

MORE LETTERS

The tone of letters, you may notice, has changed. These people are SERIOUS about architecture! I hope you will find their comments, research and advice as useful as I have.

Wanted: plans and a cauldron

There is a chair I'd like to know how to make. It's made out of two pieces of wood & uses no nails. I call it a star gazer chair. The boards interconnect (fit like a puzzle). One board has a piece cut out of it & the other board fits into this. Also, I'd like to know how to make a break down trestle table. Also, I'd like to know how to make my own pavillion. . . Do you know where I can find a cast iron cauldron—one I can cook in?

Ruth Ann Stahl

Found: A portable wooden town

For the ultimate Pennsic project: (From *A Distant Mirror* by Barbara Tuchman) **For the planned French invasion of England c. 1386:**

"Of all the preparations, the most stupendous was the portable wooden town to protect and house the invaders on landing . . . It was to have a circumference of nine miles and an area of 1,000 acres surrounded by a wooden wall 20 feet high reinforced by towers at intervals of 12 and 22 yards. Houses, barracks, stables and markets where the companies would come for their provisions were to be laid out along prearranged streets and squares. William the Conqueror had brought a dismantlable wooden fort to England in aid of his landing 300 years before . . ." (page 426).

"Meantime in mid-September, disaster smote the portable town. Loaded aboard 72 ships, it was on the way from Rouen to the Scheldt when the convoy was attacked by an English squadron out of Calais, and three of the ships were captured, along with the master carpenter in charge of construction. Too big to enter Calais, two of the ships were towed to England and their sections of the town exhibited in London to the awe and rejoicing of the English." (p. 429)

Courtesy of Timothy T. Burke
Hon. Ld. Sean of Carrigfergus

Applied tapestries

I have seen skillfully applied tapestries in Spain when we lived there, that could be made from scraps of garb. One was so good I had to REALLY LOOK to see if it wasn't real. The faces were painted or embroidered. One used light garment leather and tambour stitching for all skin areas.

For transferring patterns to tapestries. . . why not use the period technique for transferring patterns to frescoes? Just draw what you desire,

lifesize on paper. When it's perfect, take an awl and prick holes (fairly close together) in the paper along the outlines. Lay the paper on the fabric. Take a handkerchief and fill it with charcoal powder or crushed colored chalk—and tie it shut. . . Then tap the bag along the outlines on the paper and the powder will go through the holes, leaving a dotted outline of your work. This technique is called pouncing.

Ann Gillespie
Isabella de Boyce

Silkscreening wall hangings

My lady and I found an excellent substitute for acrylic paints—silk screening inks. We have used these inks from a local art distributor (Dick Blick) and they work wonderfully. Water soluble until heat set (We used a dryer at the laundromat with high heat settings); it cleans up easily and stands up to washing extremely well. . . It paints on quite easily with normal brushes or foam brushes.

Joseph Heck
Terras MacRorie

Details on Roman Tents

. . . may be found in McIntyre, James and I.A. Richmond. "Tents of the Roman Army and Leather from Birdoswald," in *Cumberland and Westmoreland Antiquarian Society*, N.s.v. 34, Transac. Kendal, 1934."

Timothy T. Burke
Hon. Ld. Sean of Carrigfergus

From the Editor:

A Note on Shire Subscriptions

A couple of you have ordered subscriptions to the newsletter for your shire library. I think this is great, but please ask your shire members not to photocopy articles. I have had to get permission to use some of them—and none of us who write them want to see them in somebody else's book for sale at Pennsic—unless that person has first cleared the use through either the original publisher or the newsletter.