



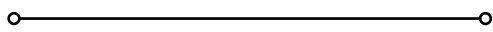
*The Newsletter of the Northern Marches, serving Allyshia, Ravenshore and Wudubolt be Secq*

## from The Editor

CATRIONA MACRATH

The season of Yule is upon us, and with it our traditional Allyshian celebrations. Even our cover art is decked for the holidays thanks to some quick work by Master Iain!

In this issue, you'll find details on our Yule feast, and a yummy holiday recipe from His Excellency. There's also a basic tutorial on scrolls, to while away those long winter evenings (and maybe make something for taxes!). Wishing you good company and a warm hearth until we meet again.



### In this Issue

Calendar of Events .....	2
From Their Excellencies .....	2
Plum Pudding.....	3
Blocks and Bars.....	4
Yule Flyer .....	6
Yule Family.....	7

Cover: Iain Gearr-Sheallach O'Maoilbhreanainn

### Calendar of Events

Dec 9 Yule Feast

Jan 27 Lupercalia

#### *Ongoing events*

Heavy Fighter Practice - Tuesdays 6:00pm

Rapier Practice - Sundays 12:00pm

Fighter Practice + Scribal Night - Thursdays 6:00pm

Check the official calendar at [allyshia.westkingdom.org/calendar](http://allyshia.westkingdom.org/calendar) for details.

## from Their Excellencies

ULFAR INN SVARTI ÞORISSON  
AND MEGAN PLANTEROSE

Salutations unto the mighty populace of Allyshia. These past few months have been a time of trials for people across the known world. Though the gods test us with fire, water, and wind, we will neither yield nor become disheartened. At the end of summer, We were able to attend Northern Marches Arts and Sciences. What a marvelous event, with such variety of interesting skills and topics! Her Excellency and I both enjoyed several classes. When your only struggle is determining which bits of new knowledge you are unable to pass up, it is a good day! We extend a sincere "thank you" to all those who taught. You, along with our gracious autocrats made this event possible.

In the fall, it was with heavy hearts that We made the decision to cancel the Pas d'Armes. It seems we have gone for quite some time with no gathering. However, as the cloak of winter falls upon us, we seek warmth through the company of our friends and brothers. In the month of August, we gathered for a feast of learning. Now we look forward to feasting together at Yule, and soon, at Lupercalia when Our heirs will be determined. Both look to be joyous and fun events. We hope to see many in attendance.

As Our year winds to an end, We must prepare for Our annual journey to meet with our reigning monarchs. Your Baron and Baroness call to the populace with a request for taxes. If you are blessed with ability in any craft or skill, We ask that you please consider making something to contribute. We are

constantly humbled by the beautiful, useful, or tasty items produced by the members of Our populace, and it will be with great pride that We present these wares to our king and queen. In these final months, We also urge you to send Us any award recommendations you might have. Feel free to use whatever channels may work, as the prescribed addresses have not been successful in past months.



## Plum Pudding

BY ULFAR INN SVARTI PORISSON

Growing up, one of my favorite things about the holiday season was the preparing and eating the special meals that we only got to enjoy once a year. For my family this meant Turkey with stuffing on Thanksgiving, latkes with applesauce on the first day of Hanukkah, and roast beef with Yorkshire pudding, or a ham on Christmas.

Of course these amazing feasts need the company of tasty desserts to finish them off. It took almost until I was an adult to realize that, of all the traditional foods, most other families did not share a plum pudding at Christmas. According to the most easily accessed website, the English pudding originated in the 14th century and evolved from a mixture of meats with fruits and spices to the fruity bread pudding of late. Small trinkets with specific meanings are wrapped and hidden within. It is always exciting to find your fortune for the next year. (Having a mother and aunt who constantly tried to meddle with the results was half the fun, when my cousins and I were kids ) Anyway, our own recipe was passed to my great grandmother by her relative, and so has been in the family since the middle to late 1800s.

## McMicking Plum Pudding

Mix together:

- 3 Tbsp. minute tapioca soaked in 1 C milk
- 1 C. fresh bread crumbs (2 slices)
- 1/2 C. raisins
- 1/2 C. currants
- 1/2 C. candied orange peel, or candied fruits, now that the former is hard to find
- 1 Tbsp. melted butter
- 1/3 C. sugar
- 1 Tbsp. baking soda dissolved in 1/4 C. warm milk

Put the mixture into a buttered mold and steam for 2 1/2 hours

## Foamy Sweet Sauce

Beat one egg yolk with 2/3 C. powdered sugar.

Add :

- 1 beaten egg white
- 1/2 C. cream, whipped
- 1 tsp. vanilla





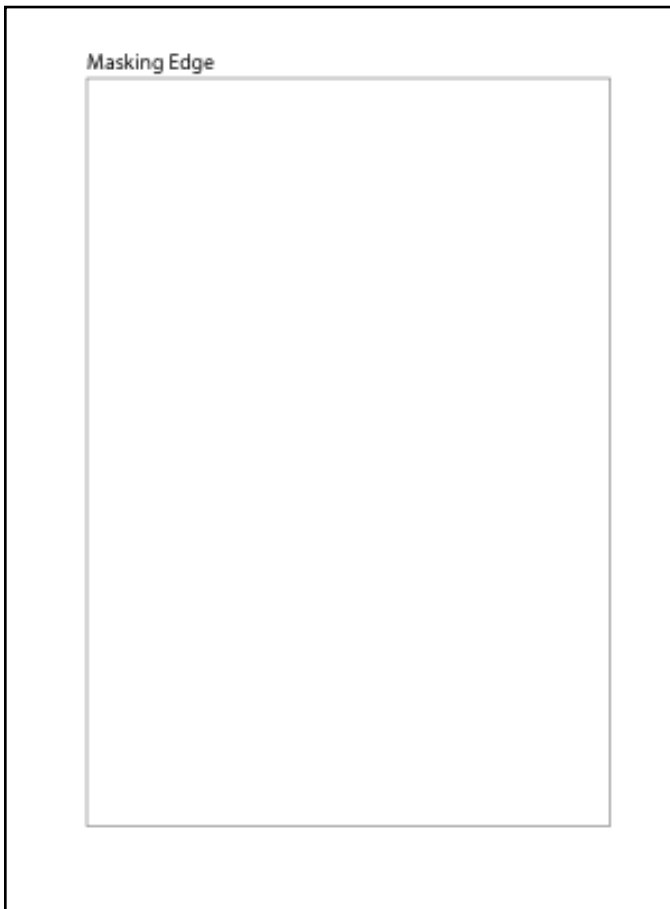
# Blocks and Bars

## A level 1 Scribal Tutorial

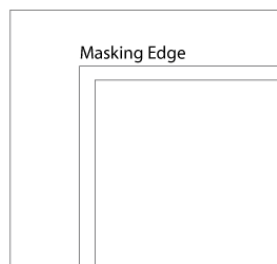
BROTHER THOMAS THE GREEN

Brother Thomas is a scribe of the Midrealm, who produces The Verdant Quill, a regular newsletter on the monastic arts - scribe work, bookbinding and more. This article has been reprinted by gracious permission.

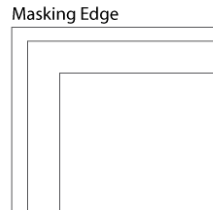
Step 1: Masking Edge. The masking edge is a one-inch border that you draw around your scroll. All designs should be placed inside this border so as to create an "art-free" zone that people can hold / handle the finished piece.



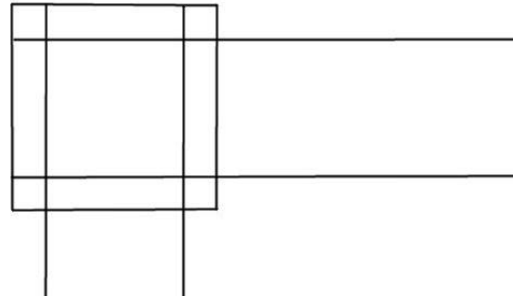
Step 2: Using your ruler, draw a series of lines that are a quarter-inch Inside of your masking edge. These lines should be lightly drawn so that they can be more easily erased later.



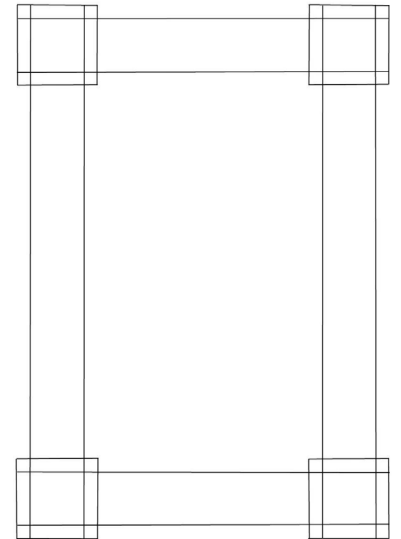
Step 3: Using your ruler, draw another series of lines that are a full inch Inside of the lines you just drew in step 2. These lines should be lightly drawn so that they can be more easily erased later.



Step 4: Using your ruler, draw boxes in the corners of the scroll. These boxes are one and a half inches on each side.

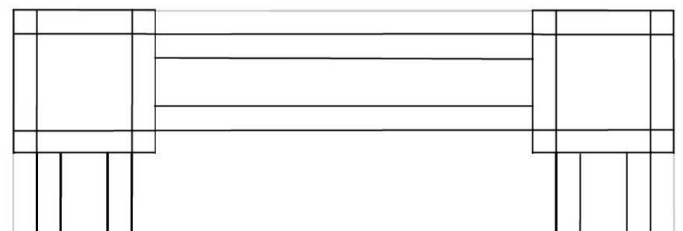


Then take your eraser and erase the masking edge lines on either side and at the top and bottom of the scroll so that you create the four boxes in the corners.



Step 5: When you're done with adding the new boxes and erasing the outer and inner lines you'll have created the basic structure of the "Box and Bar" design.

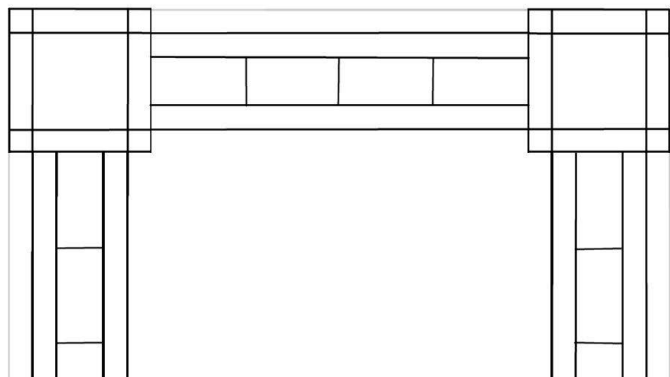
Step 6: Now that you have the basic shape on the page, your next step is to create Frames within the Bars.



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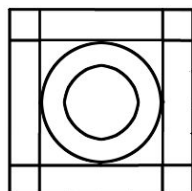
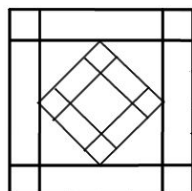
Draw lines that are a quarter-inch inside the bars from both sides.

Step 7: Divide the space within the Frames into inch(ish) wide sections to break up the big spaces into smaller spaces that can be filled with a variety of designs.



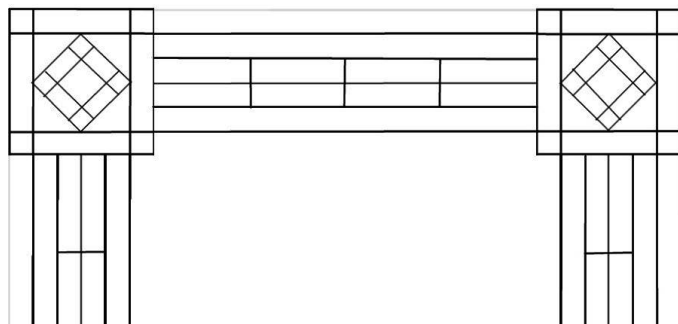
### Corner Designs

Designs for the corner boxes are often filled with simple, geometric shapes such as diamonds or circles. To match the symmetry of the quarter-inch frames of the corner boxes, the diamond and circle are also kept at a quarter-inch as well.



### Bar Details

One option for adding detail to the Bars is to divide them in half with a center line. This creates smaller sections that can be colored alternately.

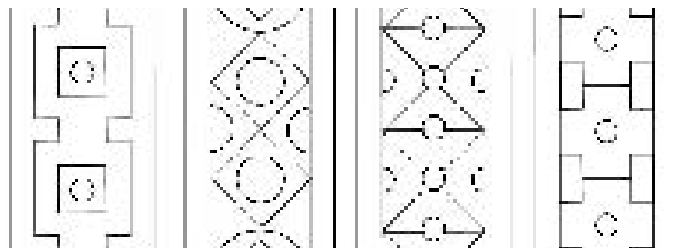


### Bar Designs

You can fill the bars with any number of geometric designs. This is where you, as an artist or doodler, can let yourself explore

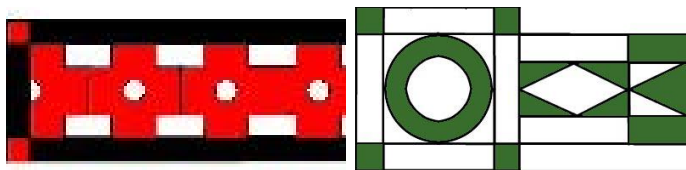
whatever pattern that you would like.

Shown here, the designs are typically based on geometric shapes for ease of construction.



### Painting

How you decide to paint a scroll's design is often a matter of choice. You can use one color, two or even three if the design can support the complexity of colors.



### Finishing

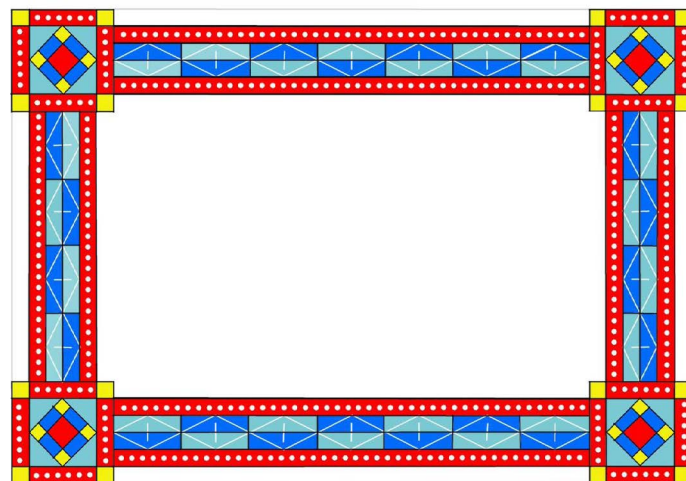
Finishing the scroll's design may include Whitework, Gilding, Blackwork, Rubrication in a series of dots, lines or designs that complement the pattern.

Whitework: Accenting dots, designs or lines in white

Gilding: Using gold paint or leaf.

Blackwork: Accenting dots, designs or lines in black

Rubrication: Accenting dots, designs or lines in red.



# THE BARONY OF ALLYSHIA INVITES YOU TO OUR ANNUAL YULE EVENT

SATURDAY DECEMBER 9TH \* 12 PM TO 10 PM

MANILA COMMUNITY CENTER \* ARCATA CA

THIS YEAR'S THEME IS 'FAVORITE RECIPE' - PROVIDE A COPY OF YOURS TO BE INCLUDED IN THE HANDOUT SO ALL MAY ENJOY! PLEASE SUBMIT TO AN EVENT STEWARD BY NOVEMBER 30TH

\* MEAT AND FISH WILL BE PROVIDED BY THE BARONY IN THE STYLE OF A POACHERS FEAST - BRING YOUR 'FAVORITE RECIPE' SIDE DISH AND/OR DESSERT TO SHARE

\* COOKIE SWAP! PLEASE LET CLOELIA/KITTY/APRIL KNOW IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO PARTICIPATE SO WE CAN GET NUMBERS OUT BEFORE THE FEAST - IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS HOW THIS WORKS, FEEL FREE TO ASK

\* TABLE DECORATING CONTEST! WINNER GOES HOME WITH A PRIZE, AND THE GLORY OF HOLIDAY CREATIVITY!

\* COOKIE DECORATING FOR ALL!

WE ARE SEEKING VOLUNTEERS FOR THE FOLLOWING - PLEASE CONTACT AN EVENT STEWARD BY NOVEMBER 30TH:

\* SET UP FRIDAY EVENING, DECEMBER 8TH

\* CLEAN UP SUNDAY MORNING, DECEMBER 10TH

\* ENTERTAINMENT - SING A SONG, READ A POEM, DANCE A DANCE!

\* MUSIC - WANT TO PLAY FOR OUR FEAST, OR JUST PLAY YE OLDE DJ?

\* SALON/WORKSHOP STATIONS - BRING YOUR PROJECTS, BRING PROJECTS FOR OTHERS TO LEARN, WE'LL HAVE TABLES SET ASIDE FOR HANDOUTS, SUPPLIES, AND GENERAL LEARNING MERRIMENT.

\* MEAT COOKS! STRUT YOUR STUFF IN THE KITCHEN!

## Site Info;

Off street parking is available. Electrical outlets will be available in the kitchen for feast use - everyone must supply their own cooking and kitchen necessities, none will be available on site. Please bring your cooler if any items need to be kept cold. Restrooms are outside the hall. A small changing room will be available inside the hall.

## Site Fee:

Adults Event Registration: \$20, Adult Member Discount: \$15. Children 13-17: \$10, Children 12 and under: Free. Family Cap: \$40

## Directions:

**From the North** - Take US-101 S/Redwood Hwy S via the ramp on the **left** toward **Eureka**. Merge onto Samoa Blvd/CA-255 via EXIT 713 toward **Samoa/Arcata**. Turn **right** onto Pacific Blvd. Take the 1st **left** onto Peninsula Dr. Take the 2nd **right** onto Shell Dr (Portions unpaved).

**From the South** - Take US-101 N. Turn **left** onto R St/CA-255. Turn **right** onto CA-255/Samoa Blvd. Turn **left** onto Pacific Blvd. Take the 1st **left** onto Peninsula Dr. Take the 2nd **right** onto Shell Dr (Portions unpaved).

# Yule Family

BY HEATH THE WANDERER

“Momma?”

“Yes, my sweet potato?”

“Are we going to see Aunt Milgrid around the Yule fire?”

Mara stopped walking, the crunch of snow under her feet no longer a steady rhythm in the crisp winter night. She sighed a huge sigh, reigning in the weight of loss. The only weight she wanted to feel was her daughter riding piggyback. She started walking again, crunch, crunch, crunch.

“Not this year.”

“I like Aunt Milgrid. She is funny.”

“I like Aunt Milgrid, also.”

“She told stories of her time in the desert.”

“Aunt Milgrid is in the desert now,” said Mara. And she always will be, she thought.

“What about Uncle Lenny?”

“We won’t be seeing him anymore.”

Her daughter stayed silent for a moment, a long moment that threatened to bring an ache to Mara’s heart.

“Oh, yeah. His heart went to sleep,” said her daughter, remembering. “It was very, very tired.”

“Yup. His heart went to sleep.”

“I wish I had a grandpa and grandma.”

“You do, sweetie,” said Mara. A tear welled up in one eye.

“I know they watch over me, but grandpas and grandmas are always super nice when they visit.”

“Who told you that?” asked Mara.

“Wendy. We were talking about holidays at lunch at school.”

“Ah, Wendy.”

“She says she has a daddy, and uncles and aunts and grandparents and a huge family. She felt bad that I don’t have a huge family.”

“And how do you feel?”

“I have you. You are all the family I need.”

Again, Mara stopped in the snow. She shut her eyes and fought off a wave of joy and tears to match the background of grief. Her daughter tugged on her hair and Mara started walking again.

“Well, you can tell Wendy that you do have a huge family.”

“I do?”

Up ahead, the bonfire was raging in its pit, nearly obscured by the crowd around it.

“Who do you see by the fire?”

“Sigourney And Roric! And Big Rowan-“

“Don’t call her that,” said Mara, trying not to laugh.

“Okay. Rowan and Little Rowan. Jeof, Mary, Caterina. Mikale and what’s-her-name and their baby.”

“What’s-her-name? You forgot Cindy?”

“She doesn’t have an SCA name.”

“You are silly.”

Someone from the fire noticed Mara’s approach and hollered to her. Everyone, more people than Mara’s daughter had named, cheered.

“See how big your family is?”

“Yes, momma,” said her daughter. After a moment, she said, “And I’m gonna tell Wendy to stuff it when I get back to school.”

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This is the Fall (November/December) 2017 issue of The Strand, the official newsletter of the Barony of Allyshia. Allyshia is a branch of the Society for Creative Anachronism, Inc. It is not a corporate publication of the Society for Creative Anachronism, Inc, and does not delineate SCA policies. This newsletter is available online at <http://www.allyshia.westkingdom.org>. Articles and artwork contained herein is reprinted by permission of the author/artist, and may be reproduced only with their permission. Submissions should be sent to [catriona.macrath@allyshia.westkingdom.org](mailto:catriona.macrath@allyshia.westkingdom.org).