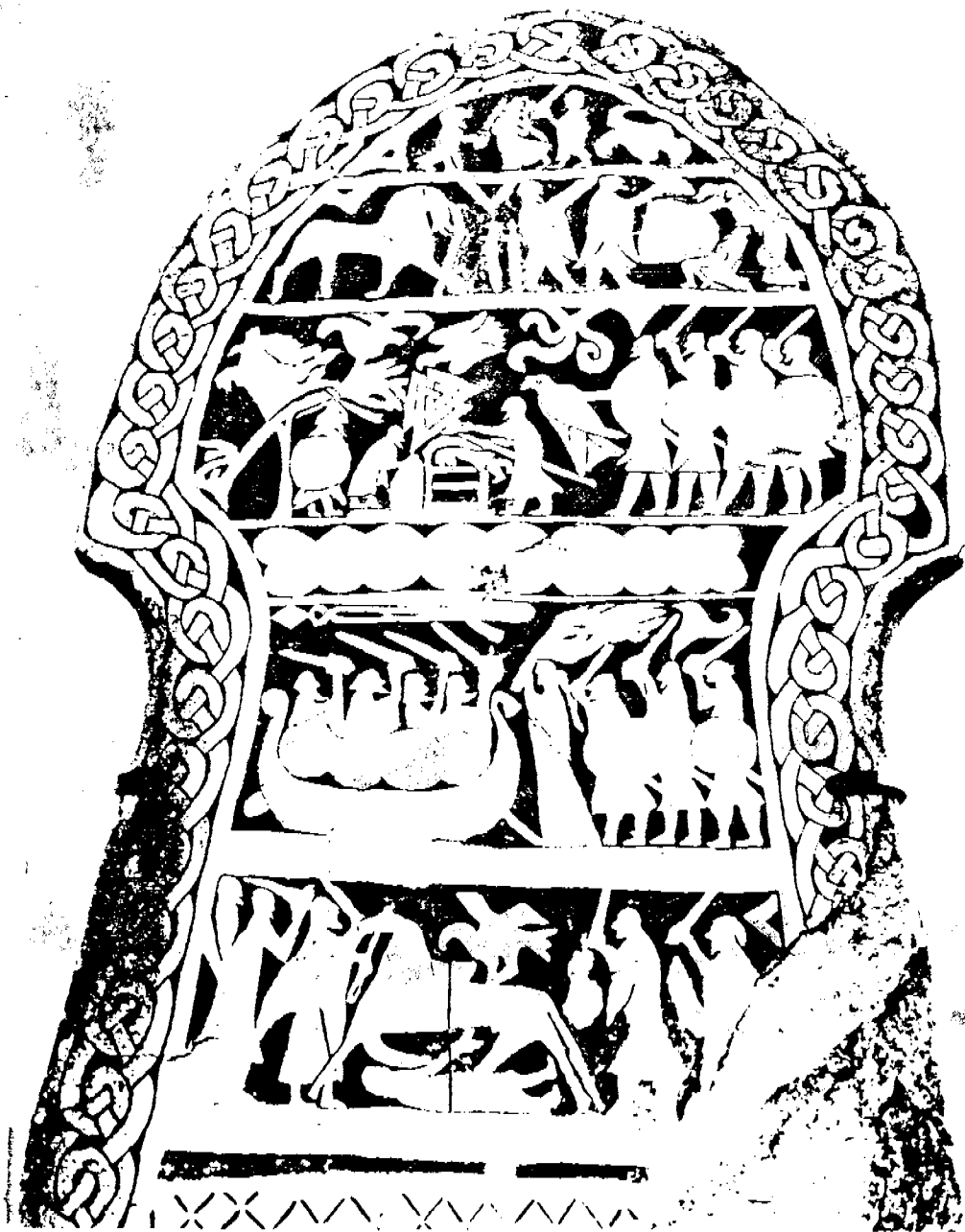


# WARANGJAN

VOICE

NO 2



### Complete Armours

Field armour, Italian, c. 1450 (Scott Colln., Glasgow Museum) (Illustrated at 31)	57 lb. (4 st. 1 lb.) (lacks tassets and one gauntlet)
Field armour, German, c. 1525 (W.C.L., 763)	41 lb. 13½ oz. (2 st. 13 lb. 13½ oz.)
Field armour, Italian, c. 1550-60 (W.C.L., 737)	45 lb. 13½ oz. (3 st. 3 lb. 13½ oz.)
Field armour, Greenwich, c. 1590 (W.C.L., 434-9)	71 lb. 14 oz. (5 st. 1 lb. 14 oz.)
Cuirassier armour, Augsburg, c. 1620-30 (Churburg, 130)	69 lb. 5 oz. (4 st. 13 lb. 5 oz.)
Armour for the joust ( <i>Gesteck</i> ) Augsburg, c. 1500 (W.C.L., 327)	90 lb. 1½ oz. (6 st. 6 lb. 1½ oz.)

### Helmets

Bascinet and aventail, Italian, c. 1390 (Churburg, 13)	12 lb. 9 oz.
Barbut, Italian, c. 1440 (W.C.L., 39)	5 lb. 14 oz.
Sallet, Innsbruck, c. 1485 (Churburg, 62)	7 lb. 2 oz.
Armet, Italian, c. 1450 (W.C.L., 85)	7 lb. 15 oz.
Close-helmet, German, c. 1530 (W.C.L., 245)	6 lb. 14½ oz.
Embossed burgonet, Italian, c. 1550 (W.C.L., 105)	5 lb. 4½ oz.
Comb Morion, Nuremberg, c. 1580 (W.C.L., 778)	3 lb. 15 oz.
Zischägge, Augsburg, c. 1620-30 (Churburg, 130)	6 lb. 5 oz.
Stechhelm, Augsburg, c. 1500 (W.C.L., 327)	19 lb. 11 oz.

### Mail and Brigandine

Haubergeon, probably Italian, 14th century (Royal Scottish Museum, Edinburgh)	31 lb.
Haubergeon, German, 15th century (Churburg, 2)	20 lb. 11 oz.
Brigandine, probably German, early 16th century (Churburg, 12)	19 lb. 9 oz.

### Horse Armour

Landshut, c. 1480 (W.C.L. 620)	66 lb. 5½ oz.
Probably Flemish, c. 1514-19 (T.L., VI. 1-5)	69 lb. 3 oz.

192

\* See the comparative tables given in C. J. Foulkes's *The Armourer and his Craft*, London, 1912, p. 119.

The next Voice will probably not be as long as this edition, but it has been a long time since the first Voice. This one's to make up.!

Typing by Tamsin.  
Collating and Editing by Steve,  
Help from Marg.

ED.

## FOOD FOR THOUGHT AND YOUR STOMACH

### A SONG FOR ALL OCCASIONS

On the first month of Viking, my valour won for me, a Gold Reliquary,  
On the second month of Viking, my valour won for me, two Ash Spears,  
On the third month of Viking, my valour won for me, three Oaken Shields,  
On the fourth month of Viking, my valour won for me, four Fat Kine,  
On the fifth month of Viking, my valour won for me, five Casks of Mead,  
On the sixth month of Viking, my valour won for me, six Mail Shirts,  
On the seventh month of Viking, my valour won for me, seven Strong Swords,  
on the eighth month of Viking, my valour won for me, eight Female Slaves,  
On the ninth month of Viking, my valour won for me, nine Ermine Cloaks,  
On the tenth month of Viking, my valour won for me, ten Golden Rings,

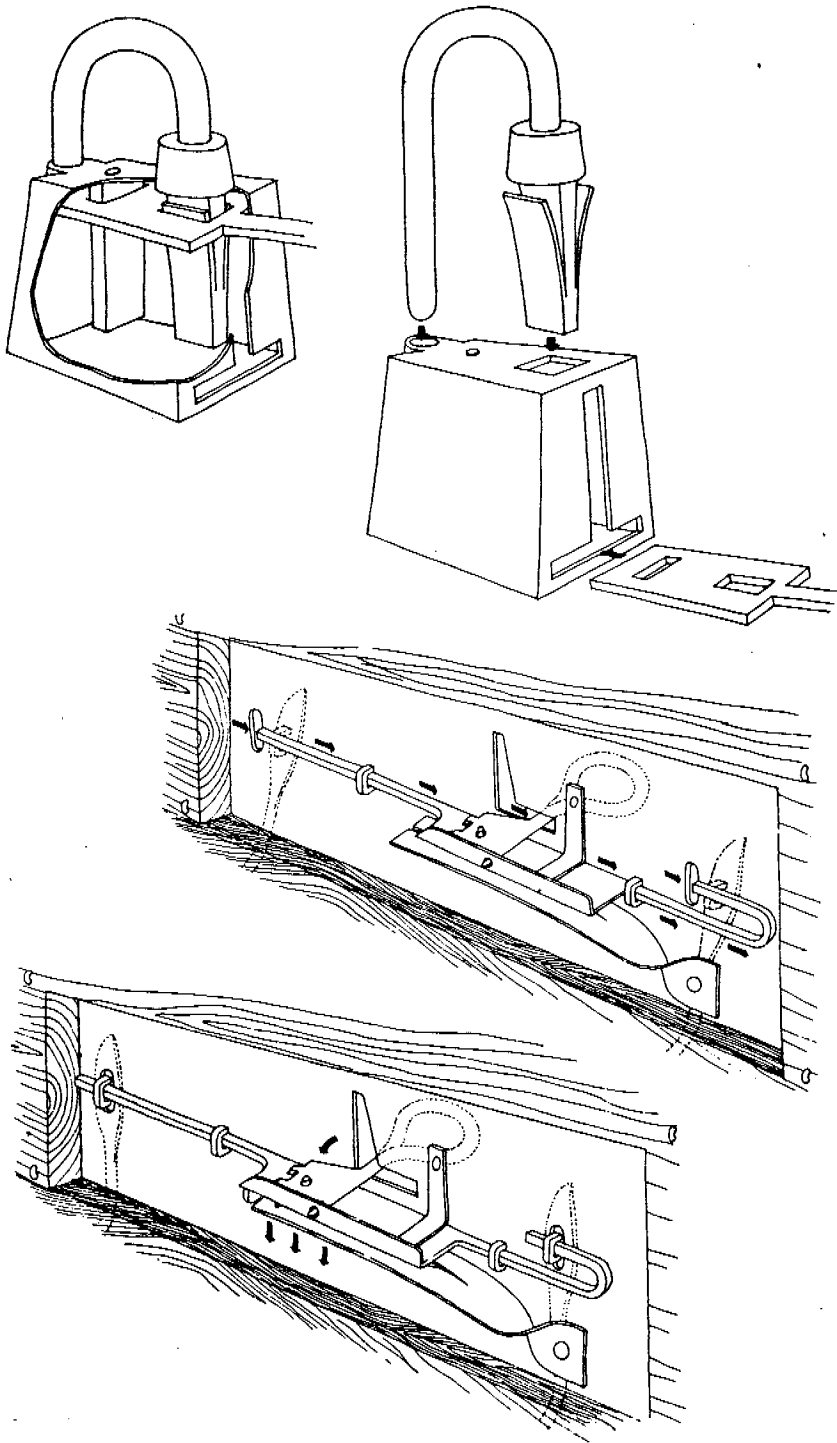
NB: SUNG TO THE TUNE OF "THE TWELVE DAYS OF CHRISTMAS"

## **Appendix. The Weight of Armour**

A GREAT deal of nonsense has been written and believed in the past about the weight of armour. In fact, except for certain jousting harnesses, armour before the 17th century was usually no heavier, and often a great deal lighter, than the full equipment worn by many modern Army units down to the time of the First World War.\* Moreover, whereas much of the weight of modern military equipment is suspended from the shoulders the weight of a properly-fitted armour is distributed over the body. The popular belief that the fully-armoured knight had to be lifted into his saddle with a crane and could not rise once dismounted is quite without foundation. There is a great deal of literary and pictorial evidence to show that the fully-trained man was inconvenienced hardly at all by his armour before its weight was so greatly increased in the 17th century. Modern experiments made with genuine 15th- and 16th-century armours have shown also that even an untrained man wearing a properly-fitted harness can get on and off a horse, lie on the ground and rise again, bend, stoop and move his arms and legs quite freely. The chief discomfort comes not so much from the weight of the armour as from its lack of ventilation, a fact referred to by Shakespeare in *Henry IV*, Pt. 2 (4, i, 104) where he describes Majesty as:

Like a rich armour worn in heat of day,  
That scalds with safety.

The following weights of armours and pieces of armour have been selected at random from several sources. (*See overleaf.*)



The Vikings had much more need of locks than did their forefathers. In their new trading towns, there were more expensive objects to steal, and many strangers to steal them. Viking locks are skilful adaptations of the Roman locks preserved in western Europe. Roman locks, however, had far too many details requiring precision work to be easily and cheaply manufactured. The Vikings very cleverly simplified their construction, as is shown in the two drawings of locks on the right. The lids of Viking chests were locked in much the same way as a modern suitcase: there were hinged mounts which had eyes or little lugs fitting into the lock proper. But whereas modern man has to use both hands to unlock his suitcase, because it has two separate locks, the Viking could unlock (or lock) his chest in one operation. Padlocks were common during the Viking Age. Their method of construction was well adapted to the abilities of a country smith. As in the case of the chest-lock, a maximum of security was achieved with the minimum of intricately-shaped details. Viking smiths, in fact, provide an object-lesson in how to construct an entirely adequate padlock while using nothing but plain pieces of iron. When found nowadays Viking padlocks are almost always locked. The reason for this is that the bow or hoop of a Viking padlock — like most other early locks of the type — is not hinged or pivoted as it would be in a modern one, but is a separate, removable piece. To avoid losing this piece, one had, therefore, to lock a Viking padlock immediately after use.

## TWO CLEVER LOCKS

The spring mechanism of a Viking padlock (top drawings) seems simple, but was an irritating deterrent to anyone without the right key. The hole at the shaft end of the blade of the spadeshaped key engages and compresses the double-bladed spring on the bow, so that the bow can be withdrawn and removed. The slot at the end of the blade fits over a specially-shaped piece of iron inside the lock, thus preventing the use of unauthorized keys. The chest-lock (shown below) works in another way. The key is shaped more like a modern one, and is intended to be twisted. When this is done, its prongs slip through the holes of the locking bar, and lift the spring on the upper side. A lateral movement of the key in the keyhole, and the chest is open.

The verse and riddles are from "A Choice of Anglo-Saxon verses selected by R. Homer" Faber Publications.

#### THE BATTLE OF MALDON

There was a clash of shields. The Vikings came,  
Enraged by battle. Many a spear passed through  
The life-house of the doomed. Wistan went forth.  
The son of Thurstan fought against those men.  
Already in the throng he had slain three  
Before the son of Wigelm fell in death.  
That was a fierce encounter. Warriors  
Stood fast in battle, though their comrades fell  
Weary with wounds. Dead men dropped to the earth.  
All this time Oswald and his brother Eadwold  
Inspired the warriors, and bade their kinsmen  
That in that grim necessity they should  
Endure and use their weapons without weakness.  
Byrhtwold spoke out, he raised his shield aloft  
And shook his spear; an elderly retainer,  
Courageously he taught the warriors:  
'Mind must be harder, spirit must be bolder,  
And heart the greater, as our might grows less.  
Here lies our leader in the dust, the hero  
Cut down in battle. Ever must he mourn  
Who thinks to go home from this battle-play.  
I am an aged man. Hence will I not,  
But I intend to die beside my lord,  
Give up my life beside so dear a chief.'  
So too did Godrich, son of Athelgar,  
Encourage them to war. Often he hurled  
A murderous spear among the viking host.  
Thus foremost he advanced among the people.  
He slashed and smote, until he died in battle.  
But that was not the Godrich who had fled.

A scramasax blade, probably of Saxon origin, 9th or 10th century, 10½ inches (26.7 cm).



#### 559. Anglo-Saxon scramasax

Length 5¼ ins. (13.5cm) 10th century

Iron inlaid with copper and silver and inscribed (with the name of the maker, or owner) 'OSMUND'. Rare, excavated condition. Without grip. Both sides of the scramasax are shown.

£2,000 — £2,500

MULLED APPLE OR PEAR CIDER:

Ingredients:

2 quarts fresh apple cider or pear juice,  
¼ teaspoon nutmeg,  
1/8 teaspoon thyme,  
½ teaspoon ginger powder,  
7 sticks cinnamon,  
Garnish with 1 tablespoon finely crushed sweet basil.

1. In a large enameled pot, gently simmer the juice with the spices for 7 minutes.
2. Break the cinnamon sticks, placing a portion in each tankard or chalice, or glass. Pour on warmed cider. Sprinkle sweet basil sparingly on top.

GUNDAROO 1984 3rd and 4th NOVEMBER

Gundaroo is coming along quite well this year with the program worked out, and which clubs are participating. They are as follows:-

1066, Hackers, Janus Keep, Canberra medieval Guild, A.M. M.A.S., Politicopolous, (S.C.A.)

There are approximately 80 odd persons turning up, not counting the S.C.A. The program is quite good this year with a mixture of events, including dance, blackpowder, longbow and crossbow, the usual hacking of bodies and possibly a gladiatorial fight staged by the A,M,M,A,S. The banquet this year looks being even better than last year, with a new and improved menu. Lunches you have to pay for yourselves, but breakfast is still provided. Accommodation remains the same. So sharpen your swords and axes, and gird up your loins and prepare for Gundaroo 1984.

The Osage Orange is drying nicely. Anyone who wants to pick up their pieces can let me know, and we'll get everyone together and sort it out. The below names are those who have a claim to it:

John Pease,	Danny Knight,
Michael Docherty,	Frenchie,
Alison Cowling,	Rob. Burns,
Peter McAndrew,	Stuart Bruce,
Christine Bruce,	Roy Castell,
Peter Burns,	Mark Joiner.
Geof. Moley,	

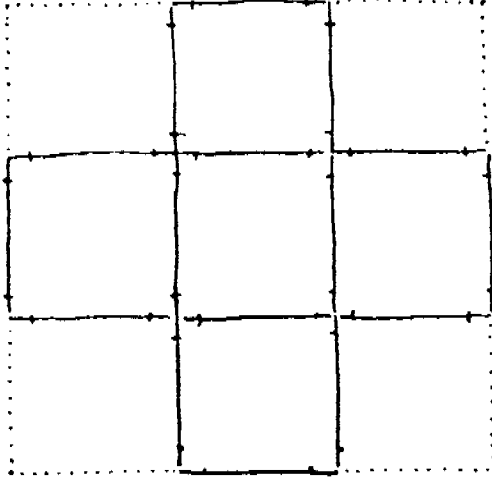
I am a lonely being, scarred by swords,  
Wounded by iron, sated with battle-deeds,  
Wearied by blades. Often I witness war,  
Perilous fight, nor hope for consolation,  
That any help may rescue me from strife  
Before I perish among fighting men;  
But hammered swords, hard edged and grimly sharp,  
Batter me, and the handwork of the smith  
Bites in the castles; I must ever wait  
A contest yet more cruel. I could never  
In any habitation find the sort  
Of doctor who could heal my wounds with herbs;  
But cuts from swords ever increase on me  
Through deadly contest, both by day and night.

My dress is silent when I tread the ground  
Or stay at home or stir upon the waters.  
Sometimes my trappings and the lofty air  
Raise me above the dwelling-place of men,  
And then the power of clouds carries me far  
Above the people; and my ornaments  
Loudly resound, send forth a melody  
And clearly sing, when I am not in touch  
With earth or water, but a flying spirit.

# CELTIC ART. From Cross-slab-Stone, Ulbster, Caithness.

One Continuous line, probably a symbol of Eternity.  
The continuity is undoubtedly intentional.

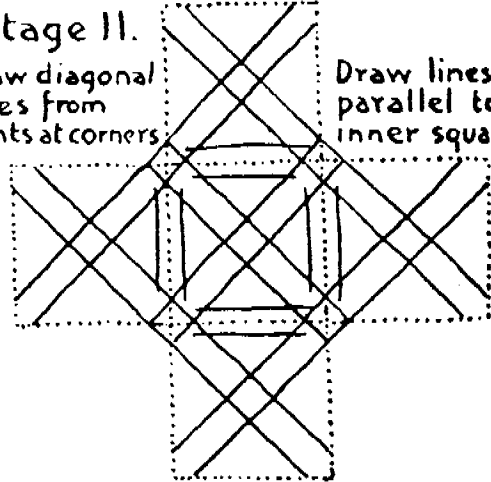
Stage I.



Stage II.

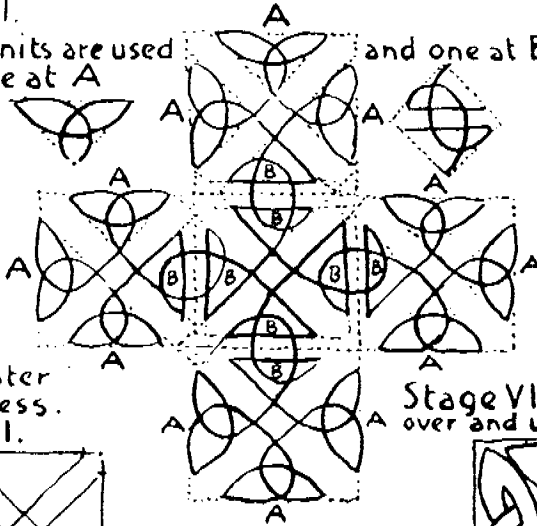
Draw diagonal lines from points at corners

Draw lines parallel to inner square



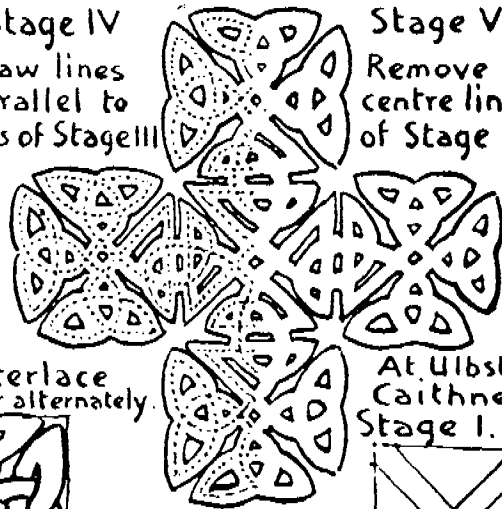
Stage III.

Two units are used One at A and one at B



Stage IV

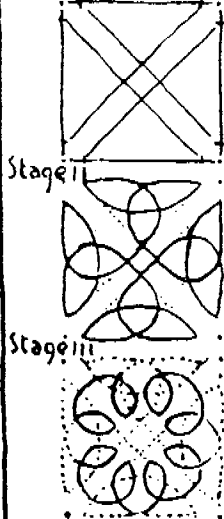
Draw lines parallel to lines of Stage III



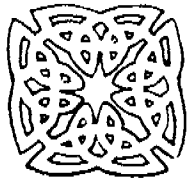
Stage V

Remove centre lines of Stage III

At Ulbster Caithness. Stage I.



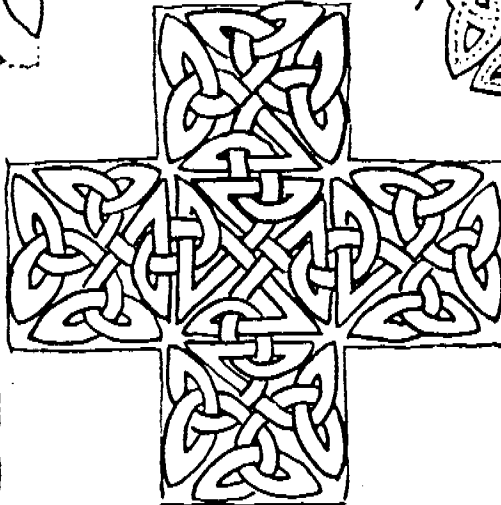
Stage IV.



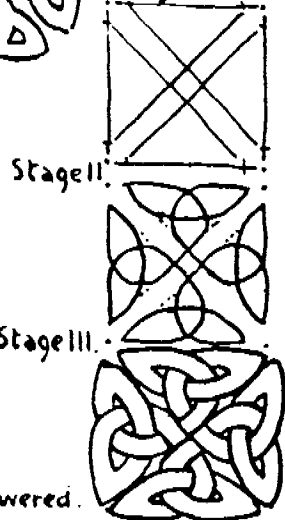
Stage V



Stage VI. Interlace over and under alternately



At Ulbster Caithness. Stage I.



The interlacing is raised, background is lowered.

## FOOD FOR THOUGHT AND YOUR STOMACH

### PORK IN WHITE WINE:

The name "vyne grace" given to this recipe, indicates that one of the Greek white wines was used in it; these were much appreciated in the Middle Ages.

1lb cold pork,	½pt dry white wine, (if Greek wine
1 tbs vinegar	is used, it should NOT be a Retsina)
¼ tsp ginger	3 onions
1 tsb sugar	½ tsp cinnamon.

Dice the pre-cooked pork into pieces about 3/4 inch square. Peel and chop the onions. Put the white wine and vinegar into a frying pan, and simmer the pork and onions in this for about 15 minutes. Add the spices and sugar, and simmer for a further 5 minutes, stirring gently. Add salt to taste.

### BLAK PERYS.....PEARS WITH CAROB CREAM:

#### Ingredients:

6 fresh pears, hard, but edible,  
1 fresh lemon, juice of,  
2 heaping tablespoons carob powder, (obtainable from any health-food or gourmet shop as a substitute for chocolate, tasting astonishingly like that confection.)  
2 tablespoons sugar or honey,  
¼ teaspoon salt,  
1 cup heavy whipping cream.

1. Cut the pears in half longitudinally, keeping the skin on, and carefully scooping out the core area utilizing either a sharp spoon or grapefruit knife.
2. Generously coat each pear-half with lemon juice.
3. Either allow the pears to remain raw, or bake pears for 7 to 10 minutes in 350° oven, and then allow to cool.
4. Beat the carob powder, sugar and salt with the cream until the mixture either peaks, or, depending upon the type of carob powder you use, has the thick consistency of chocolate mousse.
5. Spoon or pipe the carob cream into the craters of each pear half with a pastry tube, Chill in refrigerator for at least ½ hour before serving.





## THE CONVENTION ..... a report

Following my recent trip to Sydney in the North, we now have 1 fully paid convention fee, and 11 part payments. People are interested and enthusiastic about coming to Maldon in '85.

Approximately 30 members of 1066 are coming; most of the hackers, a good contingent of routiers, several people from Canberra Medieval Guild, and some people from the S.C.A., as well as Janus Keep, Viking Re-enactment Society, South Australia, 3 definitely from New Zealand, lots from Tasmania.

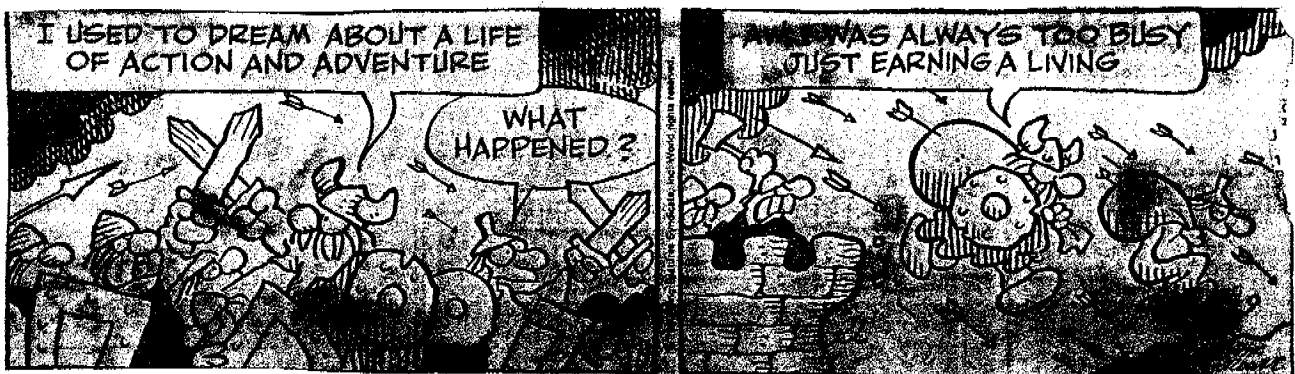
So this gives us something to project on to gives us, approximately, 200 bods, persons, villeins and sundry others.

The work schedule is working quite well at the moment, with the kitchen frame erected, and the fort sort of coming along. We still need to get more bushpoles from Al Martins; set the packing cases from Roy and galvanized iron, 4 x 2's, and sundry other odds and ends from wherever we can.

Attendance at the working bees always seems to be the same hard core working group we get every time; something needs to be done; how about the other members of the guard pulling their weight for a bit.

Cameron has put forward the idea of a peasants revolt for the convention. Let's Hear More About It!. Over to you Cameron, work out the details and let us know. In writing of course.

Dermot VI Neil has suggested a tavern be set up at the Convention, says it goes over a treat at the Rowany Festival.... anyone for takers?



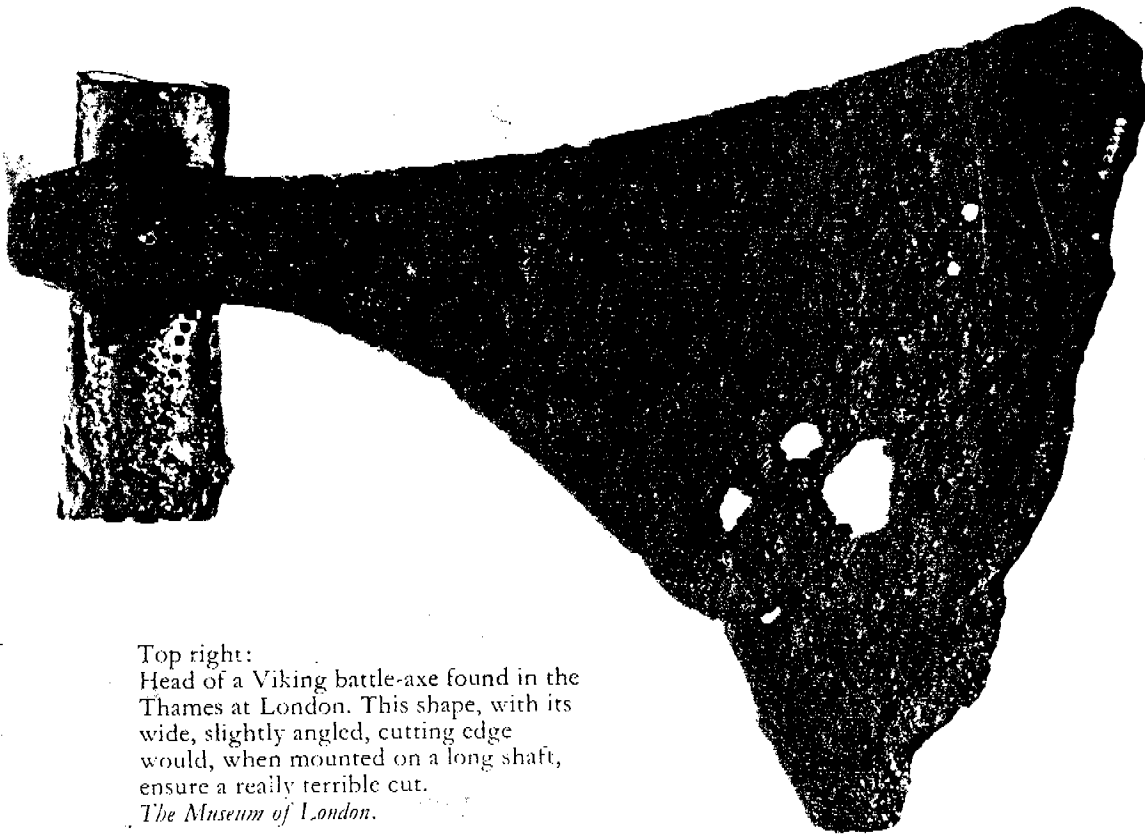
### JOUSTING....."a detestable holiday".

The tourney was not always the high chivalrous event we've been led to believe it was, for instance....one monk was shocked by the "ladies in different coloured tunics....with short hoods that had pendants like ropes....and belts thickly studded with gold and silver". He also complained about the drunkenness and brawling.

In 1179, the Pope announced that, "We strongly prohibit these detestable holidays....in which knights come together to show off their strength and rash boldness, at the peril of life and soul....if a man should die such way, he shall not gain a church burial".

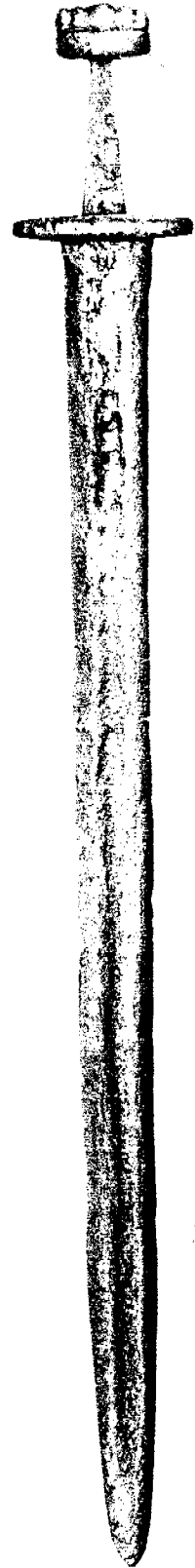
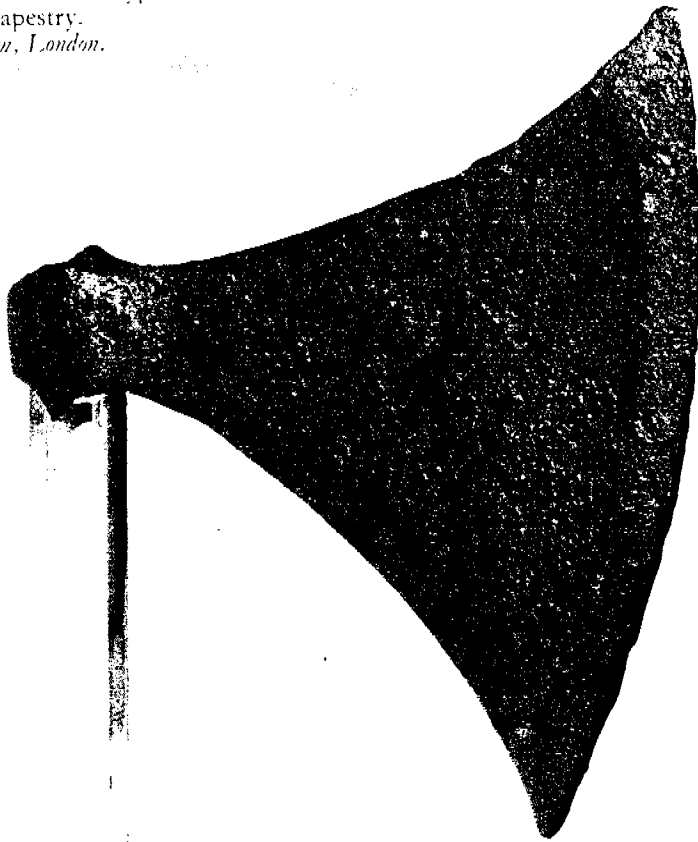
---adapted from "Medieval Fayre and Tournament Souvenir Guide", by C. Foster. Stolen from "The Chronical" newsletter of 1066.

As some people in the guard have said they'll do Two Handed  
Axe at Gundaroo, the following photos, and text is for your  
enlightenment.



Top right:  
Head of a Viking battle-axe found in the  
Thames at London. This shape, with its  
wide, slightly angled, cutting edge  
would, when mounted on a long shaft,  
ensure a really terrible cut.  
*The Museum of London.*

Bottom right:  
Head of Danish axe with its great  
cutting edge. This is the type shown on  
the Bayeux Tapestry.  
*British Museum, London.*



Sword, probably from Scandinavia,  
with a five-lobed pommel, short straight  
quillons and a broad, double-edged  
blade. 9th or 10th century.  
30.12 inches (76.5 cm).  
*Wallace Collection, London.*

EDITORIAL POLICY

"THE VARANGIAN VOICE" is a whenever I get my act together, extremely unofficial newsletter of the new Varangian Guard.

Whenever possible, sources have been listed, and all care is taken to ensure credit is given where it belongs.

Should at some time a reader's knickers get in a knot because a date may be wrong, a name misspelt, or some other error made ..... be assured, no harm was intended....

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Articles are submitted by anyone interested enough to do so, if you do not like what's in it....put in something better.  
Mailing address: P.O. Box 31, MALDON, 3463.

Steve and Margie would like your massed assaults on their fragile environment, to be on the dates below:

May 19-20  
June 16-17  
August 18-19  
September 15-16  
October 20-21

These assaults are to prepare for the super-duper Maldon Easter '85, wherein we will host the grovelling minion from other locations.



STUART

THE GUARD

ROB

STEVE