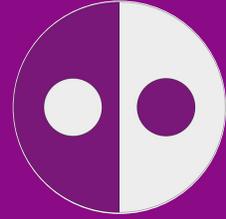


JUNE 2021 ISSUE 3

# PENFEATHERS

The official Youth Newsletter of  
The Kingdom of Meridies

*Please send all contributions to [penfeathers@meridies.org](mailto:penfeathers@meridies.org)*



# FAITH, HOPE, AND NOBILITY

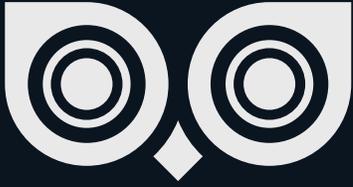
TAKE A LOOK AT WHAT'S  
INSIDE:

**An Interview with THLord  
Thorhall Wufstanson**

**Puzzles, Coloring, & More!  
Articles written for kids  
and teens by kids and  
teens.**



# Interview with TH Lord Thorhall Wulfstanson



What is the hardest part of being in the SCA?

This is going to sound a little boring: time and money. There are friends I want to support, event I want to attend, things I want to do, and dozens of little projects I want to experiment on. And I have to make choices, because unfortunately, I can't do all of it. "What is the hardest part of working on a project?" Finishing it, definitely. Diving in is easy. It's the closer I get to the end where I start fixating on all of the little flaws and imperfections, and that can get overwhelming. My best cure for that is to simply take a step back for awhile - work on something else, take a break, grab lunch, whatever - and reevaluate it with a cool head. Then I can decide which flaws are critical, which ones are acceptable, and which ones give character.

Have you ever had a terrible injury while you were fighting?

Yes, sort of, hard to answer "terrible," but I do think the worst injury I had was when my pinky exploded (bad, but not as bad as it sounds). Fighting with a greatsword, and I was holding by the pommel because I don't always make good decisions. Well, a sword landed directly on my fingertip, the pommel (a chunk of solid metal) acted as an anvil, the gauntlets couldn't do anything because I was using them wrong, and there wasn't so much pain as there was pressure. And blood, a lot of blood. So that stayed with me for a few months, think it was a hairline fracture, healed itself up, left a neat little scar, fingernail fell out and regrew, and a lesson was learned.

## Have you ever thought of leaving the SCA?

Yeah, the thought's occurred to me. When I was really young, I just thought it was a cool and - by my mind - kind of normal thing. Then I found out it was less common and a thing people didn't really relate to, so I stopped talking about it for awhile. Kept that part of my life separate from my mundane friends in middle school through early college. Looking back, that was a generally terrible decision to keep it from my friends, especially from high school onward, but that's a different conversation. On top of that, it was around 5th grade that my family stopped playing SCA altogether. We moved and had whole lot of other things going on, so it just wasn't as important. Thing is though, I never really stopped thinking about. Much as I kept it quiet - or like to think I did - I was, and am, a nerd. And I do love fighting. The style and way it's conducted is so different and unique where it's a combination of athleticism and an honor system that just resonates with me. That was probably the biggest draw for me, and even now if it came to point where I could not fight, I would still be in the SCA, but if fighting was no longer allowed I don't think I would remain nearly as active. So around 15/16 years old, I decided to rejoin. So as a short answer, I suppose I actually did leave for awhile, and the thought stayed with me enough that it affected my behavior outside the SCA even after rejoining. But for my case, I found that I enjoy and value the things that I do now and actively wanted to perform them, SCA or no. So I had reason to return.

## Why did you stay in the SCA?

Basically, because I wanted to. There were things I wanted to do, and while I could have gone to other organizations for similar experiences, nothing else really appealed to me or quite covered my interests.

## If you ever have kids will you try to get them to do join the SCA?

I would certainly feel comfortable bringing them along to events while they are young, same as I would for a baseball game or a movie. Beyond that, we would need to see what - if anything - they find enjoyable enough to stay involved for. Whether or not they decide to continue in the SCA later on in life, it's their choice and I will still support them either way.

## Has it been difficult for you being a fighter in the SCA with Covid around? If yes how?

It's sort of like; having a lot of homework, and there's a test coming up, but you're not sure when the test is going to be, and you haven't gotten all of your homework back either, so you're not sure what you are and aren't doing wrong anymore. I'm not sure it's difficult, because technically I'm at my own pace, but I would like to be out there doing the big thing to see where I'm at.



### What is your favorite part of being in the SCA?

Definitely the fighting. As a close second, I like recreating medieval things in the SCA because it always feels like someone's daring me to do something medievaly, and I just go about accepting the challenge. (To be clear, no one is actually egging me on, that's just what my inner monologue sounds like)

### What gives you hope? How important is faith?

For hope, it's just a matter of perspective: Do you see something worthwhile on the other side of hardship. Of course, I hope that things go well, but at the same time I hope that when things go sideways, it's either a learning opportunity or at least interesting. There are some really cool islands in uncharted waters.

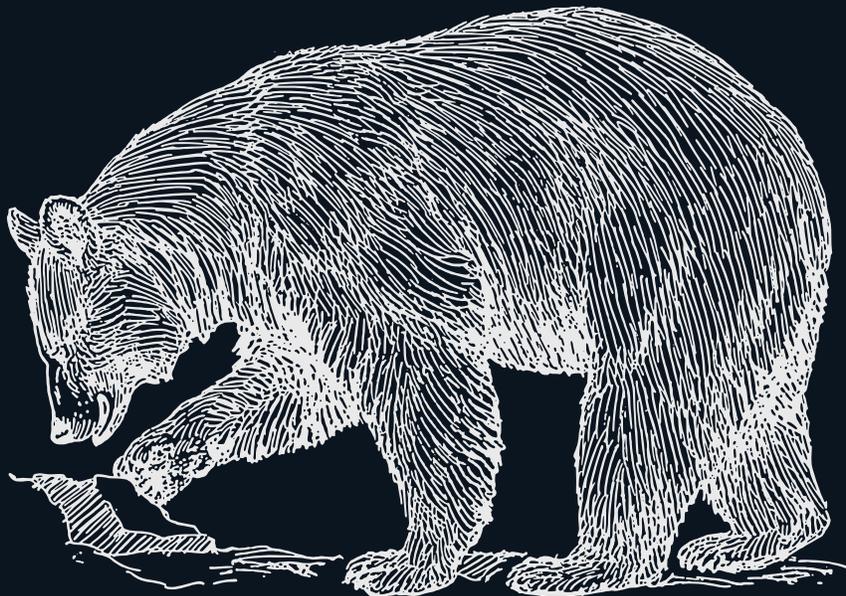
As for faith: However you find it, faith is incredibly important, because faith is enduring loss and hardship. We all lose sometimes. If courage is moving a large rock, faith is seeing all the bugs, and mud, and little sharp edges, and knowing that it might be too heavy for you to lift. And knowing that you have to try to move it anyways.

### If you were King what would you do?

Move in any direction on the checker board. Also other kingly stuff like holding court, and leading armies, and all that.

### Who is your favorite noble person and why? ( In real life and the SCA).

Historically, Saladin. I don't think I've read a story of him where he didn't behave nobly or at least flaw understandably. Mundanely, Keanu Reeves. I don't keep up much on celebrity news, but for similiar reasons I cannot recall much in the way of bad press. In the SCA, Mykeal Halfdan. He is sadly no longer with us, but I mainly remember him with competence, kindness, and fairness. I also think Master Edward of Yarbrough and Duke John the Mad Celt are fine examples for anyone to follow.



## What would be the perfect event?

A day of fighting well enough that even people who don't generally like fighting enjoy the show. Weather cool and fair enough to wear my full garb comfortably. Finally getting the musicians to break stride laughing in the middle of a dance set. Hanging out with friends. Nap under a tree (or hay bale, or whatever). Retreating to someplace quiet and making something when I've got an idea brewing or my hands are restless. Enjoying the night without any particular reason why. Really, just find something you enjoy and do it. The rest will work itself out.

## Also what is your favorite food.

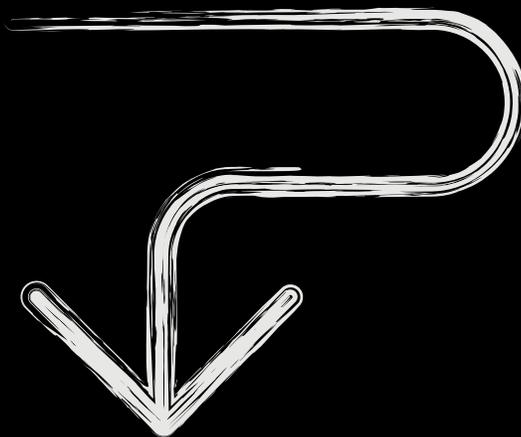
Either lamb or venison. I also like that hákarl exists. Not for the sake of eating it, its existence just amuses me.





# The Art of Fencing

The Next issue of Penfeathers will be on the art of fencing  
and the use of the Rapier!





# INTERVIEW



## Lady Aría Sparrow

Hello everyone I'm Aria Sparrow (but you can call me Ari if you'd like!)

If you ever happen to see someone running around in a teal dragon onesie it's probably me on a quest. I have been fencing since highschool and as soon as I picked up a sword I couldn't put it down. In my mundane life I work at a bookstore making drinks in the cafe as well as stocking books. I'm a bit of a bookworm as well! One of my favorites from my childhood is the Olympian series by Rick Riordan. If anything really drove me to fence it was reading about the awesome hunters of artemis. When not on the field fighting you can find me either eating some snacks (my favorite being cookies), taking a nap or playing pranks on my brothers (that's my favorite thing to do at events but don't tell them). I am an open book so ask away!

SAVE

THE

DATE

### IMPORTANT DATES

Interview Questions	Due by Aug 1st
Articles from the youth	Aug 1st
Art & Science pictures from the youth	Aug 1st

YOUTH COMBAT  
ARTICLE ON THE

# Chivalric Values of Faith, Hope & Nobility

BY LADY MAIRGHREAD WILSON



As the Kingdom Youth Marshal, I could teach our youth how to build a sword, drone on about the importance of pell work, and getting/keeping your kit in working order for the day when we are able to play once again. However, I wish to speak to something far more important than crafting swords and armor, and that is building the content of their character. Justice and courage are two of the knightly virtues that we aspire to in the SCA. What are these virtues and how do they apply to us?

Justice requires impartiality and fairness; it is not always easy. Unlike a spirit of vengeance, which is far more common and counter to our knightly virtues of justice and mercy. Revenge is NOT justice. The administration of justice requires a level head, void of strong emotions. One must look at multiple perspectives to gain understanding, even perspectives contrary to your own beliefs. There is always more than one side to every story. Learn to listen without placing judgment, because it is hard to be truly just when you have a narrow one-sided view with only part of the facts. Justice goes hand-in-hand with courage.

"I learned that courage was not the absence of fear, but the triumph over it. The brave man is not he who does not feel afraid, but he who conquers that fear." ~ Nelson Mandela. Courage is shown by an ordinary person who overcomes their fear; sometimes at great personal cost to do something extraordinary in unusual circumstances. It takes great courage to go against the crowd, and sometimes our own personal feelings and desires to do what is right, and what is best for the greater good. Integrity is akin to courage; it is doing what is right, even when no one else is looking. Integrity dates back to ancient Rome, where soldiers would line up for inspection. They would beat their breastplate with their fist and shout "integritas", showing that it was in good repair, solid, able to withstand the stress of battle. Courage is one such virtue that allows us to stand strong in the face of adversity. Learn to be brave in your endeavors, but also remember to be just and merciful in your actions. May the strength of your armor and weapons be as strong as the character of the person wielding it.

# player one

VS



# Their Royal Highnesses





# Find The Modern Objects



6 items should not be in this famous painting by artist Pieter Bruegel Titled "The Peasant Wedding".

POPCORN, WEDDING CAKE,  
WEDDING BOUQUET,  
PHOTOGRAPHER, RING, RUBBER  
DUCK

# Word Search

Q G O O D N E S S R H X K U Z  
D Y M H V F F R V W B T W P G  
R C C Y S W M J V H U R J Q G  
E V J O D H L C I O B U P E O  
A G I X N R E J R P S S F A R  
M W N K V V J V T E G T U S M  
S I T J E H I F U Z R N N P I  
U S E W D S B C E C Q C O I W  
W H G N H K E D T G O K T R O  
U K R C D N L M V I M D K A D  
C U I C D F I F Y Z O T U T S  
S Y T X C G E A A T Q N T I L  
Y R Y M F U F M J I Y S F O K  
J V K G Y A O B H O T B R N I  
N G N O B I L I T Y D H U O V

Conviction

Aspiration

Integrity

Nobility

Goodness

Belief

Virtue

Faith

Trust

Dream

Hope

Wish

# YOUTHFUL EXPRESSION



17 AND UNDER

## Tips and Advice on Raising Chickens

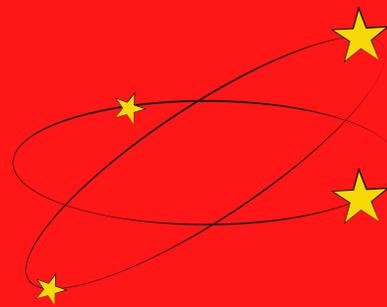
By: Aden and Ronald Ap Turner

Photographs: by Deedre Turner and Ronald Ap Turne

Chickens domesticated between 8,000 and 10,000 years ago in parts of Asia and India. The chicken came to Europe about 3000 BC.

Here are some of the things we have learned about raising chickens.

Chickens need a safe place to sleep. This is called a roost. This place must be able to keep predators away and they need room to peck and scratch. Our Chickens live at our house in the woods. We let our chickens out so they can free-range. That means they get to find some of their own food without being in a coup. They love bugs and weeds, but they also need chicken feed and water to make sure they get the proper nutrition. Sometimes we give them dried mealworms as snacks. Baby chicks need to stay really warm when they are small they need to stay under the hen. If you take the eggs and hatch them without the mother, the chicks need to stay at 95 degrees for the first week of their life. Our Mom uses a heat lamp to keep our chicks warm.



Add a Chickens are called cocks or roosters when they are grown-up males and hens if they are female. When they are still young, they are called pullets if they are female and cockerels if they are male. How can you tell if you have a male or female chicken?

Roosters crow and crow loudly! They also have spurs, bigger wattles, and combs. Roosters are bigger than the hens of their species. Hens have two-step wings, which means that their wings are not smooth and have two different lengths when stretched out from their bodies. Hens lay eggs. They cluck and are smaller than the roosters. Hens and roosters come in many different colors.

Things we have learned about our chickens: Roosters are very protective; they make funny sounds when they think they are in danger. It sounds like an angry teapot whistle. Chickens are extremely fast when they want to be. They can run and fly small distances. They hate getting wet. They however love dust baths. They kick up lots of dust and cover themselves to keep bugs off them. Their poo makes great fertilizer for the vegetable garden. Eggs are not just white like you see at the grocery store. They come in many different colors, such as dark brown, tan, pink, slate blue, and pale green.

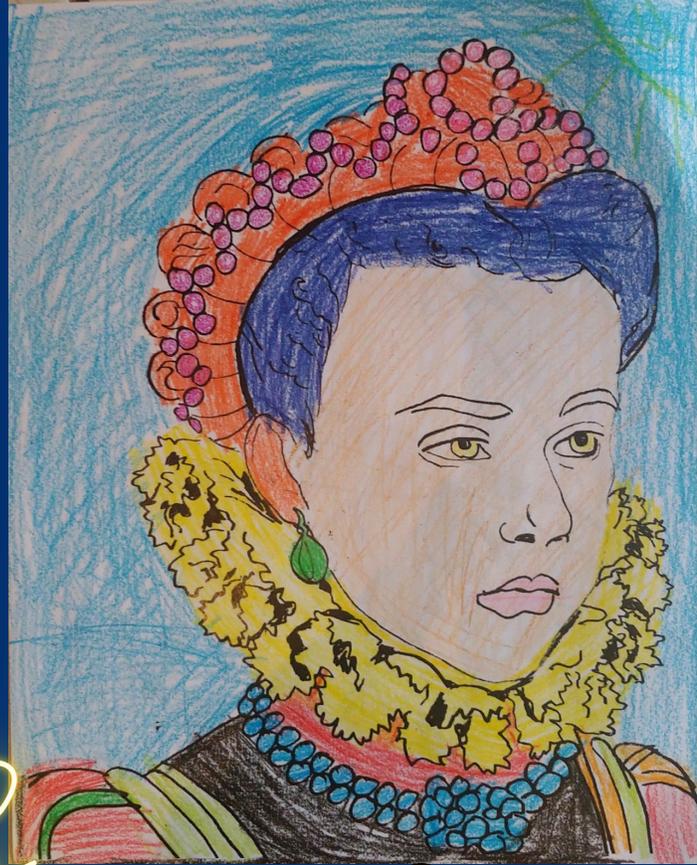


# Arts & Science!

Let's work on those skills!

Starting on the next page, Penfeathers is providing you with coloring pages! Practice your scribal skills and send us a picture of the results. Your art will be posted in the next issue of Penfeathers! We are also providing the steps to a science project. Send photos of you working on it with your parents and you will see your mad scientist skills in the next issue!

Send to [penfeathers@meridies.org](mailto:penfeathers@meridies.org)



A&S  
Spotlight



Send your art to [Penfeathers@meridies.org](mailto:Penfeathers@meridies.org)

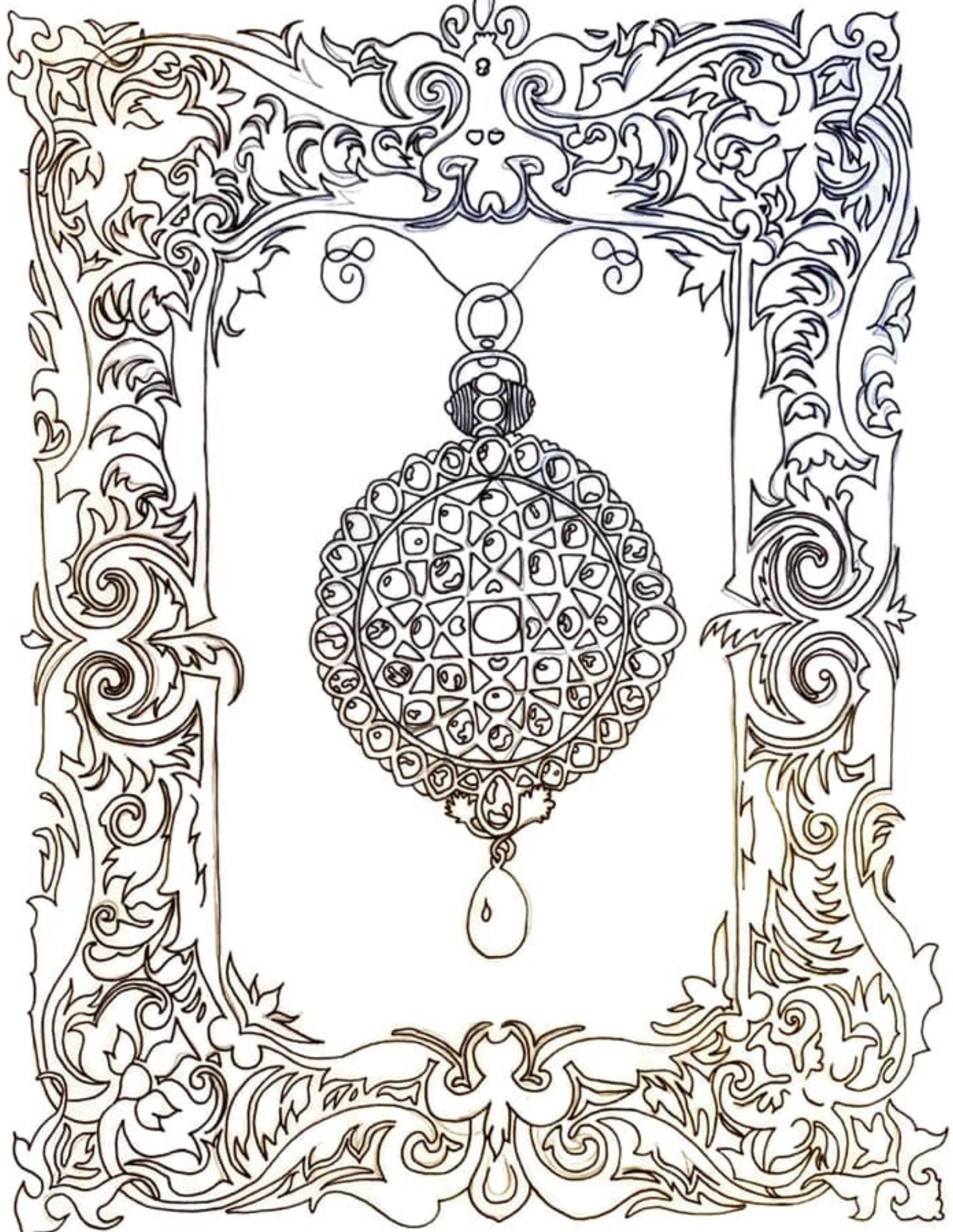


The coloring pages found on the next two pages are provided by <https://collettedavignon.com/blog/>

The Jewel Book of Duchess Anna of Bavaria (1552). P.53  
Hans Mielich (Munich). Digital

The Aberdeen Bestiary, Owl, folio 50r (1542), University of Aberdeen, Latin (2021)







# SCIENCE

# LET'S MAKE A SUNDIAL



You need

- paper plate
- pencil
- modeling clay

Write the numbers 1 to 12 at equal distances on the back of the plate. Make a hole in the middle and insert a pencil. Fix it with the clay so that the pencil stands upright. Place the sundial in a sunny place. (I suggest placing it right at the hour mark. Like at 11 am) Rotate the sundial to synchronize it with the current time. The shadow of the Pencil should point to the correct hour.

# Contributions

Photos and Videos Provided  
by

MISTRESS ELLEN DELACEY  
MISTRESS KATHERINE OF RED-FJORD  
THL JESSICA OF OSPREY

L EACHNA OF CLONMAKATE AND THE MOST  
PATIENT OF ALL PONIES DRAGON'S LAIR  
MAZURKA



*The Social Media Team of Meridies*  
And

MASTER NIKOSLAV MIKOLAEVICH

*merci*



All videos and photos featured in Penfethers are authorized by the videographer and photographer who captured the images. They are shown with a focus for Families and their children to enjoy. Parents of any child whose features are recognizably captured in a photo or video have given their express consent to have their child included in videos and photos. Any articles, artwork, or questions featured by a child, have permission to use by a parent. All photos and videos follow the Kingdom of Meridies Social Media guidelines.



Edited by **THLady Jane Wolfdan**

*Gracias*