



# Wyrmggeist Regnum

**Senechal:** Katerina Dimetrievea (seneschal@wyrmggeist.org)  
Coordinates shire activities and oversees the other officers.

**Knights Marshal:** Lannon MacGillivray (marshal@wyrmggeist.org)  
In charge of fighter training and combat safety.

**Deputy Knights Marshal:** Agnar 'Rohan' Hringsson  
Assists Knights Marshal

**Herald:** Louis Renart de Bresse (Frenchy) (herald@wyrmggeist.org)  
Handles name and device submission & public announcing.

**Minister of Arts & Sciences:** Emma of Wyrmggeist (artsci@wyrmggeist.org)  
Encourages the study and practice of medieval arts, crafts, and sciences.

**Reeve:** THL Malcom MacAdaim (reeve@wyrmggeist.org)  
Responsible for financial affairs of the group.

**Chiurgeon:** Else Hartmann and Mychel Boese  
Responsible for administering first aid when needed.

**Chatelaine:** Olrun Elidasdottir (chataline@wyrmggeist.org)  
Welcomes new members & coordinates demos.

**Constable:** Martine de Bresse (constable@wyrmggeist.org)  
Responsible for event security and registration.

**Webminister:** Martine de Bresse (webmaster@wyrmggeist.org)  
Responsible for group's website.

**Chronicler:** Lasair al'Zarqua (lasair1@cox.net)  
Publishes group newsletter, phone list, event calendar and flyers.

<b>Wyrmggeist Fighter Practice</b>	<b>Our website address:</b>  <a href="http://www.wyrmggeist.org">www.wyrmggeist.org</a>  <b>Our Yahoo! Group:</b>  <a href="http://groups.yahoo.com/group/wyrmggeistdragoncave/">http://groups.yahoo.com/group/wyrmggeistdragoncave/</a>
Every Sunday Afternoon, 3:00 pm-ish Until Dark Last Sunday of every month is a Garb and Grub Practice Open To The Public Forest Park on South Harrell's Ferry Road (Near the Tennis Courts)	
<b>Wyrmggeist Populace Meetings</b>	<b>Our Kingdom:</b>  <a href="http://www.gleannabhann.org">www.gleannabhann.org</a>
1st Monday of each Month, 7:00 pm Open To The Public Jones Creek Library on Jones Creek Road	

## October 2008

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
Fighter Practice	Business Mtg					Fall Coronation
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
Fighter Practice						Diamond Wars
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
Fighter Practice						Halloween havoc
26	27	28	29	30	31	Samhain/Scribal Gatalop XXV
Fighter Practice						

In the 1st millennium bc commercial domination of the Mediterranean passed into the hands of the Greeks and then the Romans. A basic Greek unit of length was the finger (19.3 mm, or 0.76 inch); 16 fingers equaled about 30 cm (about 1 foot), and 24 fingers equaled 1 Olympic cubit. The coincidence with the Egyptian 24 digits equaling 1 small cubit suggests what is altogether probable on the basis of the commercial history of the era, that the Greeks derived their measures partly from the Egyptians and partly from the Babylonians, probably via the Phoenicians who for a long time dominated vast expanses of the Mediterranean trade. The Greeks apparently used linear standards to establish their primary liquid measure, the *metrētēs*, equivalent to 39.4 litres (10.4 U.S. gallons). A basic Greek unit of weight was the talent (equal to 25.8 kg, or 56.9 pounds), obviously borrowed from Eastern neighbours.

Roman linear measures were based on the Roman standard foot (*pes*). This unit was divided into 16 digits or into 12 inches. In both cases its length was the same. Metrologists have come to differing conclusions concerning its exact length, but the currently accepted modern equivalents are 296 mm, or 11.65 inches. Expressed in terms of these equivalents, the digit (*digitus*), or  $\frac{1}{16}$  foot, was 18.5 mm (0.73 inch); the inch (*uncia* or *pollicus*), or  $\frac{1}{12}$  foot, was 24.67 mm (0.97 inch); and the palm (*palmus*), or  $\frac{1}{4}$  foot, was 74 mm (2.91 inches).

Larger linear units were always expressed in feet. The cubit (*cubitum*) was  $1\frac{1}{2}$  feet (444 mm, or 17.48 inches). Five Roman feet made the pace (*passus*), equivalent to 1.48 metres, or 4.86 feet.

The most frequently used itinerary measures were the furlong or stade (*stadium*), the mile (*mille passus*), and the league (*leuga*). The stade consisted of 625 feet (185 metres, or 606.9 feet), or 125 paces, and was equal to one-eighth mile. The mile was 5,000 feet (1,480 metres, or 4,856 feet), or 8 stades. The league had 7,500 feet (2,220 metres, or 7,283 feet), or 1,500 paces.

Prior to the 3rd century bc the standard for all Roman weights was the *as*, or Old Etruscan or Oscan pound, of 4,210 grains (272.81 grams). It was divided into 12 ounces of 351 grains (22.73 grams) each. In 268 bc a new standard was created when a silver *denarius* was struck to a weight of 70.5 grains (4.57 grams). Six of these *denarii*, or "pennyweights," were reckoned to the ounce (*uncia*) of 423 grains (27.41 grams), and 72 of them made the new pound (*libra*) of 12 ounces, or 5,076 grains (328.9 grams).

The principal Roman capacity measures were the *hemina*, *sextarius*, *modius*, and *amphora* for dry products and the *quartarus*, *sextarius*, *congius*, *urna*, and *amphora* for liquids. Since all of these were based on the *sextarius* and since no two extant *sextarii* are identical, a mean generally agreed upon today is 35.4 cubic inches, or nearly 1 pint (0.58 litre). The *hemina*, or half-*sextarius*, based on this mean was 17.7 cubic inches (0.29 litre). Sixteen of these *sextarii* made the *modius* of 566.4 cubic inches (9.28 litres), and 48 of them made the *amphora* of 1,699.2 cubic inches (27.84 litres).

In the liquid series, the *quartarus*, or one-fourth of a *sextarius* (35.4 cubic inches), was 8.85 cubic inches (0.145 litres). Six of these *sextarii* made the *congius* of 212.4 cubic inches (3.48 litres), 24 *sextarii* made the *urna* of 849.6 cubic inches (13.92 litres), and, as in dry products, 48 *sextarii* were equal to one *amphora*.



Amphora

From the Online Encyclopedia Britannica

<http://www.britannica.com>

**Early units and standards » Ancient Mediterranean systems » Greeks and Romans**

In the beginning...no man was higher in birth than any other, for all men were descended from a single father and mother. But when envy and covetousness came into the world, and might triumphed over right..certain men were appointed as guarantors and defenders of the weak and humble.

*The Book of Lancelot of the Lake*



Images are from Lord Kyls' Realm, website of Lord Padraig MacKay of Kyle in the Barony of Sternfield. For fonts, clipart, and heraldic information visit his site at: [www.lordkyl.net](http://www.lordkyl.net)

Rest assured, dear friend, that many noteworthy and great sciences and arts have been discovered through the understanding and subtlety of women...

Christine de Pisan

For all knowledge and wonder  
(which is the seed of knowledge)  
is an impression of pleasure in  
itself.

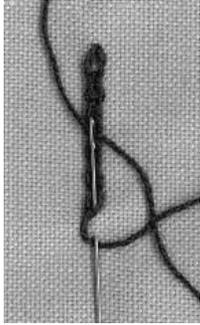
Francis Bacon

But true love is a durable fire  
In the mind ever burning;  
Never sick, never old, never dead;  
From itself never turning.

Sir Walter Raleigh

# Stitch'n Time

Chain stitch is one of the oldest of the decorative stitches and is the basis of a large group of stitches. Its use has a long and widespread history throughout the world and it is believed to have originated in Persia and India where it is also known as the "tambour" stitch.



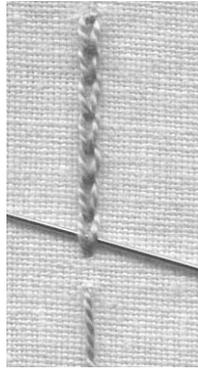
**Chain stitch** is simple to work. Bring the needle up through the fabric and hold the thread with the left thumb. Insert the needle back into where it first came out. Take the needle through the fabric bringing the point of the needle out a short space along the line to be stitched. With the thread wrapped under the needle point pull the needle through the fabric.

A large variety of threads can be used from the finest silk to ribbon, the size of the stitch will depend on the weight of the thread used. It is an ideal beginners stitch and suitable to teach children as it is easy to sew.

## Reversed Chain Stitch

Sew this stitch a downwards direction. Start by working a detached chain stitch upside down. After this first stitch bring the needle out of the fabric further along the line at the base of the detached chain. Leave enough space for one chain stitch. Slide the needle under the base of the chain but not through the fabric and take the needle back down through the fabric where it came out.

Repeat this along the line. When stitching don't pull too tight and you will get a good shape to each chained loop.



## Broad Chain Stitch

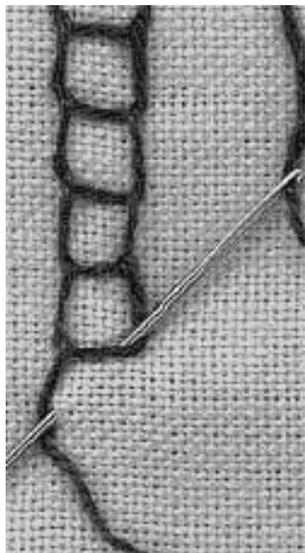
Work this stitch over two imaginary lines. It is useful to mark the fabric with two parallel guide-lines using a water dissolvable marker or fade out fabric marker.

Bring the needle up through the fabric on the left hand side and hold the thread with the left thumb.

Insert the needle on the right hand side. Take the needle through the fabric and bring it out to left of the line to be stitched.

With the thread wrapped under the needle point pull the needle through the fabric.

Insert the needle on the right hand side inside the loop, and take the needle through the fabric to the left of the line to be stitched. This action starts the next stitch.



## Local Government in Anglo-Saxon England

Originating in 8th century Wessex, The Anglo-Saxon Shire system would replace the Roman Provinces as the British standard of local government. Throughout the 8th and 9th centuries the system gradually expanded to cover the whole of England. A Shire which usually took its name from its principle city was governed by an Eldorman, a noble of the highest social rank, who was appointed by the King to represent his interests within the region. The Eldormen were responsible for the Shire militia (the fyrd), secular law in the shire moot, and presided over the shire court. From the 10th and 11th century many of these Eldormen became powerful local magnates, often controlling more than one shire, and the title became shortened to Earls.

A common subdivision of the shire, in Saxon regions south of the River Tees, was the Hundred. These varied in size from area to area and emerged as local administrative units during the 10th century. The name may have originated from the grouping of a hundred Hides, a unit of land considered sufficient to support a peasant and his household. Again the Hide could be of various sizes ranging from as little as 40 acres in Wessex to about 120 acres in the eastern shires. Hides were the basic unit for the assessment of taxation and military service, and were subject to the Hundred courts, which met every four weeks, having jurisdiction in cases relating to local issues and apportioning taxes.

The Anglo-Saxon system of Shire, Hundred and Hide was not so dissimilar to that within the Danish controlled regions in the North, Central, and Eastern England in which Danish rather than Saxon laws and customs prevailed. King Edgar (reigned 959-75) granted autonomy to the Danish settlers in these regions. This being known as the Danelaw. Between the rivers Tees and Thames in eastern England this would still prevail as the common customary law even as late as the 11th and 12th centuries. In these regions the organization of local government was known as the Wapenstakes, which probably originates out of the Norse words for Weapon and Take; Taking or grasping a weapon was probably a Viking way of signifying assent at meetings. Like the Saxon Hundreds the Wapenstakes was the basic unit of tax assessment, and each Wapenstake was responsible for maintaining law and order within its own jurisdiction. The Danelaw equivalent of the Saxon Hide was, from the 10th century, known as the Ploughland. This was a unit of land of probably amounting to about approximately a hundred acres which could be ploughed by one team of eight oxen.

Incidentally, the term Hundreds still exists today in one form. The Chiltern Hundreds; are three Hundreds (Stoke, Desborough and Burnham) in south central England. By tradition a Member of Parliament cannot resign his seat, but if he wishes to retire he may apply for one of two stewardships, the holder of which, since he becomes a paid member of the crown, may not (since 1707) sit in Parliament. Formerly there were several such stewardships, but since 1957, there have been only two-the Chiltern Hundreds and the Manor of Northstead in Yorkshire.

With the Norman conquest the Shires would be replaced by the Counties, although the word Shire would continue often as a part of the county name-e.g. Yorkshire, Nottinghamshire, Hampshire etc. Under Norman control the Eldormen would likewise be replaced by Sheriffs, although the manner of their appointment and duties would largely remain unchanged from that of their earlier counterparts.