons in running a fine camp kitchen.

**A/S Calendar**

July—Canceled due to Highlands War. Get your Arts and Sciences fix at Highlands War.

August—Canceled due to Too D! Hot. Get your Arts and Sciences fix at Too D! Hot.

September—A/S returns to Thorpe Adult Center with Her Excellency demonstrating kumihimo.

Put them on your calendar folks!

We are still planning on a banner workshop but it looks like it won't be before Highlands.

## **Aten University**

June 24<sup>th</sup>

**Location:** ASU Polytechnic campus, 7001 E Williams Field Rd, Mesa, AZ 85212

**Training Time:** 10am -4pm.

All Officers of the Kingdom of Atenveldt!

Time once more to get together for a day of information and learning. All Officers are required to attend this Mandatory training, (Kingdom/Barony/Shire/College, etc.) and Deputies are Welcome to come as well.

We will begin promptly at 10am, so plan to arrive early to get settled in, The Greater officers of the Kingdom will be starting off the day to go over any updates/changes/information pertaining to their immediate office. In addition, each office will have time for each sub department so that each Lesser Office has time to be more specific for their area.



Whether you have been an officer for years or are new to your position, this is the best opportunity to get to know more about the officer positions and how they work together. Get to know people from across the Kingdom of Atenveldt and network together to provide a great experience for everyone.

Lunch is still in the planning stages, information will be posted as it becomes available.

Please consult with your local group about carpooling and your exchequer on using the 'cash reimbursement' form for mileage.

Any questions please contact [seneschal@atenveldt.org](mailto:seneschal@atenveldt.org)  
See you Soon!

## **Battlemoor IX: The Hall of the Mountain King**

July 4<sup>th</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup>

Buena Vista, Colorado

An ancient King decreed a great Hall be built at the top of the world. No King would sit higher nor gaze farther. Great warriors gather, Bards attend and diverse artists bring forth masterworks. The people feast and revel and know all good things.

Great Halls tumble to the ground. Great deeds fade into the mists of time.

Remember what has gone before. Give life to legends and myths. Fight so great warriors are not forgotten. Sing so our histories are not lost. Revel so the Halls of Old rise up again. Bring those ancient times to life. Gather in the Hall of the Mountain King.

[www.Battlemoor.org](http://www.Battlemoor.org)

## **Highlands War**

July 12<sup>th</sup> – 15<sup>th</sup>

In the year 917 A.D. there was a fierce battle that took place in Ireland between the natives of the land and the invading foreigners, The Dubgaill or Vikings to those lucky enough to have not encountered their raids...The Battle of Confey! Some say this battle took place near Dublin but come midsummer this mighty skirmish will be held in the lands of the wild and the wooly, the Barony of Ered Sul! Choose your victor; the proud Irish or the fearsome Vikings!

We battle, feast, and revel in friendship and honor. We wish this Highlands War to be the best in every way and want to introduce an exciting, new format for the fighting scenarios this year.

There will be something for everyone at Highlands War, scheduled activities will include:

- Hardsuit and Rapier/Light fighting scenarios
- Hardsuit and Rapier/Light tournaments
- Archery range and competitions
- Arts and Sciences classes
- Siege weapons, war scenarios and competitions
- Youth activities
- Merchant's Row

**Site:** Mormon Lake Lodge, 1991 Mormon Lake Rd, Mormon Lake, AZ 86038

**Site fees:**

Full weekend: Adults \$40 non-member, \$35 member; Youth 17 & Under - No site fee

Day pass: Adults - \$20 non-member, \$15 member; Youth 17 & Under - No site fee

**Event Steward:** Robert Hildebrand (Wolff Belar der Koch) (928) 699-8008

<http://highlandswar.org/>

## **Pennsic 47**

July 27<sup>th</sup> – August 12<sup>th</sup>

Pennsic is an annual event, in the guise of a "War", between the Kingdoms of the East and the Middle of the Society for Creative Anachronism. Pennsic is also the largest Society event, with attendance in recent years exceeding 10,000. The scheduled activities include large melee battles, tournaments, archery, stage performances, dancing, and hundreds of classes on medieval topics. The marketplace has over 200 merchants selling a variety of wares.

<http://www.pennsicwar.org/>

## Awards

Here follows the complete list of tournaments held and those Northern Stars who shone the brightest at Northern Prize.

Whomsoever find themselves in the presence of these good gentles we ask you greet them as THE PRIDE OF THE NORTH!

Archery Crossbow -- Lord Pol O Coileain

Archery Handbow -- m'lord Meadow of Ered Sul

Thrown Weapons -- Lord Sigurd Magnassun

Arts & Sciences Populace Choice -- Lady Sólveig At Rauðá

Arts & Sciences Laurel's Choice -- THL Ari Anson

Performing Arts -- Lady Sybil Ragland

Individual Cookery -- Lady Masala al-Raqqasa

Group Cookery -- Team lead by Posadnitsa Natal'ia Diekova vdova Raby Novicha

Rapier -- THL Wade Greenwall

Armored Combat -- Sir Neo T. Pict

## Non-Fiction Facts

### Greek Fire

Greek fire was an incendiary weapon used by the Eastern Roman (Byzantine) Empire that was first developed c. 672. The Byzantines typically used it in naval battles to great effect, as it could continue burning while floating on water. It provided a technological advantage and was responsible for many key Byzantine military victories, most notably the salvation of Constantinople from two Arab sieges, thus securing the Empire's survival.

The impression made by Greek fire on the western European Crusaders was such that the name was applied to any sort of incendiary weapon, including those used by Arabs, the Chinese, and the Mongols. However, these were different mixtures and not the same formula as the Byzantine Greek fire, which was a closely guarded state secret. Byzantines also used pressurized nozzles or siphōns to project the liquid onto the enemy.

Although usage of the term "Greek fire" has been general in English and most other languages since the Crusades, original Byzantine sources called the substance a variety of names, such as "sea fire" (Medieval Greek: πῦρ θαλάσσιον, *pȳr thalássion*), "Roman fire" (πῦρ ῥωμαϊκόν, *pȳr rhōmaikón*), "war fire" (πολεμικὸν πῦρ, *polemikòn pȳr*), "liquid fire" (ὕγρὸν πῦρ, *hygròn pȳr*), "sticky fire" (πῦρ κολλητικόν, *pȳr kollētikón*) or "manufactured fire" (πῦρ σκευαστόν, *pȳr skeuastón*).

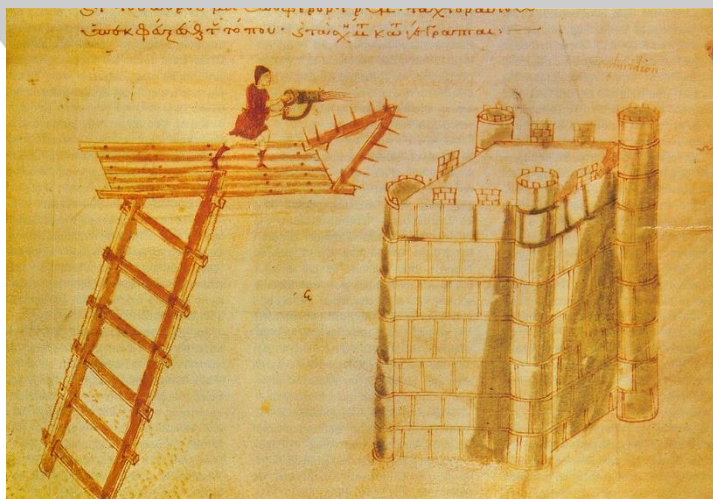


Image from an illuminated manuscript, the Madrid Skylitzes, showing Greek fire in use against the fleet of the rebel en: Thomas the Slav. The caption above the left ship reads, "the fleet of the Romans setting ablaze the fleet of the enemies".  
12th century  
Skylitzes Matritensis, Biblioteca Nacional de Madrid, Vit. 26-2, Bild-Nr. 77, f 34 v. b. (taken from Pászthory, p. 31)

## History

Incendiary and flaming weapons were used in warfare for centuries prior to the invention of Greek fire. They included a number of sulfur-, petroleum-, and bitumen-based mixtures. Incendiary arrows and pots containing combustible substances surrounded by caltrops, spikes or launched by catapults were used as early as the 9th century BC by the Assyrians and were extensively used in the Greco-Roman world as well. Furthermore, Thucydides mentions that in the siege of Delium in 424 BC a long tube on wheels was used which blew flames forward using a large bellows. The Roman author Julius Africanus, writing in the 3rd Century AD, records a mixture that ignited from adequate heat and intense sunlight, used in grenades or night attacks:

*Automatic fire also by the following formula. This is the recipe: take equal amounts of sulphur, rock salt, ashes, thunder stone, and pyrite and pound fine in a black mortar at midday sun. Also in equal amounts of each ingredient mix together black mulberry resin and Zakynthian asphalt, the latter in a liquid form and free-flowing, resulting in a product that is sooty colored. Then add to the asphalt the tiniest amount of quicklime. But because the sun is at its zenith, one must pound it carefully and protect the face, for it will ignite suddenly. When it catches fire, one should seal it in some sort of copper receptacle; in this way you will have it available in a box, without exposing it to the sun. If you should wish to ignite enemy armaments, you will smear it on in the evening, either on the armaments or some other object, but in secret; when the sun comes up, everything will be burnt up.*



Use of a hand-siphon, a portable flame-thrower, from a siege tower equipped with a boarding bridge against the defenders on the walls. Medieval illumination in the manuscript Codex Vaticanus Graecus 1605. 9th or 11th century AD  
Codex Vaticanus Graecus 1605 (taken from Pászthory, p. 31)

[The] development of Greek fire came at a critical moment in the Byzantine Empire's history: weakened by its long wars with Sassanid Persia, the Byzantines had been unable to effectively resist the onslaught of the Muslim conquests. Within a generation, Syria, Palestine, and Egypt had fallen to the Arabs, who in c. 672 set out to conquer the imperial capital of Constantinople. Greek fire was used to great effect against the Muslim fleets, helping to repel the Muslims at the first and second Arab sieges of the city.

Records of its use in later naval battles against the Saracens are more sporadic, but it did secure a number of victories, especially in the phase of Byzantine expansion in the late 9th and early 10th centuries. Utilization of the substance was prominent in Byzantine civil wars, chiefly the revolt of the thematic fleets in 727 and the large-scale rebellion led by Thomas the Slav in 821–823. In both cases, the rebel fleets were defeated by the Constantinopolitan Imperial Fleet through the use of Greek fire. The Byzantines also used the weapon to devastating effect against the various Rus' raids on the Bosphorus, especially those of 941 and 1043, as well as during the Bulgarian war of 970–971, when the fire-carrying Byzantine ships blockaded the Danube.

The importance placed on Greek fire during the Empire's struggle against the Arabs would lead to its discovery being ascribed to divine intervention. The Emperor Constantine Porphyrogenetos (r. 945–959), in his book *De Administrando Imperio*, admonishes his son and heir, Romanos II (r. 959–963), to never reveal the secrets of its composition, as it was "shown and revealed by an angel to the great and holy first Christian emperor Constantine" and that the angel bound him "not to prepare this fire but for Christians, and only in the imperial city". As a warning, he adds that one official, who was bribed into handing some of it over to the Empire's enemies, was struck down by a "flame from heaven" as he was about to enter a church. As the latter incident demonstrates, the Byzantines could not avoid capture of their precious secret weapon: the Arabs captured at least one fireship intact in 827, and the Bulgars captured several siphōns and much of the substance itself in 812/814. This, however, was apparently not enough to allow their enemies to copy it. The Arabs, for instance, employed a variety of incendiary substances similar to the Byzantine weapon, but they were never able to copy the Byzantine method of deployment by siphōn, and used catapults and grenades instead.

Greek fire continued to be mentioned during the 12th century, and Anna Komnene gives a vivid description of its use in a naval battle against the Pisans in 1099. However, although the use of hastily improvised fireships is mentioned during the 1203 siege of Constantinople by the Fourth Crusade, no report confirms the use of the actual Greek fire. This might be because of the general disarmament of the Empire in the 20 years leading up to the sacking, or because the Byzantines had lost access to the areas where the primary ingredients were to be found, or even perhaps because the secret had been lost over time.



Grenades that were filled with liquid fire (Υπό Πυρ) and caltrops from the fortress of Chania (Χανιά) 10th and 12th century. National Historical Museum, Athens, Greece.

7 July 2007

Source: Self-photographed

Author: Badseed

Records of a 13th-century event in which "Greek fire" was used by the Saracens against the Crusaders can be read through the Memoirs of the Lord of Joinville during the Seventh Crusade. One description of the memoir says "the tail of fire that trailed behind it was as big as a great spear; and it made such a noise as it came, that it sounded like the thunder of heaven. It looked like a dragon flying through the air. Such a bright light did it cast, that one could see all over the camp as though it were day, by reason of the great mass of fire, and the brilliance of the light that it shed."

In the 19th century, it is reported that an Armenian by the name of Kavafian approached the government of the Ottoman Empire with a new type of Greek fire he claimed to have developed. Kavafian refused to reveal its composition when asked by the government, insisting that he be placed in command of its use during naval engagements. Not long after this, he was poisoned by imperial authorities, without their ever having found out his secret.

## Manufacture

As Constantine Porphyrogenetos' warnings show, the ingredients and the processes of manufacture and deployment of Greek fire were carefully guarded military secrets. So strict was the secrecy that the composition of Greek fire was lost forever and remains a

source of speculation. Consequently, the "mystery" of the formula has long dominated the research into Greek fire. Despite this almost exclusive focus, however, Greek fire is best understood as a complete weapon system of many components, all of which were needed to operate together to render it effective. This comprised not only the formula of its composition, but also the specialized dromon ships that carried it into battle, the device used to prepare the substance by heating and pressurizing it, the siphōn projecting it, and the special training of the siphōnarioi who used it. Knowledge of the whole system was highly compartmentalised, with operators and technicians aware of the secrets of only one component, ensuring that no enemy could gain knowledge of it in its entirety. This accounts for the fact that when the Bulgarians took Mesembria and Debeltos in 814, they captured 36 siphōns and even quantities of the substance itself, but were unable to make any use of them.

The information available on Greek fire is exclusively indirect, based on references in the Byzantine military manuals and a number of secondary historical sources such as Anna Komnene and Western European chroniclers, which are often inaccurate. In her Alexiad, Anna Komnene provides a description of an incendiary weapon, which was used by the Byzantine garrison of Dyrrhachium in 1108 against the Normans. It is often regarded as an at least partial "recipe" for Greek fire:

*This fire is made by the following arts. From the pine and the certain such evergreen trees inflammable resin is collected. This is rubbed with sulfur and put into tubes of reed, and is blown by men using it with violent and continuous breath. Then in this manner it meets the fire on the tip and catches light and falls like a fiery whirlwind on the faces of the enemies.*

Wikipedia contributors. "Greek fire." Wikipedia, The Free Encyclopedia. Wikipedia, The Free Encyclopedia, 11 May. 2018. Web. 27 May. 2018.

## Marketplace

**Looking to sell crafts?**

**Known a local vendor that provides period-appropriate wares?**

**Place a free advertisement in *The Higher Word*!**

Contact the Chronicler

## Officers of Ered Sul

<b>Baron &amp; Baroness</b> HE Robert av Bergen HE Kolfinna av Bergen Coronet @ baronyoferedsul.org	<b>Seneschal</b> Lady Bebinn O'Brien seneschal @ baronyoferedsul.org	<b>Deputy Seneschal</b> Angwyn Heal'd smcolotti6 @ gmail.com
<b>Exchequer/ Reeve</b> Lord Vincent Blackwell Exchequer @ baronyoferedsul.org	<b>Herald</b> THL Ari Anson herald @ baronyoferedsul.org	<b>Deputy Herald</b> Lady Katherine Tapester Sleepcat @ yahoo.com
<b>Hardsuit Marshal</b> Sir Thaddeus the Legless Marshal @ baronyoferedsul.org	<b>Deputy Hardsuit Marshal</b> Lord Thorn Pickjt @ yahoo.com	<b>Rapier Marshal</b> Lady Gianna rapier @ baronyoferedsul.org
<b>Deputy Rapier Marshal</b> Lord Friedrich Swartzen Hut	<b>Archery Marshal</b> Lord Chang Maille archery @ baronyoferedsul.org	<b>Deputy Archery Marshal</b> THL Gil Greywolf
<b>Deputy Archery Marshal</b> Lord Ivar of Elsinore Donfisher @ q.com	<b>Arts &amp; Sciences Minister</b> Lord Christopher Of Peckingham the_Kranken @ hotmail.com	<b>Deputy Arts &amp; Sciences Minister</b> Lord Curlew of Droghela Yermonger @ yahoo.com
<b>Sheriff</b> Lord Caius Anthony Hortensia Sheriff @ baronyoferedsul.org	<b>Gold Key/Chatelaine</b> Lady Iðunn of the Citadel chatelaine @ baronyoferedsul.org	<b>Webmistress / Social Media Officer</b> THL Æsa Öngull web @ baronyoferedsul.org
<b>Chronicler</b> Lord Leolin Blackwell Leofenris @ gmail.com	<b>Regalia Officer</b> Lord Dhonnabhainn Mac Egoín jaycheba @ gmail.com	<b>NEW Signet</b> Lady Solveig At Rauda rhoades@citlink.net
<b>Historian</b> Master Roger Von Allenstein Allenstein49 @ hotmail.com		

## Open Positions

### Web Minister



The Web Minister is a warranted office responsible for the upkeep and content of the baronial website. Ideal traits are experience with web development and service providers, experience writing and editing content, reliable email and internet access, and the ability to uphold web publishing SCA standards. Time commitment: Low

### Deputy Exchequer



The Deputy Exchequer assists the Exchequer with baronial bookkeeping and running troll at all baronial events. This position requires being a signer on the baronial bank account. Organization and computer skills are required, and basic math or accounting knowledge is helpful. Time commitment: High

### Waiver Secretary

The Waiver Secretary manages and oversees the collections of various liability waivers. This position collaborates with the Exchequer(s) and Combat Marshals on maintaining waivers for event consent forms and fighter practice liability, as examples. Time commitment: Low

### Equestrian Marshal



Baronial Equestrian Marshal works with kingdom Equestrian Marshals to establish an equestrian presence in Ered Sul. A strong familiarity with equestrian events and a willingness to gain an in depth understanding of Society and local regulations is required. Time commitment: self-determined

### List Minister



The List Minister sets up and hosts tournaments throughout the year, organizes the fighters, and keeps track of wins and losses. The list minister must be impartial in all fights. Time commitment: Low (can be high commitment during events)

### Deputy Sheriff



Assists Sheriff at baronial events with organizing volunteers with tasks and shifts, performing patrols, provide general help to event attendees, and assist event autocrats as needed. Time commitment: Low (can be high commitment during events)

## Deputy Chronicler



Assists with collecting information to include in the baronial newsletter. Takes photos, interviews populace members, and helps maintain release/permissions forms for creative content. Time commitment: Low

## Deputy Gold Key



The Deputy Gold Key / Chatelaine welcomes newcomers to the SCA and our barony. This position is best filled by someone who is friendly and passionate about SCA and who can approach curious strangers. Time commitment: Low

## Kingdom Want Ads

Kingdom Webminister (open until 7/1/18)

Kingdom Chronicler (open until 6/1/18)

Kingdom Arts & Sciences Minister (open until 7/1/18)

Kingdom Social Media Officer and Deputy(s) (open until filled)

Kingdom Media Relations Officer (open until filled)

Emergency Deputy Kingdom Keeper of the Regalia

Kingdom Tournaments Illuminated Liason

Visit <http://www.atenveldt.org/People/OfficerWantAds> for details

# ~~The Higher Word~~ Lower

"Can't poop. I won't be drunk any more."  
~ Sir Neo T. Pict ~

Over hear a dicey quote? Have a major foot-in-mouth moment?  
Submit it to The Higher Word (or Facebook)! After all, those who laugh together stay together!

## Games

*The king's jester was imprisoned (the king didn't like the jester's jokes). The jester was locked in a room at the top of a high tower. The room had only one tiny window. The jester found a piece of rope, but it was far too short to reach the ground. But still, the clever jester managed to escape.*

*How?*

Help our siege engineers find the crack in the enemy castle wall!

## Other Ways to Contact Us

Society Website: <http://www.sca.org>

Kingdom Website: <http://www.atenveldt.org>

Barony of Ered Sul Facebook Page: <https://www.facebook.com/SCAEredSul/>

Baron of Ered Sul Facebook Group: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/135613726524285/>

Highlands War Website <https://www.http://highlandswar.org/>

## The Fine Print

The Higher Word is a publication of the Barony of Ered Sul of the Society for Creative Anachronism, Inc. The Higher Word is available on the baronial website or print from Chronicler upon request. The Higher Word is not a corporate publication of the Society for Creative Anachronism, Inc. It does not delineate SCA policies. Copyright © 2014 Society for Creative Anachronism, Inc. For information on reprinting photographs, articles or artwork from this publication, please contact the Chronicler, who will assist you in contacting the original creator of the piece. Please respect the legal rights of our contributors.

The Jester untwisted the plies of the rope,  
then tied them together end to end to make a  
longer, thinner rope to escape.

