



I hope you will allow me the Celtic indulgence of boasting a little about our Guild.

In case you were one of those poor unfortunates who missed the culmination of the Chartres Project at Pennsic, it was an unqualified (if hard-earned) success. Here's a sampling of the testimonials I heard after the performance:

- Merald Clark's (Duke Sir Merowald) was the funniest: "For thirty minutes," he said, "Pennsic didn't suck."

- The most surprising footnote came from Count Sir Solomon (Spider), a well-known fighter-type from Trimaris. "I was sitting in that cathedral thinking, I don't want to go drinking tonight," he said. "I don't want to chase women. I want to make something like this. That's what this is all about... In fact, I almost cried, then I remembered, 'Hey, I'm Spider, I can't cry!'"

- A gray-haired woman approached me. "I've been in the SCA 30 years," she said, "and I had totally given up hope. Now I know why I put up with this group all this time. My husband and I sat in there all night, looking at the stained glass."

- Sir Severin, knighted on the previous evening took Hilary by the hand. "Up until now," he told her, "I hadn't known what it was to be a knight. Now I feel like a knight."

Again, I thank all of you who made this project an unforgettable milestone for our group, and perhaps (all modesty aside) the Society as a whole.

But you can read all about the project in the full-length supplement included in this issue, so I'll try not to beat the topic to death any more. Suffice it to say, "we built it, and they came."

On to the future. I have included in this issue a couple of other articles of interest. After my experience with Chartres (there I go again), I am ready to move wholeheartedly into the arena of permanent architecture. If and when we ever attempt such a major project again, I hope

it will last for a century or two. For the time being, however, I am content to do a lot of restive contemplating.

Our meeting at Pennsic was very poorly attended, in part because I moved the meeting site at the last minute, and (I suspect) because the large majority of our Guild members don't go to Pennsic. I don't think the annual meeting is critical, but the first year it felt like a lot of fun. Assuming I go to Pennsic, I will probably continue trying to have a meeting, despite the lousy turnout.

While at Pennsic, I was approached by another gentleman who has several acres of land he is willing to DONATE as a site for permanent structures. Unfortunately, I think he lives in Washington state. More on that next issue, I hope.

Things are starting to happen across the country. More and more people are talking about permanent sites, medieval villages, etc. I spoke with Angelica D'Aquila recently, and we shared a vision of a half dozen permanent sites, one for each geographic region of the United States. It's a lofty goal, but since when has that stopped us? I believe the Guild needs to encourage (and participate) in the construction of one of these permanent sites in the next five years or so. This site would serve as a prototype for similar "havens" across the country - although they would certainly be different in time period, architecture and mood, and built to fit the local geography and climate. I intend to visit a non-Society site of this type in northern Maine soon. Last year, I took a graduate course in museum management, where I talked with the head curators of the Jamestown reconstruction and colonial Williamsburg. I think we can learn from these models without imitating their mistakes (and without depending on Rockefeller money).

I welcome your comments or ideas about any of these topics. It's good to be back. By the way, I now have email: Roman321@aol.com. Send me letters or articles there if you wish.

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