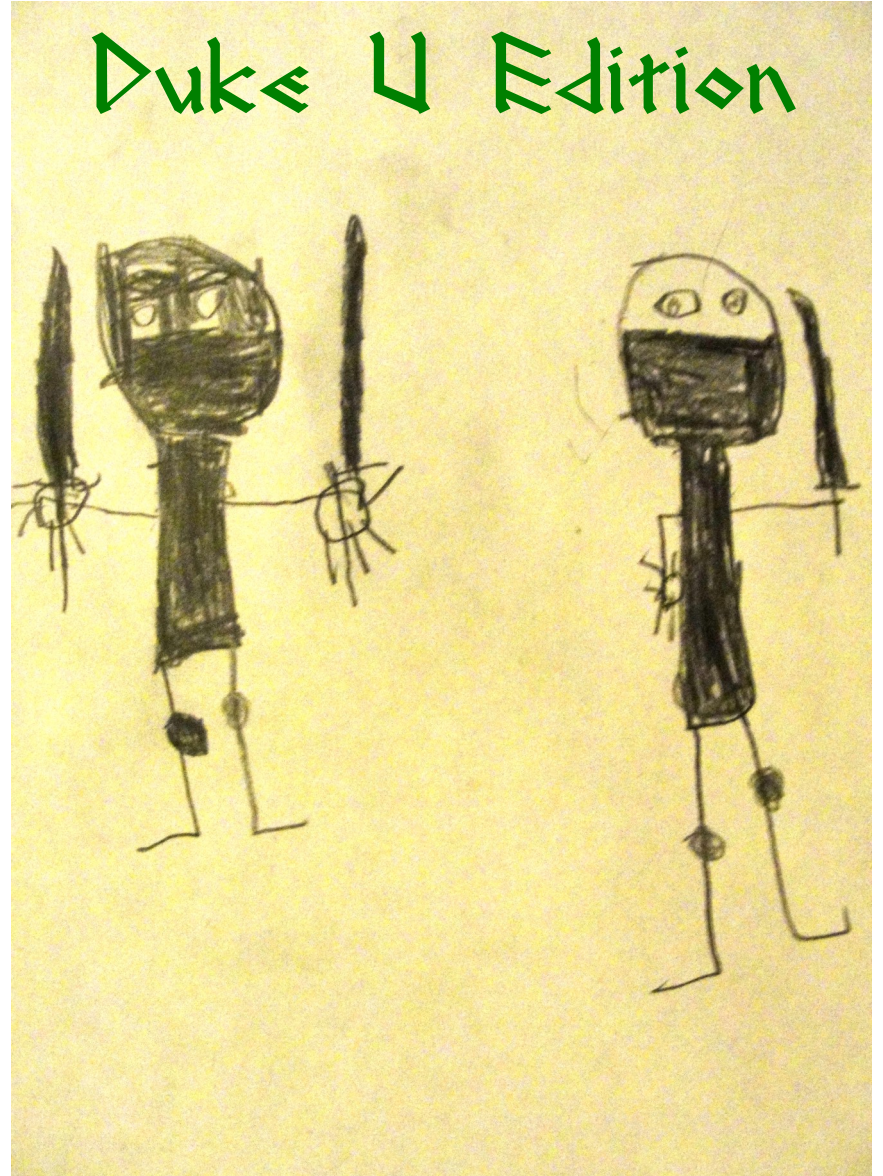


# Castlelore

## Duke U Edition



The Castlelore  
4526 Kingsbury Street  
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Thank you to all who contributed to our newsletter this month:

This months cover art: **By Samuel Shores age 6**

**Poem: A Sirens Call by Katreina Evelyn Lee**

**Article: Making a Horn Cup Cover by Bran Buchanan**



**If you would like to contribute to the next issue of Castlelore please send me an e-mail to [chronicler@castlemere.org](mailto:chronicler@castlemere.org).**

Before any personal work can be used in our newsletter I will also need a signed release form. They can be found on the SCA website: <http://www.sca.org/docs/pdf/ReleaseCreative.pdf>

**Wording must be exact to be legal.**

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**"A Sirens Call" -song.**

**A Sirens Call,  
to the sea.  
To lead you to your Grave.  
And be with me {line echos}.**

**Come with me, My Love.  
To a Watery End.  
We'll Lie together,  
in a Heaven created from Hell.**

**Come to me, My Love.  
Hear the Sirens call.  
Come, Oh One, and all.**

**I shall show you the Beauty...  
-Of Dying.**

**-copywritted Feb. 9, 2004**

**-by.Katreina.com-**

**-sca Katerina Evelyne Lee-**

# Shire Calendar

## November 2011

5	Trimaris Duke University	Castlemere
11-13	Martinmas Moot	Kingdom
19	Trimaris Scribal, Heraldic and Service Symposium	Darkwater
26	Bungle in the Jungle	Starhaven

## December 2011

2-4	Sea March Yule	Sea March
2-4	Long Nights Caravan	Marcaster
9-11	Oldenfeld Yule	Oldenfeld
9-11	Yule Event	Trysel

## January 2012

13-16	Scot/Welsh War	Kingdom
20-22	The Pageantry of the Sun	Sangre Del Sol
27-29	Trident Tourney	Darkwater

## Recurring Shire Activities

1st Monday	Armoring Night—HL Ambra's Home	7:00 pm
2&4 Mondays	Instrumental Practice—HL Ambra's Home	7:45 pm
3rd Monday	Castlemere Troup of Players—HL Ambra's home	7:45 pm
Tuesdays	Sword Drills and Pell Practice—Duke Gunnar's Home	7:00 pm
1&3 Tuesdays	Bardic Night—Duke Gunnar's Home	7:00 pm
1st Wednesday	Xena's Troupe	7:30 pm
1st Thursday	Shire Business Meeting	7:30 pm
2&4 Thursdays	Castlemere Classes	7:30 pm
3rd Thursday	Shire Populace Meeting	7:30 Pm
Sundays	Fighter Practice	1:00 pm
21st each Month	Castlelore Submissions Deadline	

# Shire Officers' Announcements

## Seneschal:

Greetings my friends,

First and foremost, I would like to thank all of our Shire Officers for getting their reports in, not only on time, but also early! A proverbial cookie goes to Lord More Takeo who was the first to report. And Drake, you get the rotten egg for being last. The great thing about reporting early, however, is that our last was still well before many people's firsts and so I commend you all on your individual efforts to make Castlemere the standard.

Thusly have we helped meet our duty to Kingdom and put us back on track before the end of 2011. Excellent work, people, and a great way to round out the quarter!!

Please remember that your Doomsday reports are due December 1st, unless otherwise specified by your office. Please be sure to speak with your Kingdom Officer to ensure your reports are submitted on time. And thank you again for all your diligence in meeting this deadline and those past.

HL Ambra Michelli, Seneschal

## Chronicler:

Greetings Shire!

Thank you all for the support for the first two months of our newsletter. I know the first one was "functional" and had plenty of content. Now I hope to keep improving them. Our shire is hosting Duke U this Month and so that is the inspiration of our Castlere. The cover was drawn by a young member of our shire when asked to draw a picture of his Daddy fighting. I believe the daddy is the one on the right. The knee armor is my favorite!! I hope to see everyone at Duke U and enjoy our issue.

If you would like to contribute feel free to send me something or contact me [chronicler@castlemere.org](mailto:chronicler@castlemere.org).

In Service,

Bryndis



dabbed the drilled holes with superglue before driving the nails - this encouraged the nails to not work loose. Once you've done that, rub a bit of hot wax over the nails to be sure you're still sealed - if in doubt, check the bottom and inside, you can always reseal with a little hot wax.

Now the test! Take the now done horn, fill it with cold water and set it on a level surface on a paper towel and let it sit for half an hour. If its properly sealed, you will have no leaks, and you have just completed your very own horn cup!

## Step 5 - Remember the Nub?

Here we see the nub end - which is really just recycling. Pictured is one I happened upon in an antique shop. It cost about 6 six dollars, and once I saw it I realized what had been done, and found it easy to replicate. Taking the tip, I trimmed the top opening, leaving enough to make the ear, which I filed to

shape and drilled. Then, just as in this example, I carefully lopped off the point. At this point, cleaning but the inside was a piece of cake, and I used some leftover wax to seal the horn. Its just the right size for a thong, for wearing around the neck or off the belt. As you can see here, done this way, theres no need to fabricate a plug, and voila! A handy little small cup that holds just about two shot glasses of your favorite mead or spirit. Its really a very frugal use of the horn! And the last little bit of tip makes a very handy pouch button, too.



## Caring for you Horn Cup

Your new drinking vessel is durable and with a little care will last you years. Cleaning it is simplicity itself - pour in lukewarm water ( never hot! As it will melt the wax) and placing a hand over the opening shake vigorously. If things are sticky, a bit of warm soapy water works well too. But be sure to rinse as if you've used beeswax the soap can break it down . Modern soaps are designed to break down organics, and beeswax qualifies, but this is less of an issue with paraffin.

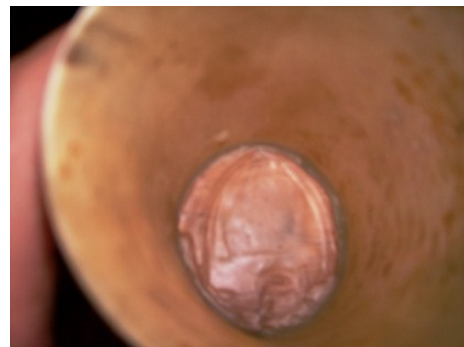
Remember, however, this is a cup for cold drinks only! Hot drinks will ruin your seal - the horn will hold up fine, but fill it with hot coffee and you're likely going to find it drizzling hot coffee as the seal melts out. If that happened, all is not lost - just empty it, and you can rinse it out to be clean and reseal just as we did before.

This is what you should wind up with - a nicely fitted plug, flush all round and flat on the bottom. Once the plugs fitted and tight, we're ready to go to the next step.

### Step 3 - Sealing the Plug

Now, looking inside you can see some gapping - that's to be expected, and is honestly kind of inevitable.

Take your wax, and heat it up to liquid - not boiling, as it will burn. I suggest a small saucepan, simply because its easier to handle than a large one. Then, drizzle a bit of wax into that gap, and swirl the horn around. You'll let it cool, then do it again. It may take several times, but don't rush, as you actually want to saturate the plug and fill that gap - get



in a hurry and pour too much and the hot wax will melt what just cooled. Ideally, you should have the plug tight enough of a fit that none escapes. If some oozes out of the bottom, not to worry. That just means you're filling the gap. Of course, if its TOO gappy, I'd suggest making a new plug and fitting it.

When you're done, what you should have will look like the photo to the left.

You can see here where we've filled the gap, and sealed the wood of the plug with a layer of wax. That's exactly what you're after.

### Step Four - Nails and Other Things

Gently bore a series of holes around the perimeter of the bottom of the cup. Not the wood, as it will weaken it. We're doing this so we can be sure not to split the horn when we nail it - horns soft enough to work, but its also brittle, and this is a precaution against ruining our work so far. Once you've bored the holes - I used the point of a knife, a small drill works well too - nail the nails in gently tapping with the hammer.

You will want to use round headed nails, as flat ones will develop sharp edges - and tend to nick hands. I recommend brass for a couple of reasons - they don't rust, and when they tarnish they will take on a dark appearance resembling iron, with none of the rust or discoloration iron will create. I also

## Hospitaller:

Greetings,

We have had a few new participants join us over the past month; and hope that our that our group participation continues to grow. Remember, we grow as we strive to grow. So if you know of someone that might enjoy our activities, invite them to meetings and fighter practices.

Yours, In Service,

-lefan



## Exchequer:

Greetings to the Good Gentles of the Shire of Castlemere,

As of October 21, 2011, we have \$4,706.73 in our coffers, increased this month by the reimbursement of the Summer Art/Sci - Trimaris Duke University 2011 feast expenses from Kingdom. I am still awaiting word (or better yet, a check) from Kingdom on the amount owed to Castlemere from the profits from this event. We are also making progress in getting the \$200 deposit refunded from the Springfield Woman's Club from our Twelfth Night event last January. Lord Fasti has met with the Woman's Club's finance officer, who is researching what happened to the check they supposedly mailed to us. Hopefully we will have an answer from her soon.

If you have any other questions about the Shire's finances or about the Office of the Exchequer, please feel free to ask me.

In Service,

Cara

# Shire Officers Continued

## Heavy Weapons Marshal:

Fighter practice is has been canceled for the first two weekends of November due to Duke U and Martinmass Moot. See you all back for the second half of the month.

If you are not going to make the events and don't want to take time of remember, we have pell practice/sword drills on Tuesdays at Duke Gunnar's home.

Finally Wednesdays have started back up again now that Ragnar is home from his deployment.

Fight with Honor,

Fasti

## Rapier Marshal:

Hello, I have invited rapier fighters from stronghold of northern marches and other surrounding groups, attendance spotty due to weather, working on getting Don Gunther to attend more regularly as his schedule permits. Also Don Cullen is now attending fighter practices. his knee replacement went well. I will be forwarding my flex testing by this Wednesday.

## Youth Marshal: (pro-tem)

Greetings,

If you are interested or have a child interested in youth fighting please contact me.

Yours in Service,

Lord Mori Takeo



Sand the edges a bit:

## Step Two - Making the Plug

Take your wood bit. I used a piece of one inch plywood, because its what I had to hand, but if you can get a pice of one inch solid wood, that's best. Oak is great, but hard to work. Pine will do if you take care not to splinter it.



Mark with pencil the outside diameter, and then reaching inside do the same. This will both tell you how thick the horn is - you'll notice that its thinner in some spots - and allow you to make the plug a snug fit. Take note also that we are not working the horn, we're working the wood.

Now knock off the excess wood - chisel it, saw it, whatever suits you, down to the outer line. This is the rough diameter. Now comes the tricky part - fine filing with a wood rasp or whittling ( I did it that way) down to the point you can gently fit it into the narrower end. You'll want to just be able to fit it without forcing. Be sure to file it carefully, as what we want is as snug a fit as possible. Lightly tap it into place with your hammer - lightly! If you get too heavy handed, you may crack the horn, and while you can salvage it for other things, as a cup it'll be ruined. If its too tight a fit, sand on the plug. Never sand the horn, remember - its all about fitting the plug. The horn is flexible, but only somewhat, so don't overdo it.



## Step One - Get That Horn!

There are all sorts of places to get horn, and while you can look online for all kinds; the place I went was Tandy. The horns they carry may not be the best for carving - you want thick horns for that - but for our purposes here they work just fine. Plus, they're already clean and somewhat polished. So that's one more chore we can avoid. Plus, they aren't costly. The horn I used netted me two drinking vessels, plus a nubbin from the tip.

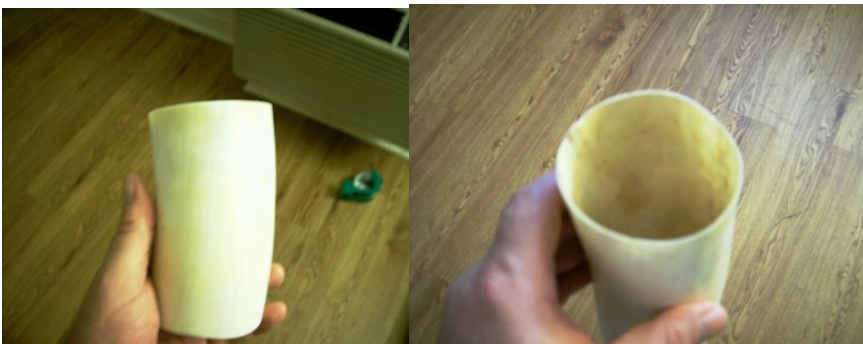
Tools used here are strictly mundane, and the horn aside, I got everything from the nails to the beeswax at Ace hardware.

To start with, look over that horn - you want to look for blemishes, dimples or dents. If it's cracked or perforated it's no good, so be sure to examine when you buy. Of course, we're cutting it down, so where the hole, if any, can be worked with, but why pay for a flawed horn?

Now that you have it, clean it up a bit. Not overly so - we're about to mess it up - but if you wash it and remove grease or residue it's certain to be easier to handle. Dawn dish soap works great.

Regarding the horn - depending on size you'll get either one big cup, or two smaller ones. Either way, the technique here will be the same. Once you've decided what size you want, start by cutting off the tip. If you can, make it about six inches from the tip, and retain the nubbin - you'll see why shortly. Horn is as soft as wood at this stage, but much slicker - I scored the cutting point with a kitchen knife (or you can gently saw a light notch) all the way round where I wanted to cut it. This didn't make the cutting faster, but it did make a groove I could follow, so it was much easier to handle. You can mark it with pencil (NOT sharpie or pen, as the ink will enter the porous horn and not come out for good) or tape as well, or do it by eye if you have a steady hand.

Now you've done that, you should have a section that looks like this:



## Arts and Sciences:

Greetings to my beloved Castlemere!

It has been one year since I took over as MoAS for Castlemere and it has been a great one. First, I would like to thank my many mentors who have guided me throughout this year. Each of you know who I consider to be such and I have gratitude in my heart for your assistance. Especially HL Bryndis for taking over until I could get back in the swing of things after my last surgery! A major thank you to Fiona for becoming my deputy and for her support through out this last year. Then there are those who have willingly shared their knowledge and strengths! Thank you, my teachers, for all your support.

I am looking forward to an awesome 2nd year! We have many talented and skilled populace members! Onward to the new year! YIS to Shire and Kingdom,

Lady Egelina Pounhale, Castlemere MoAS



## Webminister:

Webminister requests any & all emails to be updated via email to [Webminister@Castlemere.org](mailto:Webminister@Castlemere.org) for all positions & deputies so that fwd's can be added correctly. Also, please hand in or email me your permission forms to put your information onto the website.

Thank you in advance,

Katrina



## Constable:

Just want to remind folks that I'm stepping down Jan 1st, so I would like to have someone to pass it on to. If interested please contact me.

- Dimitri

# Making a Horn Cup

Another "How To Make It" by Bran Buchanan



In this article I'll discuss and show how to make a horn cup - that is, a drinking vessel of horn. It can be used as a cup, or depending on the size of the horn you can make a drinking vessel that's good or well over a pint. Please note that I'm not making a drinking horn, in the Viking sense - rather were looking to make a commonly available, common mans "glass" or ale cup. They were also called beakers.

Horn was a commonly available material, a byproduct of the slaughter that seldom went to waste. When heated or boiled in a number of ways it becomes plastic and pliable, and was used for all sorts of implements - combs., spoons, bowls and various other items to include, naturally drinking vessels. In this form you could find them in several guises - a mug, cup or beaker, a "snifter" or small shot glass, and the more usually considered drinking horn.

What we will be doing is making a horn cup. We will do it "cold" for a couple of reasons. In this article, it's a work in progress as I make it step by step. I live in an apartment, and trust me when I say boiling horn makes an odor your roommates will not appreciate. While heating the horn has many virtues, working it cold isn't difficult, and with care yields good results.

I won't be addressing period methods or the

history of the thing - there's all sorts of great sources out there. And plenty of folks who can do fancier and better work than !!

Rather the goal here is to create a nicely presentable cup using common tools from around the house that you can use with any period impression (horn vessels were in common use in all cultures in some form or another as late as the late 1800's) and can be used both high and low - the usual denominator being the degree of embellishment



of the horn, from immensely ornate rich man's cup to chieftain's drinking horn, to the simple tavern beaker and poor man's table vessel.

The end result of what we'll be making will look something like this:



It's a simple bit of horn, plugged with wood and nailed, sealed with beeswax.

## Materials Needed



Horn (or section thereof)

Hacksaw

Chisel

File or wood rasp

Small piece of wood plank

Hammer (any will do, so long as it's not too big for the task)

Beeswax or paraffin

Optional: small nails

Exacto knife

A small knife suitable for whittling"

Sandpaper, 200 grit

Steel wool, 000 (very fine)