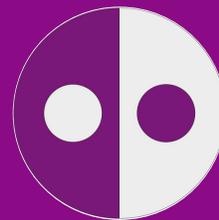


SEPTEMBER 2021 ISSUE 3

# PENFEATHERS

The official Youth Newsletter of  
The Kingdom of Meridies

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



## THE ART OF FENCING

TAKE A LOOK AT WHAT'S  
INSIDE:

**An Interview with Lady  
Aria Sparrow  
Puzzles, Coloring, & More!  
Articles written for kids  
and teens by kids and  
teens.**



# Interview with Lady Aria Sparrow



## **1. How did you get into fencing?**

I heard from a friend that they were offering classes at the local university and it all started there.

## **2. How long does it take to get ready?**

Depending on how early the fight is it can take me 15-30 minutes to get ready. I'm very thankful my gear is basically a dress.

## **3. What gear do you use?**

My gear is a basic helmet from dark wood, a Italian rapier, chest guard or chainmail, a ThatGuy™ gorget and lace up boots.

## **4. What is the worst thing about fencing?**

The worst thing about fencing is the warm ups I have to do. Worth it but it's still the worst.



### **5. What is the best thing about fencing?**

The best thing is the rush during a fight. With or without a team it's a new experience every time and there's truly nothing like it.

### **6. What is it like to be a female fighter?**

It's a different experience for sure. I've had both good and poor reactions from others for it. But the best part for me is knowing I can kick butts in a dress and look flawless while doing it.

### **7. How often do you practice?**

Ideally I would be practicing 3 days a week. In truth I can usually manage once a week between work and school

### **8. What would be your dream fencing kit and why?**

My dream kit I already have the only thing I would change is a shorter/ lighter blade. I love mine but some days it feels clunky

### **9. What would be your perfect SCA event?**

My perfect day would be running fencing scenerios, a nap, more scenerios and then a good feast ended with stories by the fire.

### **10. If you could what would be something you would change about the SCA to make it better?**

If I could change one thing it would be the stress behind leveling up (like becoming a peer) Sometimes it feels overwhelming and something I should want but I rather just have fun all day and not worry about it. Its probably just a personal thing I need to work on but it's food for thought.





**11.What kind of armor do you have to wear?**

My armor is mainly a chainmail shirt under my layers of dress. Plus my helmet and chest guard.

**12.What is the sword called that you use?**

**The sword I use is a rapier. Italian to be exact.**

The sword I use is a rapier. Italian to be exact.



**13.What's the favorite prank you've played?**

My favorite prank would have to be hiding my brothers scholar collar. He got it back later but it was fun watching him search for it.

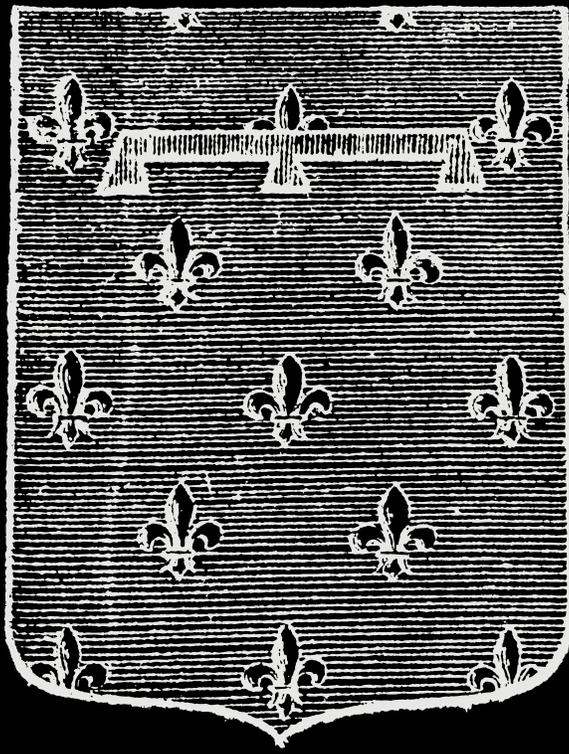
**14.What's your favorite kind of cookie?**

My favorite is a plain chocolate chip. But if I wanna feel fancy an Earl grey chocolate chip is also good.

**15.What's your second favorite snack besides cookies?**

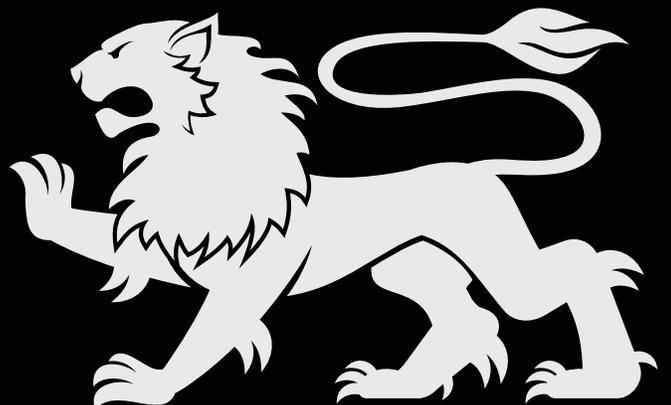
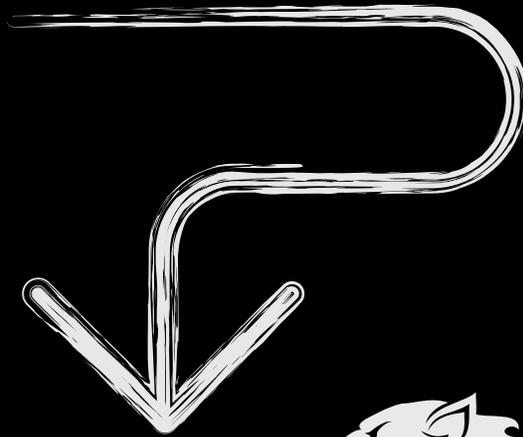
My second favorite snack changes often but as of now it's a bag of goldfish. Perfect for hiding in my pockets (because yes my dress has pockets and yes I sneak snacks onto the field someday )





# Heraldry!!!

The Next issue of Penfeathers will be on the art of being Loud!!!



NEXT

INTERVIEW



## Magister Taran the Wayward

Greetings, I'm Taran the Wayward. If you need to use a title, I prefer Magister, but I answer perfectly well to "Taran". I can usually be found doing something herald like —announcing fighters at a tournament, helping people design their heraldry, reading scrolls from behind thrones at court, or being a general loud mouth. Many times, I can be found wearing a cloak with tons of small shields on it (heraldry for people I have worked for). I frequently teach about cool ways to display heraldry (more than flags and shields) but I also have some skill with bardic arts—singing, poetry, and storytelling. I have been in the SCA more than half my life. I started playing in Atenveldt and moved to Meridies close to 10 years ago. In my modern life, I am a social worker and teach new social workers about issues around social justice. I look forward to your questions on these or any other topics that you want to explore with me.

SAVE

THE

DATE

### IMPORTANT DATES

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

# What is a Dussack?

BY MASTER NIKOLAUS HILDEBRAND



If you've seen some fencers hanging out in the late afternoon or evening swinging around what appears to be a giant nalbinding needle, that was probably dussack fencing.



The dussack is a unique category of single-handed swords that may refer to a training weapon or an actual sword. At a glance it resembles a cutlass (a naval sword seen in a lot of pirate movies.)

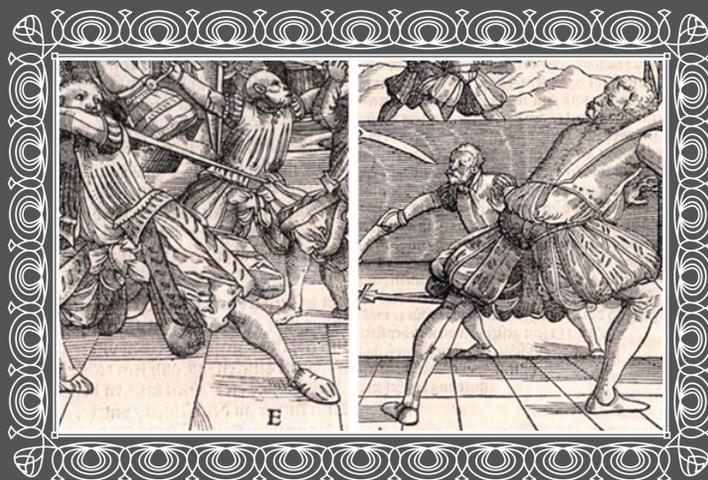
The training sword would likely have been made of wood or possibly wood and leather, but there are no surviving examples of these.



The steel counterpart could have a straight or curved blade with a variety of guards and on average had blades that were 30-35 inches long and weighed about 2 ½ pounds That's like a yardstick that weighs the same as four cans of soup.

The earliest appearance is in Paurñfeyndt's treatise of 1516 and continues to make appearances in images as late as the 1700s. One of the most well-known German fencing systems of the 1500s was that of Joachim Meyer.

Meyer included dussack in his treatise and noted a sword in two hands can be trained with a sword in one hand and vice versa.



# MUSIC WITH

## *Master Mathias*



L'homme armé doibt on doubter. On a fait partout  
crier Que chascun se viegne armer D'un haubregon  
de fer. L'homme armé doibt on doubter.

The armed man should be feared. Everywhere it has  
been proclaimed That each man shall arm himself  
With a coat of iron mail. The armed man should be  
feared.

# COMICS

What do you call a fake noodle?



An impasta!

People have been making and eating noodles for centuries, all over the world!



What is your favorite noodle?

**Punny Pages**

by: Baroness Sunniva de Cleia



# Find The Modern Objects



6 items should not be in this famous painting by artist CAMPI, Vincenzo Titled "Kitchen".

SALT AND PEPPER SHAKER,  
BLENDER, CAT TOY, SPORTS  
BOTTLE, CELL PHONE, AMAZON  
PACKAGE

# Fencing Search

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

Disengage

En Garde

Engage

Feint

Sword

Capo Ferro

Caranza

Rapier

Sabre

Line

Fencing

Advance

Parry

Beat

Agrippa

Giganti

Lunge

Touch

# 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)

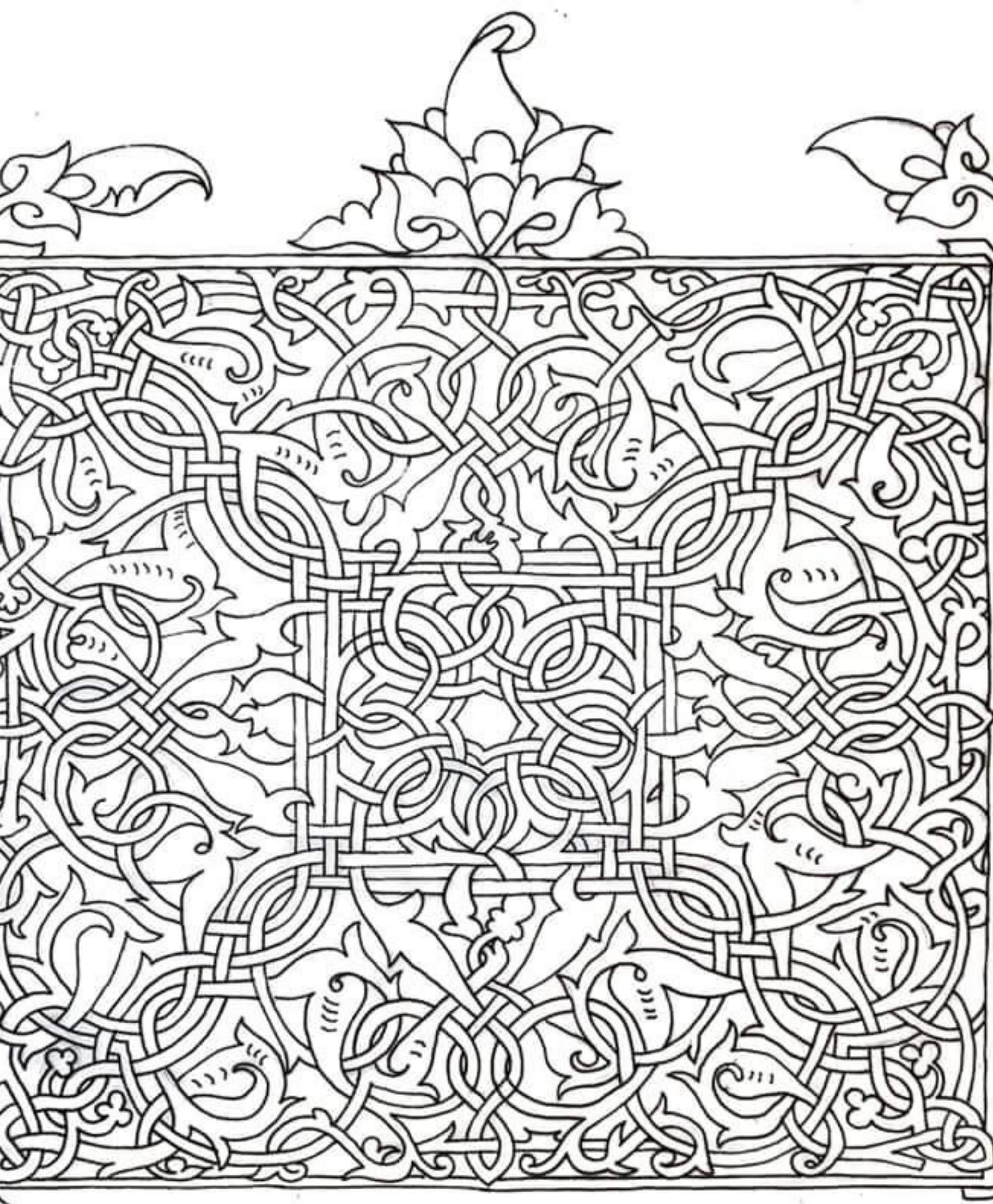


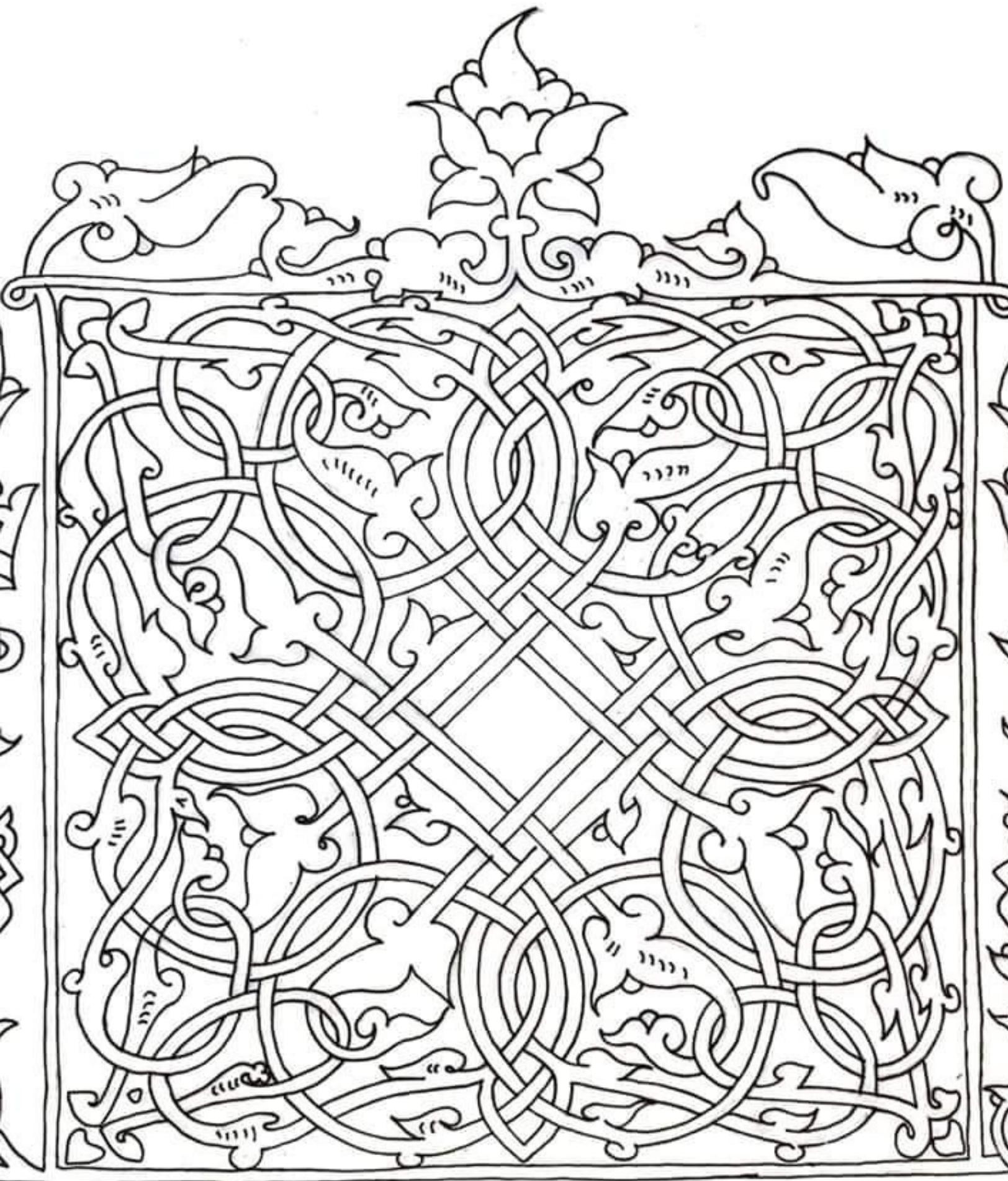
The coloring pages found on the next two pages are provided by <https://collettedavignon.com/blog/>

Walters Gospel Lectionary, for 9r (1594) Greek. The Walters Art Museum Baltimore. Digital

Walters Gospel Lectionary, for 68r (1594) Greek. The Walters Art Museum, Baltimore. Digital







# 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*



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Edited by **THLady Jane Wolfdan**

*Gracias*