



Tisane

The quarterly newsletter of the
Herbalists and Apothecaries' Guild
of the East Kingdom

Volume I, Issue 1

March, 2000

FROM THE AGITATOR:

A year or so ago, I asked on SCA-EAST if anyone was interested in forming a herb guild in the East. I got back a chorus of "Yes, that would be wonderful!" Now, six months later, we have some good discussion going on SCA-Herbalist (thank you to Hilken of Wyvern Hall for letting us use the list), some proposed events, a newsletter, and the start of a webpage. Anyone willing to volunteer ideas, time, or effort toward this cause is more than welcome to chime in. Suggestions that have been boot-ed about are meetings, trips (Cloisters Gardens, anyone), classes, symposiums, etc. as well as various ideas for rankings. But if this guild idea does nothing else but get people talking about herbs to one another, it's a great thing.

I'd like to develop a recommended booklist (with annotations) and a calendar of classes and herb-related events for the kingdom. So, if you have material for either (or any other ideas) please contact me at jenne@tulgey.browser.net. We'd also like more articles . . .

Please feel free to hand this newsletter on to other interested herbalists (and apothecaries).

My contact info: is:
Jadwiga Zajackowa (jahb@lehigh.edu)
1103 W. Walnut St.
Allentown PA 18102
610-432-2546

Mission Statement: (proposed)

The goal of the Eastern Kingdom Herbalists and Apothecaries' Guild is to encourage study, teaching and practice of medieval herb uses, as well as study of medieval apothecary and pharmacy practice, in the East Kingdom. The Guild should serve as a conduit for herbalists and apothecaries in the kingdom to communicate with and learn from each other, and to disseminate knowledge about medieval herbalism and pharmacy to others.

ti·sane ti-'zan, -'zän, n.

Etymology: Middle English, from Middle French, from Latin *ptisana*, from Greek *ptisane*, literally, crushed barley, from *ptissein* to crush – Date: 14th century : an infusion (as of dried herbs) used as a beverage or for medicinal effects

Everything about this newsletter is subject to change: the mission statement, the "for discussion" items on the second page, even the name. We're just starting out, and trying things out. Let's hear your reactions and suggestions!

To get on our mailing list, e-mail to newbrg@aol.com or drop an old-fashioned note to the return address on page two. Once our mailing list is set up, sample issues will be available for a stamp or S.A.S.E. (Yes, that is subject to change, too!)

If you are on line, join us on the sca-herbalist mailing list on onelist (go to www.onelist.com/subscribe/sca-herbalist to sign up).

Do you have a favorite herb, gardening tip, historical tidbit, or recipe? Maybe a book you think the world should share? That's perfect for this newsletter — send it to the Chronicler!

Note the "discussion" items on page two, and the ideas in the Agitator's letter — send us your thoughts on any of these issues.

FOR DISCUSSION (I):

Do we want to set up a ranking system? It would be strictly voluntary. It should not discriminate against those who aren't on line, can't have a garden, or anyone else. Here's one suggested outline.

"Familiarity" may be demonstrated orally or in notebook form, and should cover identification, history, propagation, medieval uses, the compounding of at least one substance (culinary, medicinal, cosmetic, other), and a teaching component (a display, class, or newsletter article).

Apprentice:

Demonstrate familiarity with three (five? eight?) herbs.

Journeyman:

Demonstrate familiarity with five (eight? twelve?) herbs, teach a class or bring a new member to the Apprentice stage.

Master:

Demonstrate familiarity with eight (twelve? twenty?) herbs, teach at least six students and bring at least one (two? three?) Apprentices to Journeyman stage.

FOR DISCUSSION (II)

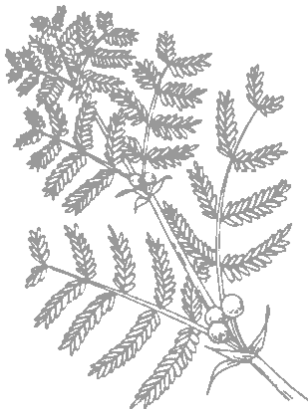
Do we want to have a badge? A quick look at the O&A turns up only one device registered to a Herbalists Guild — for the Barony of Bjorneborg (San Antonio, Texas). Theirs is:

*Or, within an annulet of cloves sable
a mortar and pestle gules*

How many heraldic herbalists do we include in our ranks? One suggestion: a gold mortar and pestle on a green background or a background semy of leaves (or on a sprig of something).

Tisane

c/o Jo Anne Fatherly
249th Powell Avenue
Newburgh, NY 12550



Seeds Slips Cuttings

Plants grow from some small part of themselves into something usable. The same is true of our Guild.

Here are the "small parts" of two proposed Guild projects — an annotated bibliography and a supplier's list. Please add your own bits of information (by mail, listserv, or e-mail), and we'll share it, here and on sca-herbalist.

Books

Kowalchik, Claire, & Wm. H. Hylton, eds, *Rodale's Illustrated Encyclopedia of Herbs*. Emmaus, Rodale, 1987. Good all-purpose identifications. Recipes, etc., included. Drawings and photographs.

Muenschner, Walter Conrad, *Weeds*. New York, MacMillan, 1942. A standard textbook on wild plants and how to control them (chapters on herbicides!) with a very academic section on identification. Good drawings. Scientific names may have changed since publication.

Sandberg, Gosta, *The Red Dyes: Cochineal, Madder, and Murex Purple*. New York, Lark/Sterling Publishing, 1997. Lots of history and quite a bit of chemistry; interesting to read, too.

Suppliers

Richters Herbs, Goodwood, Ontario, Canada LOC 1A0. (1-905-640-6677): Plants, Seeds, Dried Herbs, Books.
www.richters.com

Nichols Garden Nursery, 1190 Old Salem Road NE. Albany, OR 97321-4580 (1-541-928-9280): Seeds, Books, Dried Herbs, Supplies. www.gardennursery.com

Johnny's Selected Seeds, Foss Hill Road, Albion, Maine 04910 (1-207-437-4301): Seeds. (Glossy color catalog) www.johnny-seeds.com

