
THE SEVENTH AUSTRALIAN MEDIEVAL CONVENTION

(April 9th -12th 1993)

Progress Report, February 1992.

The Seventh Australian Medieval Convention will be held over Easter 1993 at Glenfield Scout Camp, 30km south-west of Sydney. For the first time, the hosts are a group of individuals (with various club affiliations) who are co-operating to produce the best and most eclectic event possible. Overseeing the preparations is a Steering Committee, with Sue Drain as President; along with Craig Gasoigne as Treasurer; Wayne Robinson as Secretary; and Christobel Ferguson and Mark Koens as ordinary members. The committee reports back to an open meeting of interested people from the movement at regular intervals, everyone is welcome at these meetings.

In keeping with the current high ambitions for authenticity in the movement, we have decided to maintain a specific period on each day, with food; entertainment; and combats planned accordingly. Period costume for each theme would be ideal, but is in no way compulsory.

For example, the menus: Friday night will be Early Middle Ages⁴, the banquet will feature such delicacies as boiled pork; fish; stews; and spiced ale. The major feast on Saturday night will be Medieval/Early Renaissance (AD1200-1500), with roast birds and other choice items. Sunday night has been set aside for a Crusades period Eastern feast, notable for an absence of pork. Breakfasts will be self-catered. Lunches will as authentic as possible, but modern food items will be available for those of a delicate morning disposition. Vegetarians can be provided for (if they give notice). For those who prefer a liquid diet, the Routiers have been asked to open the *New Magdeberg Tavern* once more.

Scheduled mass combats have been divided into broad time frames. These will include: Ancient and Early Middle Ages (to c. AD1066); Medieval (dominance of mail); and Late (transition to full plate armour). There will also be opportunities for melee involving projectiles, and the usual free-for-alls for those ancient Celts who want to go against Gothic plate.

All combats will be marshalled, and it is hoped that each club attending will provide marshals for the pool so that everyone gets the chance to fight. Any group that wants to do a display of their special martial style, such as the Routier's pike drill, or AMMAS' gladiator duels, please contact the Committee so that we can assign you an official time slot. Alternatives to combat will include workshops; lectures; discussion groups; games; and Hollywood's medieval offerings in the form of videos. Anyone prepared to present a relevant seminar or run a workshop is encouraged to contact the organisers as early as possible. The Market will also be slotted in earlier than usual so that you can make more use of your purchases at the Conference. Craftspersons - if you wish to advertise your wares in the official handout, let us know, we will be happy to oblige;

Many competitions to be held will be similar to those at past Conventions, but this time we want you to bring REFERENCES. With each entry in a manual skill competition, documentary evidence for the original item and the method of manufacture of the replica should be provided. This is to take some of the responsibility of being 'authenticity police' off the judges (who really can't be expected to know it all). Entries are solicited for the following manual skill competitions

4. Known as the *Dark Ages* to the unenlightened.

in the categories listed below:

- Weapon Making - Professional; Amateur; Most Authentic Overall.
- Armouring - Professional; Amateur; Most Authentic Overall.
- Craft - Jewellery; Other Items.
- Costume - Best in Each Period; Most Authentic Overall. Judging will occur in daylight prior to the main feast (fashion parades?).
- Beverages (includes all types of potables).

Other skill competitions will probably include:

- Archery.
- Thrown weapons.
- Bardic - Musical; Spoken (Prose/Poetry); Theatre (all should be at least inspired by authentic originals).
- Combatant - Most Authentic in each period division (includes equipment/appearance, skill, and style).
- Most Authentic Historical Re-enactor(s). All attendees will automatically be entered in this competition (whether by group; pair; or individual - your choice). The winner will be judged by the appearance of their clothing and personal equipment; their campsite; and their demeanour over the entire course of the weekend.

Sub-committees have been formed for organising catering; publicity; safety; banquets; combats; games; movies; and lecture/workshop programmes; and for running the competitions and the market. All of these groups would appreciate your involvement. Please contact Sue, who will put you in touch with the appropriate people.

Further details and entry forms will shortly be posted to group representatives, and will also appear in the June issue of New Hedeby.

Enquiries may be directed to:

Sue Drain Wayne Robinson



- Wayne Robinson,
- Peter Beatson.

(on behalf of the Steering Committee)

AUSTRALIAN MEDIEVAL CONVENTIONS (to be incorporated).