

Pennsic Progress 1994



GOOD NEWS!

I'm happy to report that not only the quantity but also the quality of architecture at Pennsic improved this year. Foremost among the new housing starts, Seppo Tanimen designed and (with help) constructed this immense, portable tudor house (above), which serves both as merchant booth and campsite, and has a built-in second floor sleeping loft. He said he still planned to finish the interior, but the exterior was superb, a combination of permanent and temporary materials. I understand it took him three days to set it up, but I've learned from experience that no major temporary edifice goes up much faster than that. Bravo!

The other major structure of note was a portable Norse stave church (below), brought to the war by John the Artificer. I heard conflicting reports as to its origin (so correct me if I'm wrong), but I think he bought it from somebody at a big Renaissance fair. Anyhow, it was especially impressive on the inside, with plenty of exposed wood to capture the morning light, and careful decorating to help in creating the special space. Unfortunately, he had to park it out on the flat Serengeti. It would have looked even nicer nestled among some trees or on a hilltop. Its best feature, however, is that the house is mounted on a trailer, so it travels in one piece, thus eliminating the nightmare of set-up, and making the word "portable" less ominous.

Another encouraging sign was the return of many of the other large gates from years past. Johann Kinslayer, for example, added some very impressive towers to his already impressive frontier palisade gate (the Ironwood gate from last year). The East Realm gate was back (with improvements), and the latest incarnation of the Trimaris royal gate defined their seat of royal dignity. There were many others, and probably some I missed, so please send photos if you saw other projects we should document.

