

# Shadowy Fixtures

By Matthew Power  
*Arch. Court of Aramoor*

**WHEN CONSIDERING** the daily environment of our medieval ancestors, it's difficult for us to understand what to them was an irreconcilable fact: Nights of total darkness were the rule, not the exception.

The nobles, of course, could afford to burn the midnight oil, as it were, but even they could only achieve a fraction of the candlepower that we expect from a single light bulb.

The presence (or lack) of light can do more to enhance the medieval experience than almost any other element of setting. Chances are, if you're involved in medieval re-creation, you already know this.

With this and future articles, I hope to give you some ideas of how to create period lighting fixtures and encourage their use. Don't tolerate fluorescent lights at court any more.

Offer an alternative.

For example, chandeliers such as the one below were very popular in medieval Spain. Most were made of wrought iron and had at least a minimal level of design work, often in the form of crowns, crosses or lilies. At about this time, artisans began adding winged griffins to their hanging chandeliers – a detail that later became a mark of Spanish construction.

## 14th Century Spanish Hanging Candelabra

*See the candelabra plans that follow for a more detailed description of similar construction – Ed.*

