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### Baronial E-list

Costumers Guild E-List

# Bayou Tapestry

## Barony of Axemoor



Beloved Axemoran Makes Good!

All Hail Queen Muirgen

May 2011

Greetings from the Chronicler of the Bayou Tapestry.

Hope everyone is having a good tourney season. I would love to get submissions for this newsletter. I will happily hound you to death until I get something!

Regards and in service

Baroness Stasi

This is the April 2011 issue of the Bayou Tapestry, a publication of the Barony of Axemoor in the Kingdom of Glenn Abhann in the Society for Creative Anachronism (SCA Inc.)

The Bayou Tapestry is available from the Chronicler:

Marilee G. Humason stasiwa@yahoo.com 206-890-8366

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<http://www.ashmol.ox.ac.uk/ash/amulets/cypruscopper/AncCyp-Cu-08.html>Ancient Cyprus in the Ashmolean Museum



## From the Baron and Baroness

Greetings Axemoor,

What a wonderful month it has been! We have new Royalty, congratulations to Their Majesties Havordh and Murigen. Thank you, Axemoor for making this Coronation a dream come true for our Queen and her King. To everyone who gave of their time and talents to make this event so very special, you have our undying gratitude. (It was awesome having His Excellency Charles back in our midst for the weekend as well!) We had a Fabulous Garb & Grub at the park and several great events. All in all, it's been quite a busy month!

We pray that everyone had a blessed Easter and know that we rejoice to have you all as friends and chosen family.

Looking to the future: the next big event on the schedule is Crown List, May 13-15. We hope to see many of you there is support of some of our own combatants. Also on the agenda for this month is the rescheduled Town Hall meeting to meet and pose questions to our Baronial candidates. This will take place on Sunday, May 22 at 2:00pm at Piccadilly's in Metairie. Remember to submit your questions to me by May 15. (You may email Her Excellency; fill out a card at the Populace meeting or send your questions to Diane Martin, 418 Prevost Dr., Houma, LA 70364) Polling will take place at the June Populace meeting. Please make every effort to attend these important meetings.

Just a small reminder, warmer weather is approaching, and with that, we'll all be spending more time outdoors. Take care to hydrate well.

We thank each and every one of you for all your time, your commitment to this Barony, and for being the most amazing and wonderful populace in the known world

We remain yours always,

Charles and Martha

Baron and Baroness of Axemoor



cases); only a few could be measured. Most were 40-50 mm in length, although one was 105 mm. They were very small in diameter, like modern needles, suggesting that these needles were used with thin thread. The material from York described by Mainman and Rogers (2000) augments the scanty finds from Birka. In the Anglo-Scandinavian levels at York, 243 needles were found. Nearly all of these were iron, with a few needles of copper alloy or bone. The complete needles ranged in length from 49 - 59 mm and in diameter from 0.7 - 2.2 mm (approximate 21-11 gauge wires). They were very small in diameter, like modern needles, suggesting that these needles were used with thin thread.

The material from York described by Mainman and Rogers (2000) augments the few finds from Birka. In the Anglo-Scandinavian levels at York, most relevant to the reconstruction of Viking textile tools, 243 needles were found. Nearly all of these were iron, with a few needles of copper alloy or bone. The complete needles ranged in length from 49 - 59 mm and in diameter from 0.7 - 2.2 mm (approximate 21-11 gauge wires). Most Viking needles were made from iron or copper alloy wire. Wire-drawing was well-established by the 10th c., and a draw-plate was found at Birka (Coatsworth and Pinder 2002).

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## Greetings, From The Arts and Sciences Minister,

Well this Barony never seems to run out of things to do, do we? The past couple of months have been busy with event preparation and lots of projects were done with regard to those events. As the summer approaches and event season slows, we will still have things to do. Over this summer we are bringing back the Monthly A&S classes.

I now have a new drop dead deputy. Mistress Anastasia has agreed to fill in the gaps for me since my new mundane work schedule makes me a bit less accessible. She is also scheduling the Monthly A&S classes. We have two classes scheduled so far and at least two more that we are looking into getting scheduled. We also have an official Sewing Guild in the Barony.

### May Classes:

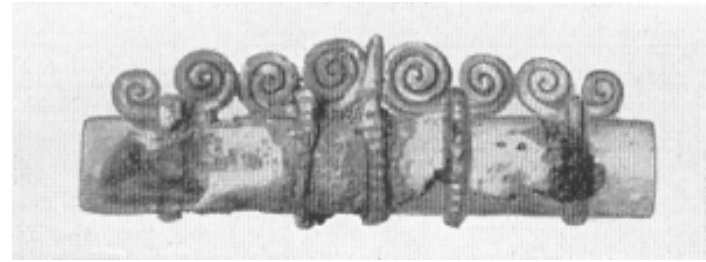
- Tuesday May 10, at 7:00pm at Baroness Tegan's Home. It will be a hands-on workshop on making mustard.
- Friday May 20th will be a basic Calligraphy Class taught by the A&S Minister herself. It will be at 7:00pm at the Home of Baron Gellis and Baroness Brigida.

In Service,

HL Elene Kirchenknopf



Needle case from a mid/late 10th c. woman's grave, Birka. Length 5 cm.



The famous Frozen Tombs of Siberia, five barrows excavated at Pazyryk, in southern Siberia near the borders of Xinjiang and Mongolia, all contain iron artifacts. These include horse-bits, daggers, and a **hairpin**. Although needles are not mentioned, I have found that if the culture makes hairpins, they also make needles. All are of wrought iron, none of cast iron.] A floating dendrochronology shows that the tombs were constructed over a period of 48 years. Regular dating methods suggest an absolute date in the late fifth century BC, and radiocarbon does not contradict this date. All of the tombs show clear Scythian influence and most contain articles imported from China. (Wagner, Third paragraph)

“All of these dates for northern iron fit a pattern which requires no great strain of the reader's credulity: iron appears to have been introduced into Siberia by the Scythians, perhaps as early as the eighth century BC. Further east, in the Russian Maritime Province, it is something of a shock to find the following statement by Chard (1974: 94) without further discussion: ‘Iron appears in the Vladivostok area in the eleventh to twelfth centuries BC, coinciding with the development of the so-called Shell Mound or Sidemi culture.’ This is as early as the beginning of the Iron Age of Greece, and much earlier than iron anywhere else in Asia. Chard's date seems to be based on a single radiocarbon date, and should therefore not be considered reliable.”

### 10<sup>th</sup> Century Viking needles,

There were many iron needles found at Birka so the Vikings either made or traded them. I would think that they would be heavier than the bronze or the copper,

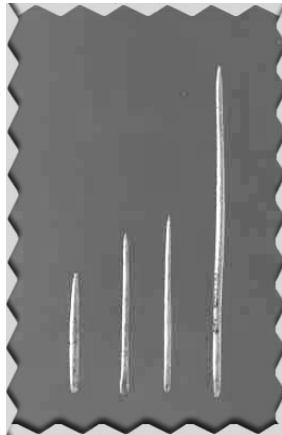
Many of the metal needles from Birka were fragmentary and poorly preserved (Andersson 2003). Of the 67 that were preserved (38 of which were in needle

that to fit, which is finally getting into the ball park of where we want to be in order to get an actual sewing needle, and not a sail needle or a carpet needle or something that big.

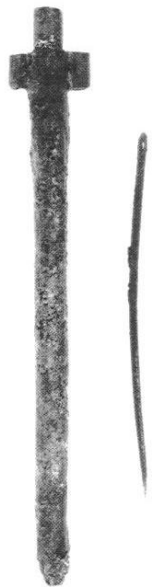
Figure 2a



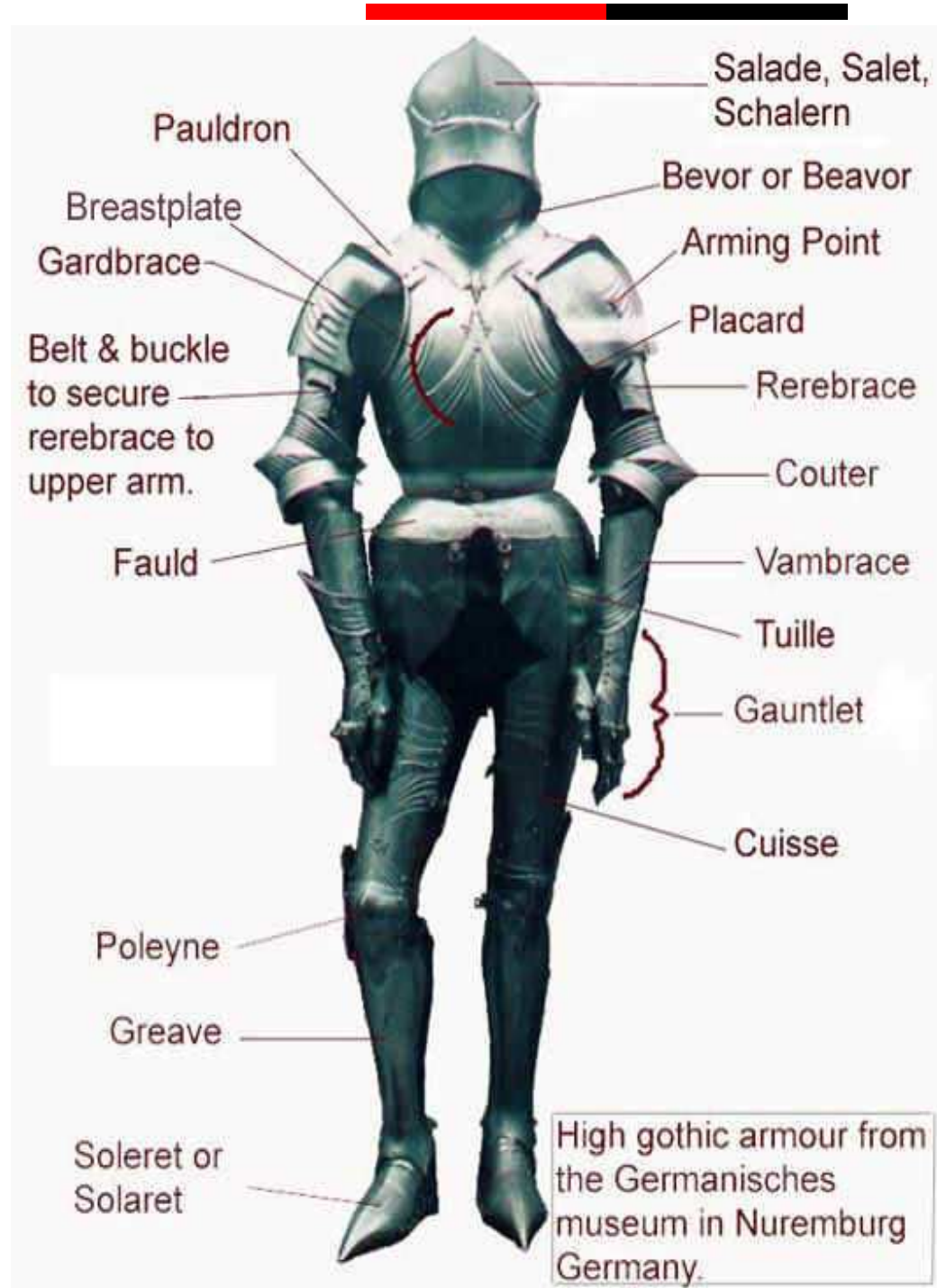
Roman bronze needle 3rd c AD



Tibetan bone needle



Copper Needle case with iron needle found inside  
(Crowfoot and Pritchard and Staniland 2001)



# May 2011

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2	3 <i>PM</i>	4 <i>FP</i>	5	6	7
8 <i>MD</i>	9	10 <i>AS</i>	11 <i>FP</i>	12	13 <i>CR</i>	14 <i>CR</i>
15 <i>CR</i>	16	17 <i>CG</i>	18 <i>FP</i>	19	20 <i>AS</i>	21
22 <i>THM</i>	23	24	25 <i>FP</i>	26	27	28
29	30	31				

In the 10th century a Yelu Abaoji united all the Qidan tribes and founded a Kingdom. Later this was renamed the Liao dynasty. Roughly 907-1125



Figure 1a  
 Container C, Bamboo shaped Amber container, Height 7.0cm (2.5 inches) Mengdieuxuan Collection.  
 The irregular outline was carved according to the contour of the natural amber. It is also the most naturalistic and sculptural, showing six sections with your shoots depicted in the round, not incised. Two holes are drilled at the edge of the container but the cover is missing. The amber is polished to a shiny orange.

**Three bronze needles are inside the container.**

Figure 1a



Figure 2a

Detail showing bronze needles inside container C  
 So, if the container is 2.5 inches the needles have to be smaller than



## **Assyrian Khorsabad and Anatolia**

OIM A11022 -- Needle -- Alishar Huyuk -- Bronze

OIM A11020 -- Needle -- Alishar Huyuk -- Bronze

OIM A11018 -- Needle -- Alishar Huyuk -- Bronze

## **Mesopotamia Gallery**



OIM A8639 -- Needle -- Diyala, Asmar -- Bronze

OIM A12441 -- Needle -- Shenshi -- Bronze

## **Persian gallery**

OIM A26198 -- Pin -- Bronze

These all prove there were bronze and copper needles and pins used. But these are all very early; it would be nice to find something a little closer to period.

I finally found something for the Liao Dynasty which is roughly about 907-1125 or so.

The Qidan were a semi-nomadic pastoral people who originated from the ancient Xianbei Donghu tribes in Northeastern China.

# **The Barony of Axemoors Champions**

## **Marshall Champion**

Lord Settemio

## **Arts and Sciences Champion**

*THL Mikhail al Rashid*

## **Bardic Champion**

Baroness Stasi

## **Poet Laureate**

Isabella of Axemoor

## **Archery Champion**

## **Thrown Weapons Champion**

## **Rapier Champion**

# Axemoor A&S Night

Tuesday May 10th, 2011  
7:00pm

Snacks and Drinks will be provided.

Baroness Tegans Home  
552 Edgewood Drive  
Slidell, LA 70460

Directions can be found in the files of the Axemoor yahoo group

## Period Mustard Making with baroness tegan

This is a hands-on class with Handout to learn to make mustard.

Please bring a mortar and pestle if you have one.

Garden Mustard  
Gerard's Herbal 1598



varied in length from 101mm to 147mm, and were made from drawn wire and have an open eye at each end so that the silk thread could be wound on to the needle very easily

I did find an interesting article on the Hermitage website. It was about a tomb that was found in 2001 undisturbed:

“The burial mound known as Arzhan-2 is located in the Turano-Uyukskaya hollow in the spurs of the Western Sayan mountain range in the north of the Republic of Tuva. The steppe around the settlement of Arzhan is a "Valley of the Kings" where the largest burial mounds from the era of the early Eurasian nomads are concentrated. Investigation of the Arzhan-2 mound was the result of implementation of a joint Russo-German research project. The excavations were carried out by the Central Asian Archaeological Expedition under the leadership of K.V. Chugunov. In 2001 an undisturbed grave from the 6th-5th century B.C. was discovered in the Arzhan-2 mound. The wealth of the burial of a man and a woman indicates that they belonged to the upper echelon of the nomad aristocracy. **The most difficult work had to be performed on the conglomerations in which iron artifacts were firmly linked together by corrosion coupled with remnants of decomposed organic matter.** Over many months of work it proved possible to separate the monoliths, to identify the shape of the artifacts and to reveal the decoration on the items. Layer-by-layer cleaning of the woman's scabbard (restorer: O.Yu. Senatorova) revealed within the conglomeration and separated out a dagger with a cast gold hilt, two iron knives with loop-shaped handles, a bronze awl with the figure of a goat as a grip, **fragments of needles that disintegrated in ancient times** and a bronze pin with a spherical head.” (Hermitage website)



Cypriote copper smiths in the Early and Middle Bronze Age produced a wide range of weapons and utilitarian objects including: spearheads, riveted knives and daggers, tanged daggers, dirks, rat-tanged dirks, swords, flat axes, shaft-hole axes, awls, chisels, **needles**, tweezers, razors and toggle pins.

**OIM 6101 -- Needle -- Umm El-Qa'ab, Tomb Zer -- Protodynastic -- Copper -- 61mm L** Copper Needle, Circular Section, Eye at One End. (Oriental Institute Virtual Museum)

As you can see, the museum has a listing for a copper needle, but only shows the room it is in, not the artifact itself. At least they give the length.

Egyptian Gallery: Materials from the Late Pre-Dynastic and Early Dynastic Periods ca. 3800 B.C.-2700 B.C.



## A Small History of Needles.

**Baroness Anastasia Alexandrovna Andreeva  
(OL)**

Needles were fashioned from wood, bone and metal. We often find evidence of artifacts of the bone variety. Viking age needles, Chinese, just about all cultures seemed to have started with bone and shell as the main material for their needles. The problem is, where are all the metal needles for the early periods? Did they use them? Or was bone really the only material used? The other problem is that the bone needles found has almost always been large. Probably used for net making, sail mending, or other large projects. What I am most interested in is the needles used for clothing and embroidery, there doesn't seem to be many examples of them. On the other hand, there may be artifacts but the museums don't think they are significant enough to publish.

I have found that the Egyptians succeeded in making eyes in millimeter thick copper needles. Copper was the main metal used in ancient Egypt, the composition of the metal and its alloys, developed as the available smelting technology advanced. The earliest copper artifacts are dated at approximately 5000 B.C. and contain a high level of impurity. Copper may have been the first metal to be worked in Egypt, even before the metallic gold. The ores had a 12% copper content and given the scarcity of fuel and the difficulties of transportation it is a wonder that they succeeded at extracting the metal at all.

In the beginning it was probably worked cold. In early Egyptian graves copper ornaments, vessels and weapons have been found as well as needles, saws, scissors, pincers, axes, harpoon and arrow tips, and knives.

The tools involved in garment making included knives (or scissors) and needles, both of these needed to be molded, shaped or carved. In pre-dynastic times, knives were made out of stone and the needles were made from bones. However, during the Old Kingdom, they were both made out of copper. Then, in the Middle Kingdom, bronze replaced the copper. Knives and needles were molded. Surprisingly, the eyes of needles were not bored. They were "scratched out with a hard, pointed instrument, probably a stone." With these tools and linen, garments were fashioned to suit the needs of the people based on climate and social status. (<http://www.ashmol.ox.ac.uk/ash/amulets/cypruscopper/AncCyp-Cu-08.html>Ancient Cyprus in the Ashmolean Museum)

The Museum of Classical Archaeology (located in Adelaide, South Australia) also contains examples of bronze needles, used for hand sewing and embroidery. These needles appear to be quite common, as many other museums of international classical archaeology have several in their collections. This may be so, but they are not available on line to see. I checked the Adelaide museum and was unable to access anything even remotely like a needle. The needles that were used by the weavers of the crespines were made of copper alloy. These needles

**Axemoor  
A&S Night  
Friday May 20th, 2011  
7:00pm  
Snacks and drinks will be provided**

Hosted at the Home of Baron Gellis and Baroness Brighida  
2700 Long Branch Drive  
Marrero, LA 70072

## Calligraphy Night with Elene!

Ever wanted to learn the art of Calligraphy?

The Barony needs you!

Learn the basic art of Calligraphy from this excellent lady



# Brawn en Peuerade

PERIOD: England, 15th century | SOURCE: Harleian MS 279 | CLASS: Authentic

DESCRIPTION: Pork or chicken in a thick wine sauce

## ORIGINAL RECEIPT:

.xxxj. Brawn en Peuerade. Take Wyne an powder Canel, and draw it porw a straynour, an sette it on þe fyre, and lette it boyle, an caste þer -to Clowes, Maces, an powder Pepy; þan take smale Oynonys al hole, an par-boyle hem in hot watere, an caste þer-to, and let hem boyle to-gederys; þan take Brawn, an lesshe it, but nowt to þinne. An yif it sowsyd be, lete it stepe a whyle in hot water tyl it be tendre, þan caste it ti þe Sirip; þen take Sawnderys, an Vynegre, an caste þer-to, an lete it boyle alle to-gederys tyl it be y-now; þen take Gyngere, an caste þer-to, an so serue forth; but late it be nowt to þikke ne to þinne, but as potage shulde be.

- Austin, Thomas. *Two Fifteenth-Century Cookery-Books. Harleian MS. 279 & Harl. MS. 4016, with extracts from Ashmole MS. 1429, Laud MS. 553, & Douce MS 55.* London: for The Early English Text Society by N. Trübner & Co., 1888.

## GODE COOKERY TRANSLATION:

Brawn in Peverade. Take Wine and powdered Cinnamon, and pass it through a strainer, and set it on the fire, and let it boil, and add there-to Cloves, Mace, and powdered Pepper; then take small Onions all whole, and parboil them in hot water, and add there-to, and let them boil together; then take Brawn, and slice it, but not to thin. And if it is soused, let it steep awhile in hot water until it is tender, then add it to the Syrup; then take Sandalwood, and cloves, mace, & pepper. Bring to a boil. Add the parboiled onions; return to a boil. Add the food coloring, vinegar, and meat, return to a boil, then reduce heat to a simmer. Allow to cook until the sauce has thickened and reduced - you want a "pottage." Place in a serving dish and sprinkle ginger on top. Serve forth! Vinegar, and add there-to, and let it boil all together until it is done; then take Ginger, and add there-to, and so serve forth; but let it be not too thick nor too thin, but as a pottage should be.

## INGREDIENTS:

- Red Wine
- Cinnamon
- Cloves (powder)
- Mace
- Pepper
- Small Onions, whole but peeled, & parboiled until just tender
- Dark meat of chicken or pork, thickly sliced. Brawn was the Medieval term for the dark, heavy, & slightly fatty meat of poultry or boar.
- Red food coloring (substituting for Sandalwood, which was used primarily as a coloring agent)
- Red Wine Vinegar
- Ginger

## DIRECTIONS:

Place wine in a saucepan; add cinnamon & bring to a boil. Reduce heat and allow to simmer for several minutes. Remove from heat and allow to slightly cool. Pass through a cheesecloth to strain the cinnamon residue from the wine. (This entire first step may be eliminated by including cinnamon sticks with the spices in the next part of the recipe. Be sure to remove the sticks before serving.) Place wine in a large pot; add the cloves, mace and pepper. Bring to a boil. Add the parboiled onions bring back to boil. Add the food coloring, vinegar and meat, return to boil, then reduce heat to simmer. Allow to cook until the sacue has thickened and reduced, you want a "pottage".Place on a serving dish and sprinkle ginger on top. Serve forth!

*From the Gode Boke of Cookery*

*Www.godecookery.com*