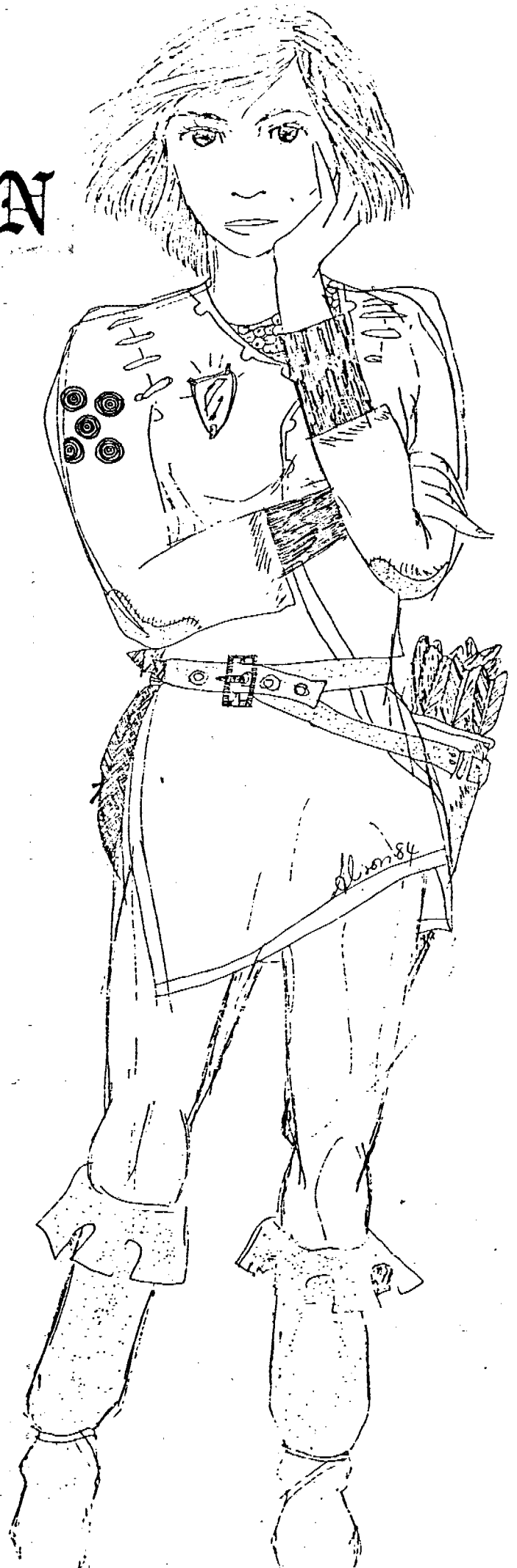


WARANGJAN

HOJJE

NOE



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 taken to ensure credit is given where it belongs.

Should at some time a readers 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....

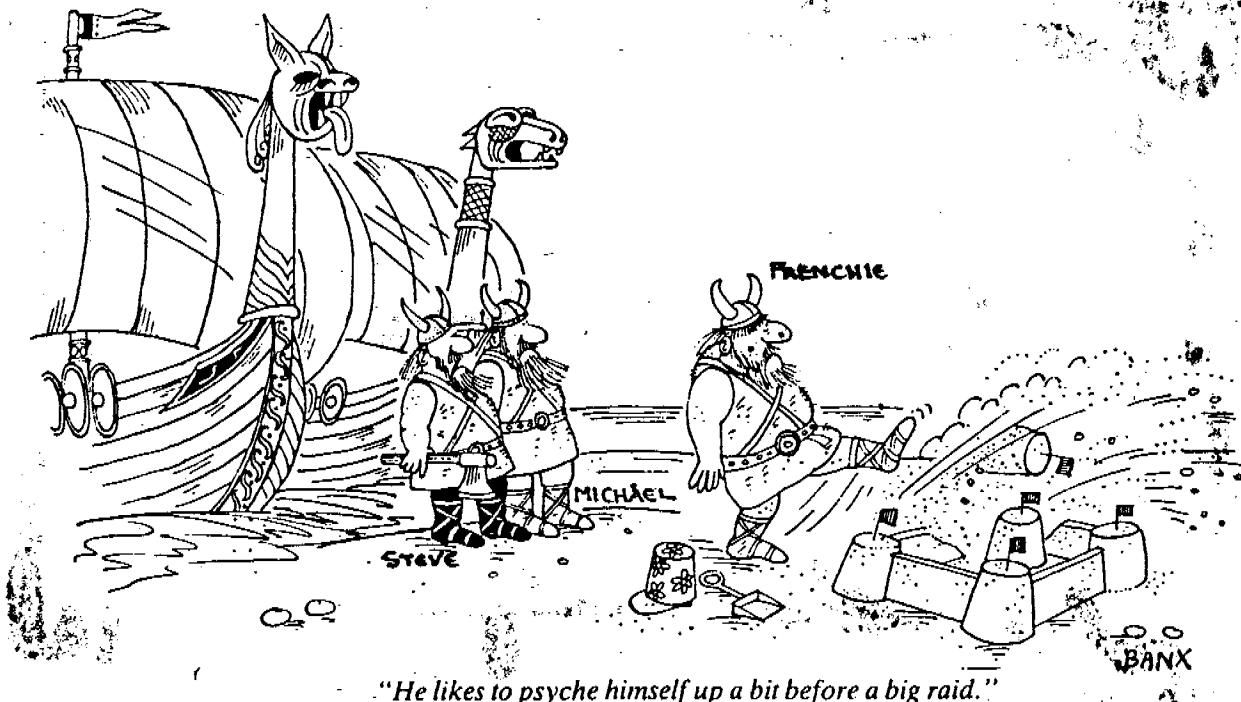
OFFICE BEARERS

Master of Arms.....Michael)	1 Gillman Street, East Hawthorn,
Secretary.....Allison)	82 6304
Money Bags..... Frenchie)	1 Henry Street, North Balwyn,
Sergeant at Arms.....Rob)	83 62903
Contact Point.....Spears Length preferably. or 03 826304	
Editor.....Steve, 054 75 2753	

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.

Thanks to Alison for Artwork, jokes and riddles.

The next working bee is on the 11th of November, one week after Gundaroo, which is on the 3rd and 4th Nov.

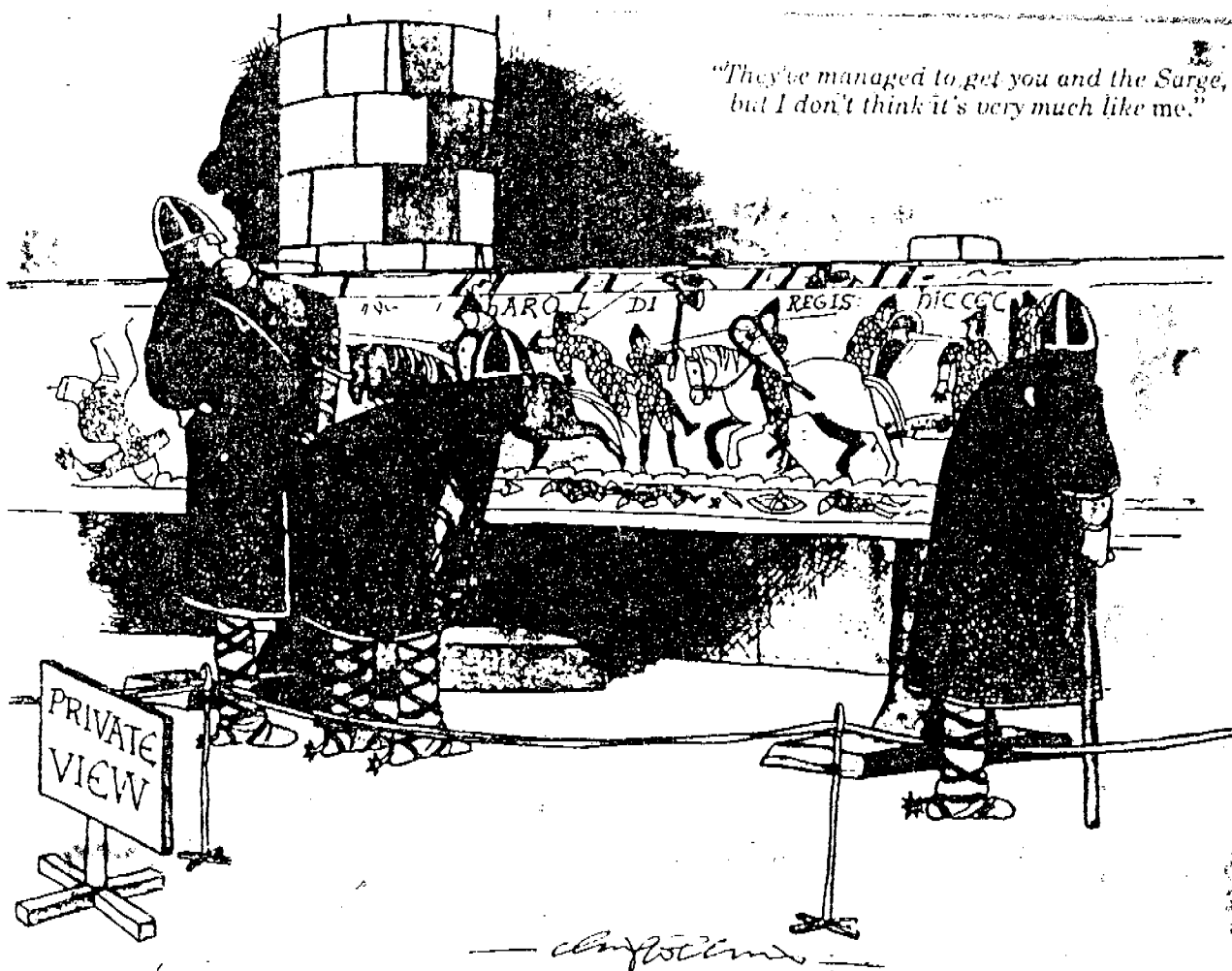


On Friday the 21st of Sept., your intrepid Editor set off armed with a check book and knowledge to hire a 3 ton behemoth load up with roy's mythical packing cases and head for Maldon. All this was accomplished with a minimum of fuss, it rained, the behemoth despite persistant goading and swearing refused to go faster than 75 km/h. But the journey in time and space, eventually came to an end. The behemoth was returned to its cave, its fee paid and a weary Editor after 9½ hours, retired to a well earned rest.

Thanks to Roy and Lisa for their help. Since then a one hundred gallon hot water service and boiler have been borrowed, so the next working bee will see the showers rise from the wastelands of Four Winds.

THE CROSSBOW

The steelbow crossbow of the 15th Century at its most powerful, shot a bolt 65yards point blank with a maximum range of 380 yards. A longbow with a similar range and higher rate of fire would seem to me to be a superior weapon. The modern crossbow of 70lbs draw is not as powerful, or as accurate as a longbow of 70lbs draw weight.



FOOD FOR THOUGHT AND YOUR STOMACH

SARACEN STEW:

(Brodo sarta cenito).

[for 6 persons]

3½ lb chicken,
1 chicken liver from chicken
2 oz breadcrumbs,
1½ glasses white wine,
1½ glasses dry cider,
dsp vinegar,

4 ox grapes
3 oz prunes,
1½ oz whole peeled almonds,
4 oz dates,
salt,
pepper.

Pre-soak the prunes overnight and boil for 10 minutes. Roast the chicken, either on a spit (50 minutes) or in a casserole in a moderate oven (Regulo Mark 5, 360°) for 50-60 minutes. When roasted, carve into six portions and place in a casserole. Put the raw liver and breadcrumbs with the cider, vinegar and white wine into a liquidizer. Blend and pour over chicken. Season. Bring slowly to the boil, add the stoned dates and almonds, and simmer for 5-6 minutes before serving.

A Book of Cookery, c. 1300 (Italian)

CHERRIES:

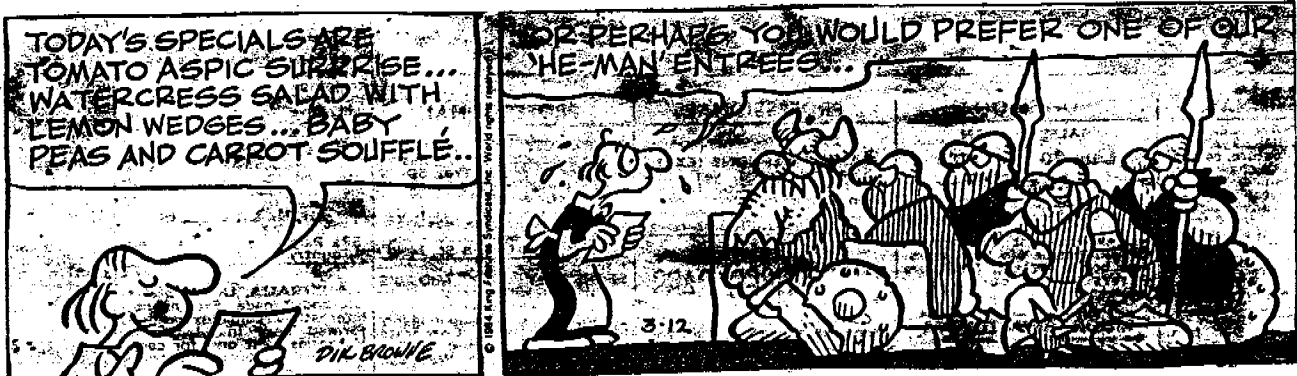
[for 4 persons]

1 lb cherries,
1 tbs lard,
1 tbs rice flour,
2 tsp sugar,

tsp cinnamon,
3 egg yolks,
pinch saffron,
1 tsp vinegar.

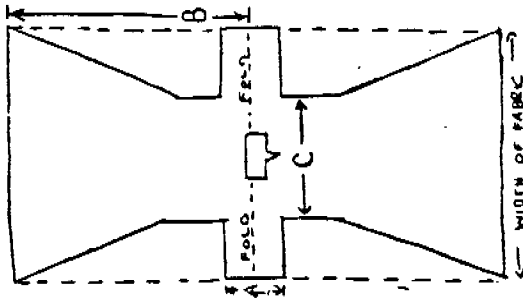
Stone the cherries. Put about a dozen on one side. Purée the remainder. Add lard and rice flour, and put in a medium saucepan. Thicken over a low flame, adding more rice flour if necessary. Stir in sugar, vinegar and cinnamon; add yolks of egg and stir until smooth. Colour with saffron and serve with the remaining whole cherries planted round the edge.

WINE BROWN BROS. SPATLESE



C O S T U M E S

The basic male garment for much of the early Middle Ages is the T-tunic. This garment was worn in varying lengths, from mid-thigh to ankle-length, and in combinations of two or more contrasting tunics by all classes, from serfs to kings.

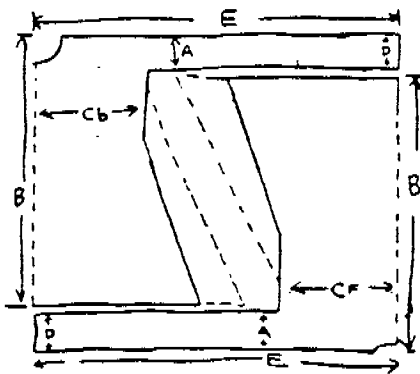


- For small people, or short sleeved tunics
- A: Bicep + 3"
 - B: Desired length, allow for shoulder and hem
 - C: 1/2 chest + 6"

Headhole should be slightly off-center toward the front



Tunics can be made using the Simplicity Patterns 7440 - for men, or 7441 - for women. Folkway's Gaza Dress, Russian or Egyptian Shirt patterns also make handsome tunics. Or if you are confident of your sewing skills, you may follow either of these two charts.



- A: 1/2 bicep + 4"
- B: Desired length
- Cb: 1/2 chest + 5"
- Cf: 1/2 chest + 3"
- D: 1/2 measurement around clenched fist + 1"
- E: Desired sleeve length

Pre-shrink your fabric before cutting by washing it first and drying it. Use authentic fabrics: linen, wool, linen-weave cottons, silk (for you very best feasting gear) in basic natural colors (remember in the Middle Ages there were no chemical dyes): brown, grey-blue, green yellow, brick-red. Avoid flashy colors, print fabrics, double-knits, corduroy, velours, and velvets. 45-inch fabric and wider is best. Use 36-inch fabric only if you are a small person. Fold the fabric selvedge to selvedge, and follow this layout.

If the tunic is too tight around the chest and upper arm, or shrinks when washed, a gusset can be placed in the armpit. From scraps of the tunic fabric cut 2 rhombi at least 4" wide and 6-8" long. Open armpit seams for 13-17". Place widest part of rhombus at the armpit, pin and baste points into under arm and sideseam. Try on, if correct, stitch. If incorrect, use a larger or smaller gusset.

In the Middle Ages, tunics with long narrow sleeves were cut with the sleeves 6-8 inches longer than the arm, and the excess material was allowed to bunch and wrinkle along the forearm. Decorate the neck opening, wrists, and hem with embroidery or tape.

THE RUIN

Splendid this rampart is, though fate destroyed it,
The city buildings fell apart, the works
Of giants crumble. Tumbled are the towers,
Ruined the roofs, and broken the barred gate,
Frost in the plaster, all the ceilings gape,
Torn and collapsed and eaten up by age.
And grit holds in its grip, the hard embrace
Of earth, the dead departed master-builders,
Until a hundred generations now
Of people have passed by. Often this wall
Stained red and grey with lichen has stood by
Surviving storms whil kingdoms rose and fell.
And now the high curved wall itself has fallen.

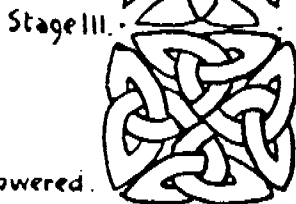
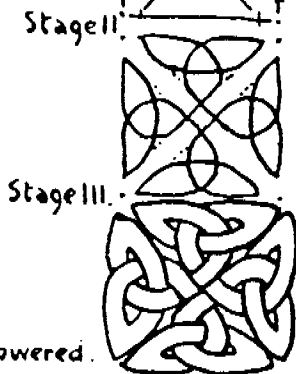
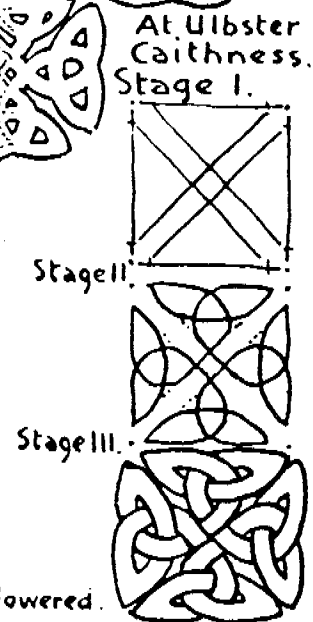
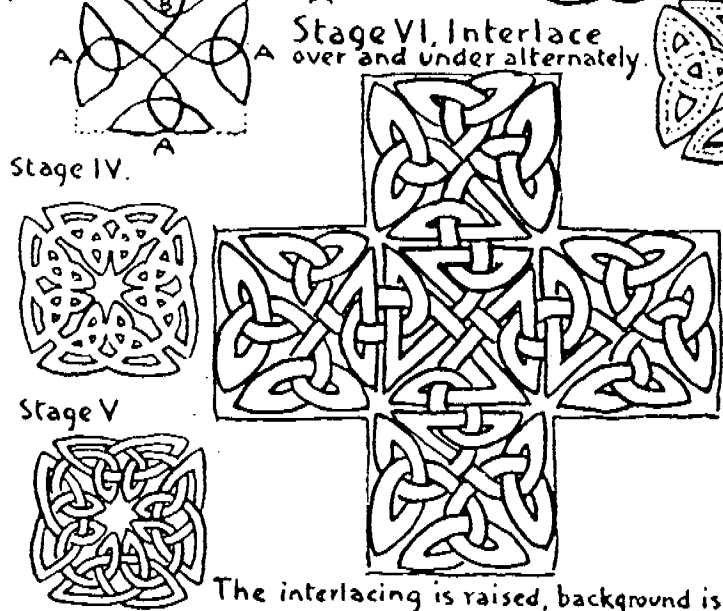
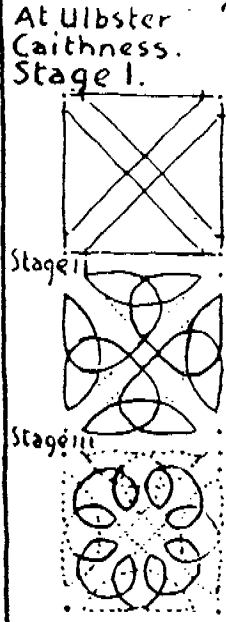
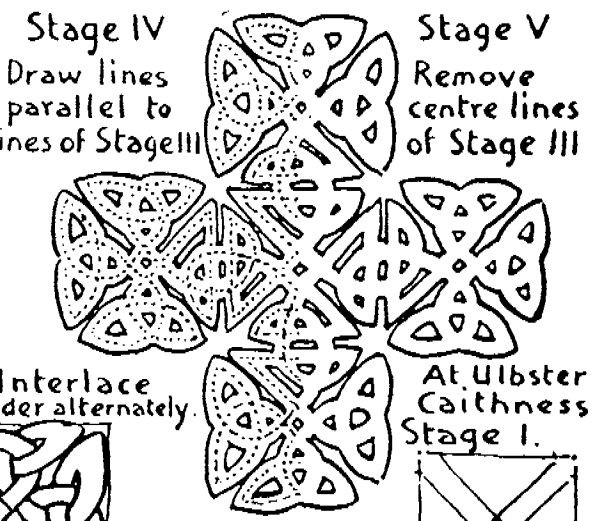
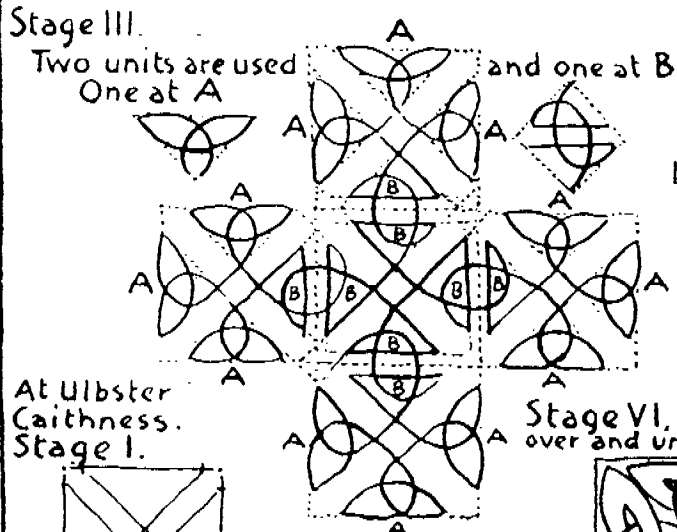
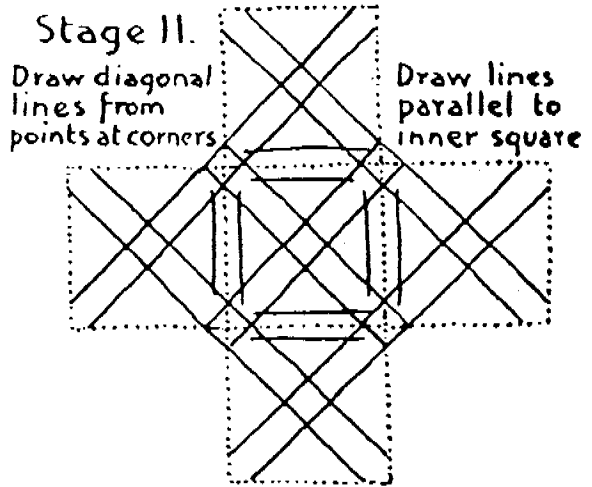
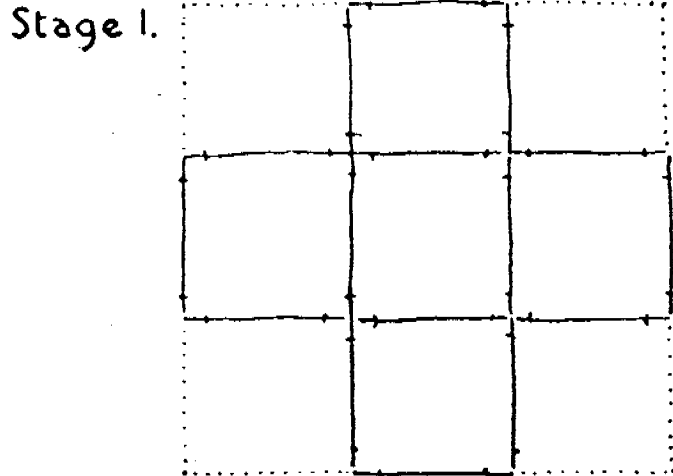
.....
The heart inspired, incited to swift action.
Resolute masons, skilled in rounded buildings
Wonderously linked the framework with iron bonds.
The public halls were bright, with lofty gables,
Bath-houses many; great the cheerful noise,
And many mead-halls filled with human pleasures.
Till might fate brought change upon it all.
Slaughter was widespread, pestilence was rife,
And death took all those valiant men away.
The martial halls became deserted places,
The city crumbled, its repairers fell,
Its armies to the earth. And so these halls
Are empty, and this red curved roof now sheds
Its tiles, decay has brought it to the ground,
Smashed it to piles of rubble, where long since
A host of heroes, glorious, gold-adorned,
Gleaming in splendour, proud and flushed with wine,
Shone in their armour, gazed on gems and treasure,
On silver, riches, wealth and jewellery,
On this bright city with its wide domains.
Stone buildings stood, and the hot stream cast forth
Wide sprays of water, which a wall enclosed
In its bright compass, where convenient
Stood hot baths ready for them at the centre.
Hot streams poured forth over the clear grey stone,
To the round pool and down into the baths.

.....
From this point most of the poem is illegible and the translation is a guess. From then on, no sense can be deduced.

Extracts from 'A Choice of Anglo-Saxon Verse',
selected by Richard Homer, Faber Publications.

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

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



The interlacing is raised, background is lowered.

Who is the raucous one, who rides hard,
Roads he has ridden before;
Untender is the kiss of his two mouths,
And on gold alone he goes.?

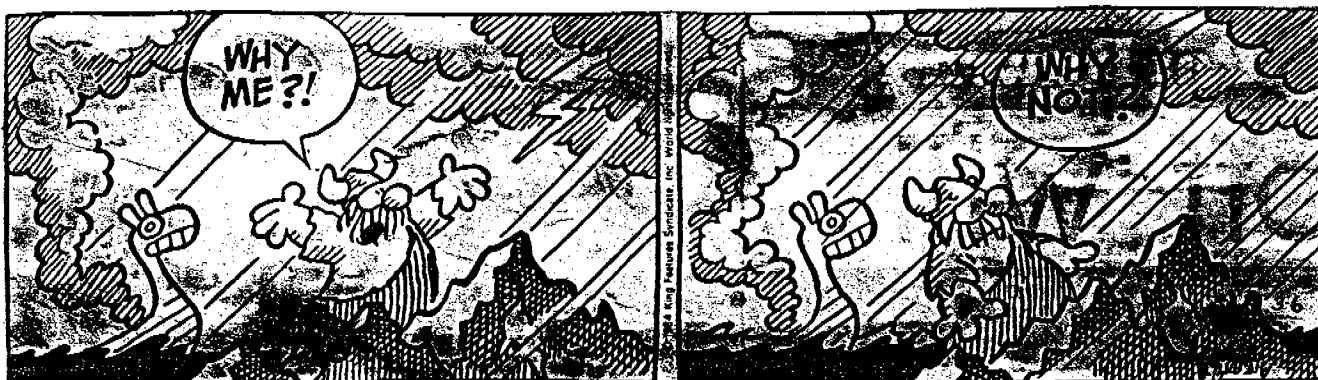
Who are these thanes? To the Thing they ride
A bold band of sixteen;
Out they go over the land
To find a fair home?

Who are the two with ten feet,
Three eyes, but only one tail?

Who is it sleeps in the hearth-place,
Created out of stone?
A lonely orphan, eager for damage,
There he shall live long.

I saw the writhing soil-dweller:
Corpse sat upon corpse.
Blind rode blind on the barge of water,
The horse had no breath in his body.

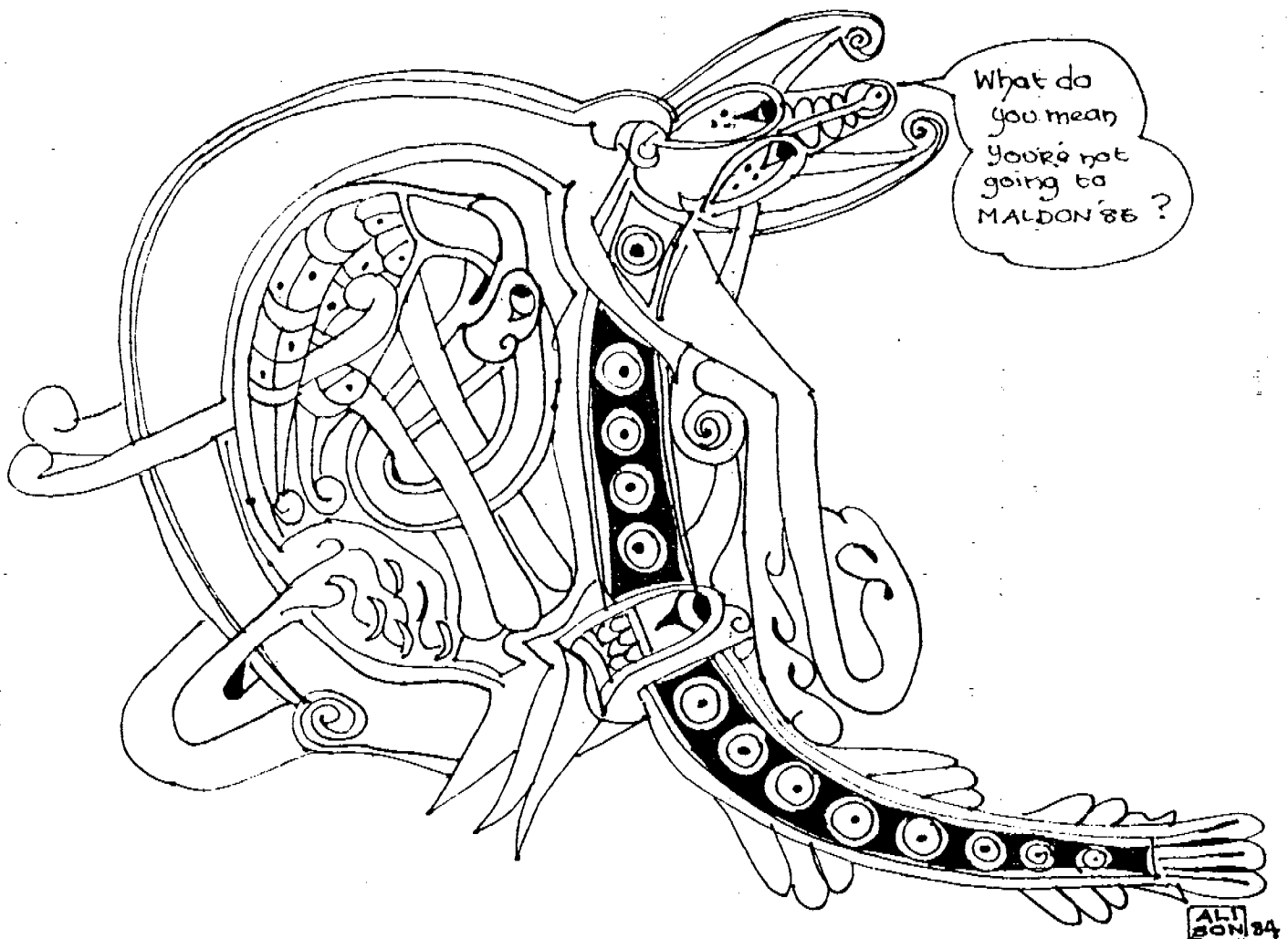
From the book, "Norse Poems" - W.H. Auden and Paul B. Taylor,
Faber and Faber, 1969.



The New Varangian Guard is a group of people whose interests converge on the period of history dating from 600 AD to 1350 AD. We are basically of Scandinavian origin, naming ourselves after the Varangian Guard of Constantinople, who were an elite guard, composed of Danes, Norwegian, Icelanders and Swedes. They were sworn to brotherhood, and their loyalty was unquestionable. The new guard follows the tradition of old. These being proficient use of a variety of weapons, and specializing in one or two. We also make our own armour, weapons, costumes and jewelry

Together with the acquisition of these craft skills, research into the history and culture of the time is encouraged, thus enhancing the authentic portrayal of this period.

Both male and female persons are trained as warriors. Such things as the weight of armour is remedied by making armour to suit the individual. It is highly invigorating and refreshing for both gender in the club to realise that it is intelligence, practice, skill and a fair sense of courage that wins a combat.



ANSWERS TO RIDDLES

1. HAMMER ON AN ANVIL.
2. CHESSMEN.
3. ODIN ON SLEPNIR.
4. FIRE FROM FLINT.
5. A DEAD HORSE ON AN ICE-FLOE WITH A SNAKE ON ITS BACK.