

Last Word: Chartres

GREETINGS AND GOOD CHEER,

As promised, I'm writing to update all of you on the status of the Chartres project. And I also wanted to let you know I have moved (yet again!), this time with the hope of some permanence (see next page). At this point I have heard from about a dozen guild members, with the following results (Please note that I have not included everyone's SCA and/or mundane name. I intend to do so in the Fall issue):

Cash Donations: I have received about \$160.00 in cash donations for the project. Of that money, I have spent \$110 on fabric covering for the columns, and another \$20 on materials for one prototype window, plus another \$20 on lights and the rest on paints and supplies. I expect the columns to cost an additional \$300, the windows about \$150, and the cost of transporting the set to Pennsic about \$350.

OTHER ASSISTANCE

General

Dan Diehl (praise his name) measured the entire barn at Cooper's Lake and sent me a complete, drafted blueprint, along with photos. He also has volunteered to apply texturing to the columns.

The Labyrinth

Master Sean de Carrigfergus, (who earned his laurel for tentmaking) will be creating the labyrinth. I have also put him in touch with Grace cathedral (a modern church) in California (believe it or not) that recently created the very same canvas labyrinth, and uses it to help people with their spiritual "quests."

Windows

I have three volunteers working to create full-sized paper templates for the stained glass. Each person is doing three or four windows, and we expect to apply "leading" and color locally, as no else has come forward.

Columns

We had expected to build these locally, as they are major endeavors. We have built one prototype, and are scratching together the cash to build the rest, but have yet to begin construction.

The Figures/Sculptures

At the last minute, two brave souls (Andra and Hieronymus) volunteered to "sculpt" two 5-foot figures. In desperation, Hilary and I had begun work on two of our own. Now, we hope to have four "lifesized" figures to guard the labyrinth.

Monks' Robes

Stephen of Canterbury has provided us with a monk's

habit pattern. I will provide the pattern to anyone willing to make at least one. Lady Amalie and company may be making nuns habits, and portraying a group of visiting nuns of the period. To date, I have been verbally promised about six monk's garments, most of them to be worn by the people making them. We could use a few more of these for the procession of the Virgin's veil.

Pilgrims' Tokens

Mistress Josselyne, director of the choir, has volunteered to find someone to make the tokens. Interested? She is also making a program for the choir performance and helping to spread the word.

Lighting

I will be working with Marc Rubenstein (Lord Aelfric of Sarnsberie) who is overseeing the lighting of the entire setting. I recently purchased 10 low-voltage track lights at a yard sale for \$20. These will back light the stained glass. We still need a couple of powerful spotlights.

Candelabras

Richard Chase did the design (see p. 7), and Sally Boberg and her husband have volunteered to help. I have asked them to make half (4) of the 8 candelabras. Unless we get more help, we will likely have to make the other 4 locally.

The Gate

No leads yet. Looking for one in salvage yards.

A Final Wish List

It's not too late to help! Here are the things we need most to make this project a success:

- **Black Fabric:** Send me your tired, your dusty, your forgotten black fabric. I need about a zillion yards of it to use for masking the stained glass windows (actually about 50 yards)
- **We need a shrine for the virgin's veil.** If you don't have time to build one, maybe someone has a gothic box we could borrow for the performance? And we need a litter to carry the box (a la Ark of the Covenant).
- **Unbleached muslin:** I need about 40 yards for the stained glass windows. If you have any lengths of at least three yards, please send a care package.
- **Cast iron gate.** Can somebody scrounge this out of a salvage yard somewhere? We need two 8 to 12- ft. sections and a hinged gate, all about 3-ft. tall.
- **Platform:** We need a simple platform that's about 6" x 6' x 16' to hold the choir. Anyone have one to loan or want to build it?
- **Cash.** While it's certainly not an obligation, we will unabashedly worship the very humus beneath your period footwear if you deign to show us your largess. The project continues to grow more expensive.

Yours, In good hopes,

Arlof, Count of Arammar