





#### SUBMISSIONS:

Must be clearly written or typed. We are interested in artwork (preferably ink, clear copy only.) cartoons, slugs, news, short poetry or filks, con reviews & photos, historical articles of relevance to RoS (please contact us beforehand.) write-ups of events of interest to RoS fans, information on Robin Hood collectibles & sources for merchandise, submissions for our regular columns, etc. (We're open for suggestions!)

#### CLUB POLICIES:

Mail--We will attempt to answer all mail as promptly as possible. Please enclose an \*SASE\* to facilitate this and help Keep your club costs down. Please bear with us if there is a slight delay in letter responses or orders around the time of conventions or major holidays. Please DO WRITE to us, we want to get to Know you and we need the input!

Fan Mail--We will forward mail to the cast, Richard & Anne Carpenter and Terry Walsh. (The one exception is Robert Addie, who we have no current address on.) You MUST attach appropriate postage and write the name of the person on the outside. Put it in another envelope to us. We'll fill out the address and drop it in the mail.

CLUB BUSINESS: The Pen is Mightier Than the Sword! Please write in to STARLOG MAGAZINE to thank them for their coverage of RoS in issue 186 and to ask them to continue coverage on OUR Robin. Their address is: STARLOG COMMUNICATIONS, 475 Park Ave. South, 8th Floor, NY, NY 10018.

A word about photograph sales. We sell photos as a service to you. Any profits help us produce a bigger and better newsletter, pay for postage costs, supplies for the club, etc. It all goes back into Spirit of Sherwood. Any profits over and above operating costs will be put into a fund toward our first convention!

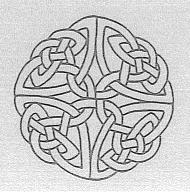
Membership: As of printing We have 255 members, 43 men and 212 women. 38 states, # of members-<MI-13, MN-4, MA-22, NY-23, VA-7, CA-27, IL-15, OH-19, CO-5, WA-5, AZ-4, NE-4, IN-4, NJ-9, IA-2, CT-6, PA-10, MD-2, TX-10, OK-1, FL-9, AR-4, KS-2, MO-3, UT-1, WI-4, TN-1, NH-1, AL-1, HI-1, ND-1, OR-1, MS-1>16 Canadian members

11 U.K.--KEngland-9, Scotland-1, Ireland-1)

Spain-1, Netherlands-1, Australia-2, Finland-1, Germany-1. (And an inquiry from Peru!)

If you wish to contact other members in your area, advertise in Quill PALS!

ON TARGET, ISSUE 4/5--Summer '91, Spirit of Sherwood, 1278 West Marshall, Ferndale, Michigan 48220, USA.



#### WELCOME TO ISSUE 4/5

Greetings Kindred Spirits! Yes, we are crazy and here it is—the newsletter that thinks it's a 'zine! We just had so much great stuff to share with you that it got out of control. So, we decided to make it a double issue. But, that doesn't mean you won't hear from us at all over the next few months. We will be sending out a mini bonus issue with any current news we get in the meantime and updates on WEEKEND IN SHERWOOD.

As you can see on the membership numbers we have become a HUGE merrie band! We are slaving away trying to get all the memberships processed, orders filled, mail answered and the con planned. (See more about that in this issue!) We really are starting to get caught up from the cons and appreciate everyone's understanding and patience.

In the upcoming months, we will be attending the Michigan Renaissance Festival. We go every year and it is always excellent. We have enclosed brochures for you all in the hopes that some of you may be able to attend. Please write and let us Know if you intend to go and we may be able to meet you up there.

We will also be attending VISIONS '91 and hope to see you all there! We recently spoke to the Con Chairman, Bob McLaughlin, and this year promises to be a con not to be missed! In addition to RoS guests, Mark, Michael and Nickolas, there will be a Renaissance Festival Group doing sword demonstrations and some neat surprises in store! We'll be selling things and showing videos so stop by the room and see us!

We would like to extend a special thank you to CAROL BURRELL for running Herne's Con for two years. It was a fun con, a unique experience and it helped Keep the fandom going and made the bonds of friendship grow. We hope to combine the family atmosphere of Herne's Con with the 20th century conveniences of a lovely hotel and make everybody happy at WEEKEND IN SHERWOOD.

We really enjoyed meeting everyone at MediaWest and Herne's Con this year! We held a raffle to try to raise money for the club con next year. The prize was a Clannad Legend album--42 tickets were sold and Patti Stepp was the lucky winner!

We have worked extremely hard on this double issue and would appreciate letters of comment from each and every one of you. Please write--it Keeps us going when this all gets to be a bit stressful! Until we meet again, stay merrie...

Christine 7

Verislin Hamlin

# THANK YOU TO OUR CONTRIBUTORS!!!

Richard Carpenter, Mark Ryan, Helen Avry, Laura Chevening, All Herne's Con Art Show Gofers, Tony Fitzpatrick, Kelly Mcdonough, Rache, Dominique Allaire, Lorraine & Donnalyn Mumaw, Barb Johnson, Tracey Rose (British Correspondent Extroofdinaire!), Jo Trompeter, Geri Kittrell, Jean West, Janet VanMeter, Cindy Fairbanks, Janet Reedman, Gini Hefty, Tammy Elzerman, Alexandre Van Chestein, David Turner, Linda Furey, Sheila Schlosser, Cindy Cifatte, Alexandra Harvey-Fitzhenry, Judy Noble, CBS FOX Video, Jacquie Groom, Debbie Reynolds, Gina Fox, Anne Marie Debbins, Lin Ward, Cheryl Pryor, Kathy Luzzi, Pat Raddatz, Gail Walsh, Sharon Lowachee, Sarah Glasgow, Jenni, John, Kitty, Derrick, Sandy, Carol Burrell, Tina Thompson, Czeryl Hillery, Julianne Toomey, Hilda Marshall, Kate Raymond, Maureen Geiger, Mad Rabbits, Nerida Bridgford, Joan Ludlow, Patti Middleton, Debra Batus, Leslie Goldberg, Sherri Strain, Michael Praed, Jason Connery, and all our PATIENT AND UNDERSTANDING MEMBERS!!!











(F. V.I. -- alexandre, our promising young cartoonist, is Dominique's 10 year old son ?)



# A LITTLE BIRD TOLD ME

- --JASON CONNERY is starring in a mini-series called THE OTHER SIDE OF PARADISE. He plays an English doctor named Chris Masters, caught in a tragic love triangle at the outset of World War II. The mini-series is a joint production between Australia, Britain and New Zealand and is being filmed in the Cook Islands. Jason is all over the video stores in England at the moment! Just released over there--THE SEALED TRAIN, SPYMAKER, TANK MALLING and HERNE'S SON.
- --MICHAEL PRAED is currently in Ireland starring in the musical CAROUSEL at the Tivoli Theatre in Dublin. He is playing Billy Bigelow. The show will run through September 21st. His hair is still long, but he has a beard like the Sheriff's! Send an SASE to the Michael Praed Network for information on how to get programmes from the play. CYRIL CUSACK (Lord Agrivaine) is also in the play. Michael also recently completed filming on a TV movie for the USA Network called WRITER'S BLOCK which also stars Morgan Fairchild and will be airing October 9th. Earlier this summer, Michael attended the Cannes Film Festival to promote SON OF DARKNESS.
- --JUDI TROTT recently married Gary Spratling--Congratulations to the happy couple! In England, Judi has been seen in both Shield Soap and Ford Fiesta Car commercials. She also made an appearance in the BBC's THE PARADISE CLUB as DI Liz Cunningham.
- --MARK RYAN is currently working on a novelization for PENDRAGON, his Arthurian film project with John and Caitlin Matthews, experts in this field. He is also trying to launch a spin off of his GREEN ARROW story, called THE HOODED MAN with Mike Grell and DC Comics. He is also hoping to record an album for his musical play of WUTHERING HEIGHTS.
- --CLIVE MANTLE plays a crew member in the upcoming release ALIENS 3. He is writing a series of 13 playlets with Nick Wilton.
- -- RAY WINSTONE is doing a teleplay for the BBC.
- --PETER WILLIAMS was in THE WIDOWMAKER. He reportedly portrayed a thoroughly horrible character the complete opposite to Much.
- --PHIL ROSE is running his own Pantomime Production Company.
- --RICHARD CARPENTER has several upcoming projects which you can read more about in the interview this issue, including a new Robin of Sherwood novel!!!
- --NICKOLAS GRACE played a vicar named Sonnenschein in THE GREEN MAN. He was in a TV play called TONIGHT AT 8:30 with Joan Collins. Nick attended the MONTREAUX FILM FESTIVAL.
- -- ROBERT ADDIE recently got married -- congratulations Robert and Jan!
- --ROBIN OF SHERWOOD is no longer running on SHOWTIME. It is being picked up by PBS stations across the country. So far we've heard it's showing in Toledo, Ohio, Lansing, Michigan, Maryland, and Florida. Check your local listings and please let us know if it is running in your area. If not, bug your local PBS to get it!
- --ROBIN OF SHERWOOD has 4 episodes being released July 25 by CBS FOX Video. The titles are ROBIN HOOD & THE SORCEROR, THE SWORDS OF WAYLAND, HERNE'S SON and THE TIME OF THE WOLF. They all run approximately 2 hours and Hill be

only \$14.98 each!!! If you would like to write to CBS FOX and let them know you would be interested in them, perhaps releasing all the episodes on video, the address is: CBS/FOX VIDEO, 1211 Avenue of the Americas, New York, N.Y. 10036. This company will also be releasing the Patrick Bergin Robin Hood for \$89.98, and episodes of Tony Robinson's MAID MARION AND HER MERRY MEN--HOW THE BAND GOT TOGETHER and THE MIRACLE OF ST. CHARLENE for \$14.98 each.

--Also new in the video store, a colorized, Dolby stereo, 93 minute ''movie'' put together from episodes of Richard Greene's 1950's Robin Hood series. DISNEY is re-releasing their 1973 cartoon version of ROBIN HOOD as well!

-- ROBIN HOOD: MYTH, MAN AND MOVIE, a documentary on the history of Robin Hood in film and a promotion for PRINCE OF THIEVES aired on JUNE 6 on CBS. We were contacted here at Spirit of Sherwood by Mr. Scott Owens, the research assistant and post production person, shortly before the 2 conventions. He said he had been given our name and number by a Robin Hood author in England as the ''largest Robin Hood Organization in the world.'' We tried not to laugh but offered to help in any way we could. Mr. Owens was a big fan of the legend himself, but had not yet seen ROBIN OF SHERWOOD. We sent him quite a bit of information and put him in touch with RICHARD CARPENTER. Richard was able to assist him in getting a clip from the show. sorry they neglected to mention Michael Praed. We did send them plenty of information on Michael. However, we know they were in a great rush to push this out before Costner's film and had a great deal of red tape to go through to get the RoS clip even with Kip's assistance. However, the best news of all--Richard discovered, while trying to help them get the clip, that HE owns the format rights to ROBIN OF SHERWOOD!

--STARLOG YEARBOOK out on the stands now, contains reprints of the great interviews with RICHARD CARPENTER and MICHAEL PRAED. Keep writing to STARLOG to let them Know how pleased you are with the RoS coverage!

--ANTHONY VALENTINE (Baron De Belleme) was in TALES OF THE UNEXPECTED, THE CASEBOOK OF SHERLOCK HOLMES and LOVEJOY.

--DOROTHY TUTIN (Lady Gisburne) appeared in an episode of THE BILL.

--CYRIL CUSACK (Lord Agrivaine) was in the films TRUE CONFESSIONS, THE ELUSIVE PIMPERNEL, LITTLE DORRIT and LES MISERABLES as well as a play for today RAINY DAY WOMEN.







- --MATT FREWER (Roger de Carnac) was seen in THE FOURTH PROTOCOL
- --PHILIP DAVIS (King John) was in the BBC's THE PARADISE CLUB
- --CLAIRE TOEMAN (Meg) was in an episode of THE BILL
- --DERRICK O'CONNOR (Raven) portrayed a character called Dum Dum in a four part thriller called CENTREPOINT
- --VALENTINE PELKA (Sarak) was in an episode of the BBC Hospital Drama Casualty.
- --CORY PULMAN (Queen Isabella) was in an ITV comedy/drama series called JACKSON PACE which was written by DANIEL PEACOCK (Cousin Sparrow-RoS, Bull-PoT) who also appeared.
- --MICHAEL CRAIG (Earl of Huntingdon) was in an Australian Drama called FOURTH WISH which he also wrote.
- --LEO DOLAN (Moth) was in a BBC Comedy called KEEPING UP APPEARANCES as a postman.
- --NICK BRIMBLE (Captain of Earl Godwin's Guards) was in the BBC Children's Drama Series THE CHRONICLES OF NARNIA as a Giant Porter. He also played Little John in PRINCE OF THIEVES.
- --PHILLIP JACKSON (Abbott Hugo) portrayed Chief Inspector Japp in ITV's Agatja Christie's POIROT.
- --PAVEL DOUGLAS (Captain of the Sheriff of Nottingham's Guards) was in the BBC's LOVEJOY.
- --JOHN NETTLES (De Leon) is finishing up his last season starring in the BBC's BERGERAC. One of the guest stars on the show was DAVID DE KEYSER (Joshua De Talmont) who was also seen over Easter Week in Britain in THAT WEEK IN JERUSALEM as Caiaphas the High Priest, also appearing was OLIVER COTTON (Lord Owen of Clun) as Thomas.
- --IAN OGILVY (Lord Edgar) was in an episode of the American TV series OVER MY DEAD BODY.
- --RICHARD O'BRIEN (Gulnar) is currently hosting THE CRYSTAL MAZE on Channel Four in England. A strange but entertaining game show. The Rocky Horror Show, which he wrote, is currently enjoying a highly successful run in the West End, and was nominated for a Laurence Olivier Award, but did not win.
- --JOHN NETTLES appeared in a series of playlets written by Noel Coward called TONIGHT AT 8:30. He plays a character named Commander Peter Gilpin RN. One of his co-stars is NICKOLAS GRACE who plays a character called Bogey Gosling.
- --JAMES COOMBES (Grendel) appeared earlier this year in the BBC's HOWARDS WAY, as Pierre Challon.
- --MAUREEN BENNETT (Alison of Wickham) appeared in a couple of ITV's INSPECTOR MORSE as Detective Sergeant Lewis's wife Val.
- --PHILIP DAVIS (King John) has written and directed a BBC film called SKULLDUGGERY all about four boys growing up on an East London Estate.

- -- DANIEL PEACOCK (Cousin Sparrow) has written a comedy series called TEENAGE HEALTH FREAK which is currently on Channel Four in the UK.
- --CATHERINE HARRISON (Isadora) is currently on ITV in a drama series about the King's Fusiliers Infantry Regiment called SOLDIER, SOLDIER. She plays Laura Cadman, a major's wife.
- --THE TALES OF ROBIN HOOD CENTRE in Nottingham has had some additions to its displays!!! Our Irish Correspondent, Tony Fitzpatrick, who visited there in May reports--Close to the Centre's Restaurant on a 3 Ft. platform, is the complete Herne the Hunter costume from the series in its absolute magnificent spendor and with it on an elevated platform and measuring to the top of the Horned One it looked about 11 ft high. You could touch it to feel the quality--no guard rail. Wow! Across from Herne was a huge glass cased exhibit, which held all sorts of Robin Hood stuff, comics from the '40s, Hood lego, a book with a complete cast autographs from the Flynn movie, and finally at the end was a ROBIN OF SHERWOOD section. It contained Albion, a Hounds of Lucifer mask, arrows, shields from the sheriff's men, the original sketches for costume design of Hounds, Tuck, Robert. Also large colour photos of behind the scenes shots, including a fine shot of the relevent actors (sitting down) during the beach scene from THE PROPHECY, and others.
- --EPILOGUE #11, the Sci-Fi/Fantasy magazine will be running an episode guide of RoS!
- --NEW BOOKS!!! SHERWOOD by Parke Godwin. TimeTraveler's Guides has published ROBIN HOOD'S ENGLAND (\$9.95) with maps and step-by-step guides to Nottingham, Sherwood Forest and other sites of legend. Also included: ways to add a little medieval mood to your life with recipes, costume instructions and a schedule of festivals, faires and jousting tournaments held in Britain and North America. ISBN 0-9628576-0-2.
- --NIGHTFLYERS is being re-released on video by Avid Home Entertainment with a price tag of less than \$10



#### HEARTSONG

You say the past is still too close
But I am in the here and now
The Hooded Man must have his Maid
I can see it in your eyes
What lives in your heart
Will never be forgotten
But is there no room for me?
My heart and love are yours
Robert, I only ask of you
What you once asked of her



-- Janet VanMeter

# VAMPIRES AT MEDIA-WEST

BY: GERI KITTRELL

Being a devout Robin of Sherwood fan, I Looked forward to seeing some events put on by Spirit Of Sherwood and the Michael Praed Network while at Media-West //. I was not disappointed.

There was a panel with the topic of 'where are they now', in which fan's questions about the cast and crew of ROS were answered. Unfortunately, I missed most of the panel due to commitments with another fandom club.

The highlight of the ROS events was a party hosted by

Spirit Of Sherwood and the Michael Praed Network. The theme

of the party was THERE'S A VAMPIRE LOOSE IN SHERWOOD". The

room was packed full of treats both for the eyes and tastebuds.

Refreshments in the form of cookies shaped like bats and

arrows, candy in the shape of bats and, of course, red punch.

( Little plastic vampine teeth were also handed out.)

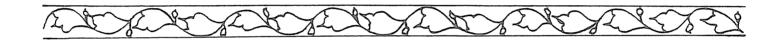
The room exploded with shrieks of delight as we watched slides from Michael's upcoming movie "SON OF DARKNESS: TO DIE FOR II", it was wonderful to see the clips in freeze frame. The temprature in the room rose by many degrees during several of the scenes..

We were also treated to the infamous blooper reel and, blessed be, my sides ached from laughing so much. There was also a showing of a really cute bit of Nicholas Grace when he was about 23, singing and dancing about his master that beat him. He is truely a talented man.

I find it hand to remember everything, but it was a great way to spend an evening. I look forward to meeting fellow fans again next year. Till we meet again,

Well Met,

Geni Kittnell



#### SONG OF THE FOREST

(Ok, so it's not really about the forest. I couldn't think of another title. ok? So sue me. Anyhow. it's sund to the tune of "Home on the Range")

BY THE MAD RABBIT

Oh, give me a home where the sheriff don't roam
And Gisburne. he stavs far awav.
Where seldom is heard a harsh Norman word
And the Anoles and Saxons can play.

# (CHORUS)

Sweet. sweet Nottingham!
Where the serfs and the peasants rejoice.
Where Merry Men strong fix all that is wrong
And Alan-a-Dale's lost his voice!

Oh. Sherwood is green. There is Much to be seen.

And Herne's voice rings through the air.

Where bowstrings are taut, nothing's ever forgot

And our heroes look so debonair!

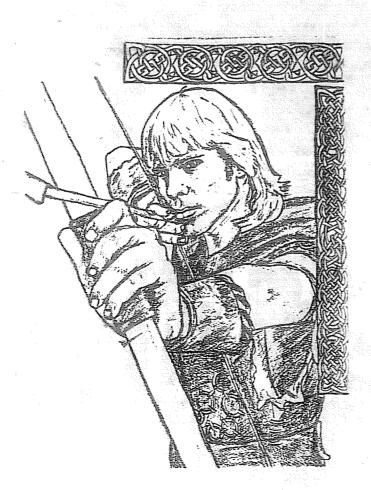
(REPEAT CHORUS--AFTER YOU QUIT GROANING!)

BUSTER HOOD PH TANKY: ring?

# CHOSEN SON

You are a leaf, driven by the wind, swallowed by the sun. Though the children die and the lonely weep, Hold steadfast for you are the chosen one, You are their Hope. Let fly your arrows, my son, for your bow holds Justice. And when you find yourself in the white-hot flame of your power These words shall echo ... Nothing is Forgotten. Nothing is ever Forgotten.

--Alexandra Harvey-Fitzhenry





# IT'S TIME TO TAKE OUR STAND

Although I'm not rich and live in Sherwood Forest You might say that I have not

But I have all I need I'm the chosen one I'm Herne's son

I give hope to the people that live in fear I've shown them that good is better than evil

With my sword and arrows Which were given by Herne the Hunter, with all his might and the light of goodness we can destroy evil

So, I'll stay here in Sherwood Forest with my Merrie men by my side and stand for what is right

--Sheila Schlosser



Photo: Kathry Luzzi

Mark with Top Archer, Janet Van Meter B



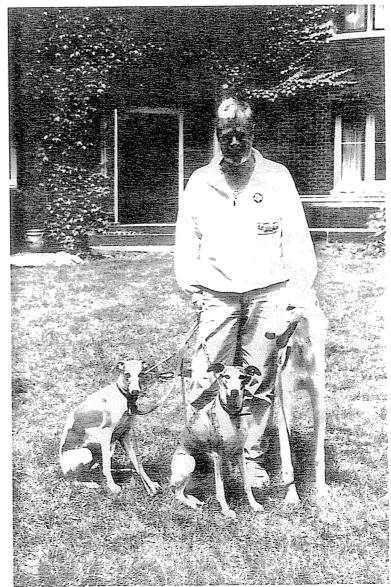


Photo: Kathy Luzzi



# NOTES FROM THE GREENWOOD Son of Herne's Con Report by Jo Trompeter

It was hard to believe an entire year had passed since we last met at Herne's Con. When leaving Cornell that Monday morning, I was positive that I would never again feel the warmth and magic that had surrounded us for the time of the con...and, as they canceled my final flight in a 3 part criss-cross from Peoria to Indianapolis to New York, I was positive that Herne's Con was history for 1991.

Eighteen of us had been destined for Ithaca on Thursday, May 30th, but strong winds and rain were making it havor for the smaller planes to land. Finally, it was decided that if we wanted U.S. Air would add us to the passenger list for Syracuse and bus us from there to Ithaca. Blessed be! I didn't care if I had to travel via ox cart, I was going to make it to Son of Herne's Con! (Anything to avoid camping out at La Guardia!)

Finally, after 13 hours of layovers, 3 short flights, a long bus trip, and a wonderful short drive from the airport at Ithaca, Risley Hall came into view. Exhaustion, hunger and agitation gave way to the familiar warmth and magic of a year ago...Herne's Con!

Lights were on, even at the late hour of midnight. Neil made registration a snap and within 5 minutes I'd pulled up a chair in the Cowcliffes room to listen to what was left of Lonnie-A-Dale's Second Annual Bad Ballad Bonanza and Free Verse Freestyle. Poetry and tunes had obviously been abandoned for the more energetic topic of slash in fandom literature. Even coming in late, I picked up quickly that our Merrie guest Mark ''Nasir'' Ryan doesn't ever want to find his character in such a situation. 'Twas of great interest to learn that the professorish gent with him, none other than our other guest, Richard Carpenter, wouldn't object to seeing the dear Sheriff handled in such a fashion. Interesting discussion to mull over as I dragged the sheets over me at 1:30 a.m...

Friday began slowly with a quickie breakfast in Cowcliffes and a stroll through the Art Show and Dealers Rooms. Five fanzines and four bids later, the terrible Gofermeister found work for me with videos and the first of several dreaded ''Great Hall Rearrangement Gatherings''...grrr! Got any idea how much one of those tables weighs? (By the end of the con we had the routine down to a science--4 people per table!)

Opening ceremonies with the guest panel went off very smoothly this year. Sitting back, listening to what Mark had been up to with his GREEN ARROW comic and his film projects was great. And Richard Carpenter--what do you say? Conversations, even at a panel, bear a striking resemblence to a seminar with a European-style professor.

Perhaps a little disappointing was a bonfire that was rained out Friday evening. Blankets and instruments were then moved indoors and filking continued in the hallway by the large fireless fireplace--nothing stops a Menniel

Four Fan Panels, coordinated by Laura Chevening, were held over the course of the con. One topic was Women in RoS, where the panellists discussed their comparative strengths. Along with Cindy Fairbanks, Kitty Gamarra and Jenni, the guests of honour sat in on the panel. This led to discussing the actresses who had been on the show. Mark revealed that he was overawed to do a scene with the great Shakespearean actress Dorothy Tutin (Lady Gisburne)

and Richard expressed his admiration for the talent of Catherine Harrison (Isadora.) Other topics for panels were Religion, Politics and Fanzines.

7:00 came incredibly early Saturday--especially since I had the cartoon shift with the VCR. If anyone was around either Saturday or Sunday morning, you would remember there were more adults glued to those comic characters than Kiddie-types. But Michelle Heyes, even at 4 years old, Knew more of the lines!

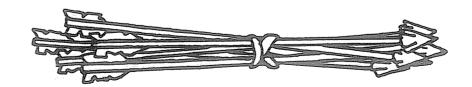
Costuming was the panel of my choice once gofer duties were completed in the video room. Kathy Harmon and Karen Rubricht were very knowledgeable and offered practical hints on RoS outfits as well as explanations of the different degrees of skills and classes that could be found in concompetitions, as well as costumes only events.

Jessup Field was the con destination around 1:00. The Archery Contest for the Silver Arrow ran very smoothly this year, thanks to Linda Furey and her dedicated crew. Not an arrow lost, well, not for long anyway. Three arrows were allowed each archer and the 6 highest scores were given a last arrow. How exciting to watch Janet VanMeter outshoot all comers—even the infamous Saracen, Mark Ryan. (Okay, so Mark took his turn AFTER the meet was officially decided on!)

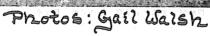
As if the tournament wasn't enough, there was an autograph session that afternoon, as well. Would love to know how many copies of the GREEN ARROW were signed. The front cover had just enough space to allow a silver-penned signature down in the left hand corner...

Hungry, costumed guests began arriving at the Great Hall for the evening meal and they dined royally! Meat pasties, pork, chicken and cheeses were offered for the banquet. Entertainment was a Greek Tragedy performed by the Silver Wheel Company in which the sisterhood of Arianrhod helps poor suffering Tom overcome all ills in a rather ultimate cure. Ahem...and then offer a game of ancient bean bags for those brave souls willing to take a turn at reaching for the stars. Plus, what RoS meal would be complete without a reenactment of the Candle Pavane from Herne's Son with Jenni as Marion, John Hennig as Owen of Clun and Derrick Dasenbrok as Robert of Huntingdon!

After we had eaten and drank our fill and tossed the cloved orange about for Kisses, the hall was cleared for the art and charity auction and costume contest.









The Sherwood Family
Album

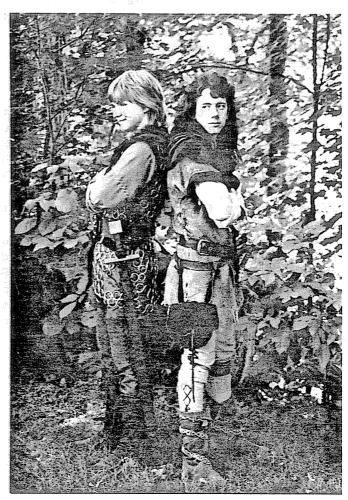
(Jop Row) Jenni, John, Sandy
(Seated) Derrick, Kitty



Biff of Huntingdon

Bob of Loxley

(Gotcha back, John >> C.H)



You have no idea how interesting it was bidding and handling the videocam. I feel quite fortunate to have earned the con autograph book, complete with ink well, quill pen and kisses from BOTH Mark and Kip, our guest auctioneers and a piece of wearable art by Patti Heyes. (That pin featuring a Robin Hood clad Kevin Costner and captioned Dances With Wolfsheads has prompted more people to ask me if I work at the theatre or was with the movie company. My explanation, very simply that it came from a Robin Hood convention, gets a stronger reaction than the art itself.)

Fatigue of camera-wielding forced me to take a break, or perhaps the shock of spending all the \$, so I missed out on the costume contest.

Popular vote, and the generosity and Kindness of the local Ithaca powers-that-be rounded the evening out with a second and less wet bonfire in the courtyard. The local police also joined in, but not officially--just because we were the only action in town!

Herne's Son-Day found me on duty with the VCR for the bulk of the day. I did check out the beginning of the Major Oak Awards, however. John (trading Owen in for a Loxley garb), Jenni (Marion), Derrick (Huntingdon), Sandy Williams (the ever-discontented Will Scarlet) and Kitty (as a Marion-clone) explained the awards for the fandom's literature and art for 1989 and 1990. Rache had Kept them all in rehearsals when and wherever she could catch them and it showed. The sketches were a delight and even Kip got in on the act from time to time.

The closing guest panel and closing ceremonies blurred one into another from Cowcliffes to the Great Hall. Properly, they should have been labelled Uncle Kip's Court, because we hung on his every word. A Fourth Season explanation of Marion staying in the Nunnery for a few episodes, assisting the band for one, and finally returning to Sherwood to marry Robert received mixed emotions...but we couldn't argue, Kip was in charge. News of the upcoming documentary with MYTH, MAN, AND MOVIE was also well received—anytime to see our Merries on the tube.

Over the course of the con, we were entertained by several impromptu filksinging sessions. The filkers included Rache, Jenni, Peg Kennedy, Cris Martins, Ana Casacuberta, Barbara Mater, Hilda Marshall, Linda Furey sang and played her flute, Debbie Linn, Nancy HUtchins, Ruth Dempsey, Etc. Cheryl Belkin played her bagpipes outside, as well.

Family atmosphere filled the gofer party that night. Cameras flashed. Mead was passed. Conversation flowed as freely as the munchies. When we moved from the Great Hall to the steps for a group shot, we stayed there for a wonderful filking with new tunes. Richard Carpenter stunned us all by reading an absolutely beautiful Robin of Sherwood poem which he had written sometime that weekend. Getting into the spirit of the fandom, he submitted it to Albion! The culmination of this session was Rache's performance of MERRIE MEET AGAIN, a filk which truly expresses the feeling of friendship between the fans. There wasn't a dry eye there, including Richard, as we all embraced.

The Warmth and Magic had carried through. The year between? It never happened.

# MERRY MEET AGAIN

And it's once more the trouble comes
And it's once more we've won at too great a cost
Shooting flames over the water toward the west
I don't want to stand on this lake shore again
I can think no longer where to go from there
Still I can't let one more burning arrow
One more voice be one loss too many to bear
So we'll fight for each other while we're in each other's view
And if time's mist obscures our sight, we'll wait for the day when
The wheel will turn and we'll see clear once more
Saying ''Merry meet, merry part, merry meet again.''

So might say any one of them, now here's how say I A legend that's lived eight centuries Would not choose this moment to die The story's trailed off but we can see it's not through Where the trail goes from here, well, that's up to you She returns to his arms or he learns what the loss is for Or so many resurrections here, what would be one more? A blazing glorious end or fighting on still Spin the tale out as you please, dream as you will Brother saying to brother, lover to lover, friend to friend 'Merry meet, merry part, merry meet again.''

Here's to those met through the mails or over the distance wires So many differences, but we've all been drawn to those same distant fires

Some by the warmth, and some by the myth

Some by the chance to spread their wings

Finding their power in the new worlds that storytelling brings

Me I love the high magic that turns stranger into friend

Saying, ''Merry meet, merry part, merry meet again.''

Let no one tell where your dreams should begin or end

Say ''Merry meet, merry part, merry meet again.''

Merry meet, merry part, merry meet again.''



#### MAJOR OAK AWARDS

FOR EXCELLENCE IN "ROBIN OF SHERWOOD" ZINE ACHIEVEMENT Presented at Son of Herne's Con, Cornell University, June 2, 1991

#### 1989 AWARDS

#### OVERALL ZINE ACHIEVEMENT

GOLD AWARD: ALBION 3 editors, H.L. Avry & Laura Chevening Blunk

## COVER ARTWORK

GOLD AWARD: LONGBOW 4 FRONT COVER by Sandy Williams SILVER AWARD: LONGBOW III FRONT COVER by Jim Markle

## NOVEL/NOVELLA

GOLD AWARD: "IN THE SHADOW OF THE WHEEL"

by Cindy Fairbanks, Jeanine Hennig & Peg Kennedy

# LONG STORY

GOLD AWARD: "DISILLUSION" by Laura Chevening (Albion 3) SILVER AWARD: "STAYING" by Rache (Apocryphal Albion)

#### ILLUSTRATIONS

GOLD AWARD: "RESURRECTION" illos by Roseanne Rice (Longbow 4)

SILVER AWARD: "NOTHING MORE PRECIOUS IN ENGLAND" illos by Roseanne Rice

(Albion 3 & "In the Shadow of the Wheel")

BRONZE AWARD: "WHOSE SON" illos by Jim Markle (Longbow III)

#### SHORT STORY

GOLD AWARD: "MISERABLE DEPRESSING ENDINGS" by Rache (Albion 3)

SILVER AWARD: "FISHING" by Jeanine Hennig (Albion 3)
BRONZE AWARD: "LADY OF CLUN" by Laura Chevening (Apocryphal Albion)

## VIGNETTE

GOLD AWARD: "NEVER MEANT TO BE" by Laura Chevening (Longbow III)

SILVER AWARD: "IN FINAL TRIBUTE" by Janice Lamel (Longbow 4)

BRONZE AWARD -- TIE: "AN OUTLAW'S WIFE" by Janet P. Reedman (Longbow 4) "SHADOWS" by Cindy Fairbanks (Legend)

## INDEPENDENT ARTWORK

GOLD AWARD -- TIE: CHRISTINE HAIRE for work in ALBION 3

MARIANN HOWARTH for work in LONGBOW III

SILVER AWARD: JIM MARKLE for work in LONGBOW 4

# POEM/ORIGINAL FILK

GOLD AWARD: "BEGINNINGS" by Janet P. Reedman (Longbow 4) SILVER AWARD -- TIE: "ARABESQUE" by D. Linn (Albion 3)

"DENIAL" by Jenna Bruce (Longbow 4) "LOXLEY'S DREAM" by Janet P. Reedman (Longbow 4)

#### ADAPTED FILK

GOLD AWARD: "BLESSED BE" by Rache (Apocryphal Albion)

SILVER AWARD: "HOLDING OUT FOR A HERO" by Christine Haire & Denise Hamlin (Albion 3)

#### 1990 MAJOR OAK AWARDS

# OVERALL ZINE ACHIEVEMENT

GOLD AWARD: ALBION 4 editors, H.L. Avry & Laura Chevening Blunk

# COVER ARTWORK

GOLD AWARD: ALBION 4 FRONT COVER by Jim Markle SILVER AWARD: LOXLEY FRONT COVER by Nancy Kolar

# NOVEL/NOVELLA

GOLD AWARD: "ENCHANTMENT" by Laura Chevening (Albion Special 2)

#### LONG STORY

GOLD AWARD: "THE BLACK ARROW" by Cindy Fairbanks (Herne's Son Vol. IV) SILVER AWARD: "THE BUTCHER OF LINCOLNSHIRE" by Cindy Fairbanks (Apocryphal Albion 2)

#### ILLUSTRATIONS

GOLD AWARD: "A TALE OF SORROW AND WOE" illos by Roseanne Rice (Albion 4) SILVER AWARD: "BARTHOLOMEW'S TALE" illos by Roseanne Rice (Albion 4) BRONZE AWARD: "HOUSE OF THE WULFLINGS" illos by Jim Markle (Loxley)

# SHORT STORY

GOLD AWARD: "A TALE OF SORROW AND WOE" by Cindy Fairbanks (Albion 4)
SILVER AWARD -- TIE: "THE HOUSE OF THE WULFLINGS" by Janet P. Reedman
(Loxley)
"WILL YOU DANCE WITH ME?" by Laura Chevening & Maddog (Albion 4)

#### VIGNETTE

GOLD AWARD: "THE GIFT" by Cindy Fairbanks (Legend Two)
SILVER AWARD: "MAY QUEEN" by Jeanine Hennig (Albion 4)
BRONZE AWARD: "KNIGHTFALL" by H.L. Avry (Apocryphal Albion 2)

# INDEPENDENT ARTWORK

GOLD AWARD: CHRISTINE HAIRE for work in ALBION 4 SILVER AWARD: BARB JOHNSON for work in ALBION 4 BRONZE AWARD: NANCY KOLAR for work in LOXLEY

# POEM/ORIGINAL FILK

GOLD AWARD: "HARMONY OF OPPOSITES" by Julianne Toomey (Albion 4) SILVER AWARD: "NOT A HAPPY CAMPER" by Rache (Albion 4) BRONZE AWARD: "THE ANCIENT STONES" by Janet P. Reedman (Legend Two)

#### ADAPTED FILK/LIMERICK

GOLD AWARD: "BLESSED BE II" by Rache & D. Linn (Apocryphal Albion 2) SILVER AWARD: "WHY, GUY" by Denise Hamlin & Christine Haire (Albion 4)

#### MASOCHISM

GOLD AWAR): Rache for doing the ballots

- SPECIAL THANKS to the Major Oak Award presenters: Derrick "Robert of Huntingdon" Dasenbrock, John "Robin of Loxley" Hennig, Jenni "Marion," Kitty "Marion" Laust-Gamarra, Sandy "Will Scarlet" Williams and most particularly Richard "Kip" Carpenter.
- EXTRA SPECIAL THANKS TO JENNI for designing and executing all the beautiful Major Oak Awards certificates. Without her work, the winners would have received naught but a hearty handshake and, as we all know, a handshake is a difficult thing to frame attractively.
- AND ALSO THANKS to Denise Hamlin, for coining the title "Major Oak Awards." (We'd been thinking of the "Small Shrubbery Awards," but it lacked something.)



TAMPY ELZERMAN "1991" Y

# AN INTERVIEW WITH RICHARD CARPENTER AND MARK RYAN -- SON OF HERNE'S CON

--transcribed by Christine Haire

CHRIS: Please tell us what your current projects are. We were so busy working during the con, we didn't even get to any of your panels--So tell us everything!

MARK: It looks like I'm going to do the novelization of PENDRAGON with John and Caitlin Matthews. They've written about 30 or 40 books on the Arthurian legends and British mysticism, you know, John has written something like 30 books. A very highly respected writer both here in America and there. He approached me to do this novelization. It's going to be the novelization of the script as it is at the moment. And we've been talking again to interesting parties. But it's a big film, it's a \$15 million film, and it's going to take awhile to get together but in the meantime that seems like a nice way to go with it. Once we've got the novelization, we might do the comic book from there, then go back to the film idea. But at the moment, I rather like this idea because it's one way of putting the information down in a book. So that's what we're gonna do there.

We're pitching THE HOODED MAN which is the Robin Hood Comic Book that Mike Grell is going to illustrate which I've written. Which is more about Robin Hood as the demon of the forest, Robin Hood as the green man side of that legend as opposed to being the guy in the green tights or even our Robin. It goes one step beyond that.

CHRIS: More into the mystical?

MARK: Yes, much more into the mystical. I mean the forest is populated by these magical characters. Marion plays a much higher profile part in it. She's very much the female polarity but on a much higher level in the story. That is kind of a direct spin-off of the success of the GREEN ARROW. But it is actually how I wanted to do GREEN ARROW in the first place. But I had to do it GREEN ARROW so I couldn't do that with the GREEN ARROW.

CHRIS: What did you think of the finished product of the GREEN ARROW when it came out?

MARK: I thought it was very interesting. Shea (Anton Pensa--the artist), I don't know Shea, and he didn't have any notes from me, other than the ones I'd written in the script. I think he did a good job with it. Mike (Grell) overlooked all the writing and stuff and he made a few amendments and he added some humor which I hadn't done. Which I think made it better.

CHRIS: I liked the bit with Rassan, his introduction. That was very funny.

MARK: Oh, yeah...We don't know where he came from and he doesn't say much but--

CHRIS: As he's a bloody good swordsman we keep him.

MARK: Yeah. And it's a way for me of also dumping a whole load of stuff you know and going okay, that's that door closed. Where do we go now? The comic book format in England is very much misunderstood. We have a tradition of BEANO and DANDY and that kind of stuff which are kiddie's comics and Adult's don't read comics and they don't read graphic novels. So, in England it's very difficult for anybody to understand what you're doing.

CHRIS: Are there (comic book) fans over there like there are here?

MARK: Yeah. But it's very small--very cultish. A very, very cultish thing. The comic book industry here is a \$4 billion business. The average comic book reader spends something like \$300 or something a month on comics, so it's enormous. For me, it was a great way of getting into the mainstream American commercial way of thinking. You know, about what works or what doesn't work for the American way of thinking.

CHRIS: Did you know that DC is doing a comic book of PRINCE OF THIEVES?

MARK: Well, very highly likely.

CHRIS: Just wondered. We thought it was kind of funny.

MARK: Well, they probably had to struggle like shit to get that. I know the internal problems that go on with getting big projects like that for comic books. So, I don't know what they had to go through to get it but it will be interesting to see what happens to it.

CHRIS: It might be a one-shot. Like sometimes they do just one and it's the movie basically in a comic book format and that's all.

RICHARD: I'm surprised that every major movie isn't made into a comic book, really.

CHRIS: The STAR WARS ones were, and INDIANA JONES, BEAUTY & THE BEAST.

RICHARD: DANCES WITH WOLVES would make a superb comic book.

CHRIS: And now they're doing QUANTUM LEAP.

MARK: Oh, really?

CHRIS: As graphic novels, though. They're nice.

MARK: The graphic novel, to me, if you can't make a film or can't make it for television, I would make a graphic novel. Because if you haven't got the money to do either of those two the next step down where you can get the control and the quality to do something with a project that you would not--

CHRIS: Yeah. They're a lot nicer than a regular comic book.

MARK: And these graphic novels cost something like between \$10 to \$15 but the artwork is SUPERB. And you can get away with stuff in a graphic novel that you would never get away with in a film or television series.

DENISE: The special effects things you couldn't afford to do there.

MARK: Right.

CHRIS: Like the stuff you had with the GREEN ARROW with Ariana. You couldn't have had that in a film.

MARK: Absolutely. But all that's interesting putting in about the Brigantian Celts and all that stuff which is so obscure but it's the truth. The Brigantian Celts were the oldest of the Brigantian tribes that ruled South Yorkshire, North Wales and part of South Wales. When the Romans came in, they couldn't conquer the Brigantian Celts, so they did a deal with them. They said, okay, you cross our lands, we build your roads. So they had a deal. And they went up to Scotland and built Hadrian's Wall. And a lot of the old Celtic stuff survived because of that agreement they had with the Celts. So, I thought, well that's a neat piece of history, I'll sling that in and nobody will notice and I'll be alright.

CHRIS: Except for Robin of Sherwood fans.

RICHARD: But it adds something.

MARK: A flavor.

CHRIS: I liked the designs they used in the art work with the Celtic Knots and borders and all that it really looked nice.

MARK: I mean, Damien, when Damien saw it he said, Jesus, this man has gone over the top. He said, I'm not being funny, but normally you don't get this in comic art of this type. All this Knotwork, he said, they just wouldn't bother. They'd just fill it in in block colour. Normally, it wouldn't be seen. So, I know that Shea went to extraordinary lengths within the context of the comic book. So, I was pretty impressed with that. But it's down to Mike Gold, a very open-minded man. I called him up and said, what can I put in this? How far can I go? I've got some interesting, weird, dark and spooky stuff I want to put in and I'm not sure whether the American public will accept it. And he said we are the company that brought an alien to Earth to fight for truth, justice and the American way. He said there is nothing that you can do. If the internal logic works, the public will accept it. He said we don't have that barrier. We just go okay, Batman flies because he came from a planet where the gravity is stronger. So, gravity on Earth is not strong enough, therefore he flies. As long as you explain that internally, logic in the story, people will accept it here. We, in Britain, have lost the ability to dream. To step off that edge of reality and go -- give it to me, come on! All our media is about looking backwards into the history of the Empire.

RICHARD: Yeah!

MARK: And about whipping ourselves, flagellating ourselves--

RICHARD: For being naughty.

MARK: For being naughty. We have a racial thing about guilt and it's time we dropped that and went okay. Look forward and get the imagination working.

CHRIS: But the Americans go over there to make all the Fantasy films.

MARK: I Know! It's absolutely -- and not ONE British producer has gone --

RICHARD: Wait a minute, why don't we do it?

MARK: Why don't we do it?

DENISE: Yeah. They are making money off of our stuff, so--

MARK: Why don't we do this?

RICHARD: No, look, I tried for years to get the Robin of Sherwood movie off. There you go! Couldn't do it!

CHRIS: That would be commercial and make some money. You're not supposed to do that, right?

RICHARD: Couldn't do it. Nobody wanted to Know about Robin Hood. They didn't want to Know about Robin Hood here until Kevin Costner came along and said, Hey, my mate's written a bloody good book. I think it would make a tremendous movie. Well if you say so, Mr. Costner, having 9 oscars all over you. Except, of course, they must have set the whole thing up before he even made DANCES WITH WOLVES.

MARK: It was in development while he was making it. Apparently, he finished DANCES WITH WOLVES and 4 days later he was on the set of Robin Hood.

CHRIS: They were throwing around names like Mel Gibson, Harrison Ford--

DENISE: Alec Baldwin.

CHRIS: -- to play Robin Hood.

RICHARD: They got the best one.

CHRIS: Kevin Costner was a better idea than any of the rest of those.

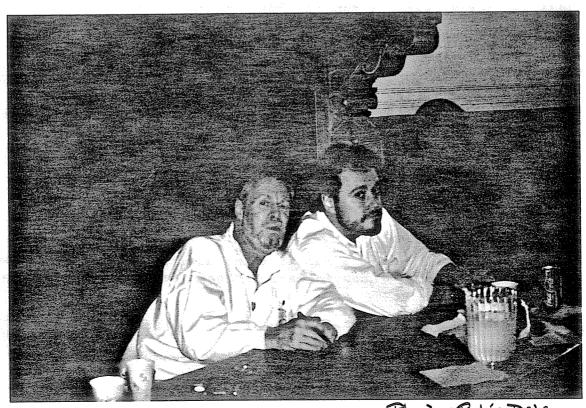


Photo: Robin Dale

RICHARD: Well, I think Mel Gibson would have made a wonderful Robin Hood.

CHRIS: Yeah. He was doing HAMLET, though, so he really didn't want to have two period piece type things.

RICHARD: Oh, no that I understand.

MARK: So, PENDRAGON is going back into -- oh, sorry, Kip.

RICHARD: That's okay.

MARK: We're taping it, so anything you say is going down.

DENISE & CHRIS: We want to hear all your stuff, too.

MARK: You just slandered half the film industry and I think it's very good that you said exactly what you feel. I think it's excellent.

RICHARD: I didn't mean it! I didn't mean it! No, I do mean it. And you can print it! I don't give a damn. I'm fed up with it. You Know, I really am.

CHRIS: So, tell us what you're doing. How is the WINJIN' POM going and everything else.

RICHARD: But, he hasn't finished.

MARK: Yes, I have, virtually.

CHRIS: Oh, come on, tell us everything!

MARK: Well, I've finished. If we get the go ahead for THE HOODED MAN, I shall spend 3 months writing it and getting the artwork straight and getting it moving. That will give me time to go down to Los Angeles and carry on negotiations on PENDRAGON with a pretty major set up from one of the studios we've talked to and in the meantime I start writing the novel of PENDRAGON with John so there's a few things occurring. But it's in a background where at the moment in England in the media where there is absolutely, virtually nothing going. Everything is depressed. Even the publishing industry is in bad shape.

RICHARD: Pretty bad shape.

MARK: Okay, Kip, over to you! WINJIN' POM.

RICHARD: Ha ha ha! Right. Skip that. No, I--

CHRIS: What are you doing now?

RICHARD: What am I doing now? I'm doing 5 things. One is called Culpepper's Magical...No, DR. CULPEPPER'S EMPORIUM about a group of Victorian ne'er-do-well kids. One of them is a mudlark and they pick pockets and all that sort of thing. It's really a BACK TO THE FUTURE for Christmas for Yorkshire is hopefully going to put it out.

Then I'm doing a thing called TRISTAN SNAIL which is this musical thing about an autistic musical genius who's into computers. He plays, he escapes from life by playing arcade machines. He's brilliant because he understands how they work and he can listen and can hear all the sounds they make. Tom (Richard's son) had got a Chinese friend who, he lives off arcade machines.

MARK: I wrote a song about this.

RICHARD: Did you?!

MARK: Called THE SOLO STARSHIP CAPTAIN. It's about a kid that when I worked in Soho, there was a lad that used to win all the machines, he used to put his name on top, S.S.C., all across the machines.

RICHARD: He does the same -- SNAIL, SNAIL, SNAIL.

MARK: All across the machines and so I wrote a song about him. About this little guy, nobody ever knew what he looked like, because he just wandered in and went from one of the machines to the next. I wrote a song about him. I mean, what kind of mentality for somebody who went in and sat there, saved the universe, rescued the ships, sank the submarines.

RICHARD: That's lovely! Because that's very much how he is and yet, he's got, he's locked--

MARK: In this world.

CHRIS: So, you should adapt that song and use it for the theme for this.

RICHARD: Ahh, what an idea. What an idea. In fact, that had crossed me mind! Umm, but it's really to break down the barriers between the different musical forms. What else are we doing?

MARK: The Robin Hood book.

RICHARD: The Robin Hood book. The Borrowers...

CHRIS & DENISE: Please tell us a little about that! We missed the story yesterday! What's the story? Everybody's buzzing about Gisburne.

RICHARD: Ahh. Gisburne, as you know, is umm, Thingie's half brother.

MARK: Robin, remember him?

CHRIS: Thingie?!

RICHARD: Oh, yeah--Robin. It must be a bad name, I can never remember it.

CHRIS: The guy with the blonde hair. Thingie, ha ha--THINGIE OF SHERWOOD!

RICHARD: THINGIE OF SHERWOOD--great title for a series! Umm...THINGIE OF SHERWOOD--PRINCE OF THINGIES! (LAUGHTER) Little John gets captured and the only way of getting him out is for Robin to go to Gisburne and say, I know who your father is. Gisburne says, I know who my father is, he's Edmund of Gisburne. Robin says, ah, naughty, naughty! You know that's not true! Gisburne is intrigued. He thinks, how does Robin know, Robert of Huntingdon know, that he, Gisburne is illegitimate. So, Robin says, I DO know. So if you release Little John, that's the deal, I'll tell you who your father is. And your father is not dead, he's still alive. So he does the deal, releases Little John, goes to Robin. Robin says, guess what?!

CHRIS: Surprise!

RICHARD: He talls Gisburne. Gisburne is totally stunned and completely. He doesn't Know what to do. Here's the man that he has chased, tried to Kill and all the rest of it and he's his bloody half brother! Not only that, because he is older than him, because it doesn't really matter if you're illegitimate in those days, but because he's older, he is the heir to the Earldom of Huntingdon. Which for Gisburne is some big. It is then that they hear that the Earl is desperately ill and he's about to die. Robin doesn't hear it 'cause he's stuck in the forest and he hasn't got a phone. (Laughter.) But, Gisburne, he's got a portable phone, you Know, he hears this and thinks right, I've got to get to the Earl and claim the title, tell him who I am, you Know. Then Robin finds out what's going on and sets out after Gisburne.

(DEAD SILENCE)

(LAUGHTER)

DENISE: To be continued...

CHRIS: When is this coming out? Who's publishing it?! When can we buy it and how much does it cost?!

RICHARD: So that's as far as I got with that one. But, that's as you know, to be continued in our next. Then there's a possible film called TOURNAMENT which is based on the life of William the Marshall, who was the first sporting star. The first major sporting star. It's really an examination of the whole tournament scene, how it was rather like there was a circuit that they went on for these tournaments and a realistic look at tournaments. You know, the fact that people could get brain-damaged. I tried to get Robert Young to watch ROLLERBALL-

MARK: Ah. GREAT film! Great film!

RICHARD: Because it's a medieval ROLLERBALL, basically. And it has to be done with that sort of intensity.

MARK: Do you know where the expression ''blackmail'' comes from?

RICHARD: Stealing sheep, isn't it or something?

MARK: I know this, but you could talk about it just briefly. Today we use the word blackmail. In the tournaments, the wandering Knights who went 'round within the tournaments lacquered their mail black so it wouldn't rust, because they were living outdoors all the time, so they lacquered it black. So, if someone turned up to a tournament wearing black mail, they knew they were a professional.

RICHARD: Yeah, a professional tournament guy.

MARK: So, sometimes, they paid them not to take part.

RICHARD: Aha! (Laughter)

MARK: So the term blackmail comes from a black, mailer--someone who wears black lacquered mail.

SICHARD: So there you go, I've been reading about tournaments and chivalry and all the rest of it and William the Marshall, I've never come across that and that's wonderful! So we're gonna do the early life of William the Marshall 'cause he finished up. It would be like a golfing caddie finishing up as President of the United States. That's the climb to power of William the Marshall. So we're going to try to do that as a film and Robert Young who is into all this is going to direct it. It's finding someone to play William the Marshall. And, of course, we would have some fairly well-Known people (pointing at Mark) in it, as well.

MARK: I'm not playing Eleanor of Aquitaine!

RICHARD: No, but there are some very, very good parts. How do you fancy playing the young Prince of Vienna who everybody sort of adores and women absolutely flock around him.

MARK: Great casting.

RICHARD: Great casting and somebody took against him, one of the other teams and so they said we know his background, we'll single him out and we'll fuck him up completely. And they did. They set on him 3 against 1. He was sort of inveigled out of the main pack of the melee. And they just beat the hell out of him. They got him off his horse, he was totally incapacitated lying

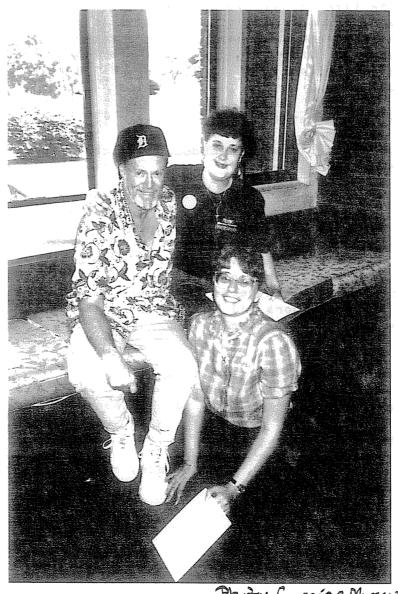


Photo: Corraine Mumaw

down and they went for his head, with those maces. And the next time you see him in the film. (Kip imitates the slurred speech of someone severely brain-damaged and crippled.) He was totally brain-damaged. It's a nice part actually. (Laughter)

MARK: Gee, thanks Kip! Always got my safety at heart. That's right!

RICHARD: The thing that worries me is, I know you could play him brain-damaged. What worries me is, could you play him as the young guy that everybody's in love with.

MARK: Thank you very much! The thing is I could play and I wouldn't really, you know, need any make up or anything.

RICHARD: So we want to make this. We want to put on the poster William the Marshall--he fought for England and won it!

US: That's good!

RICHARD: So that is a film I would love to do. It's a dream, it's a dream, it'll never happen.

CHRIS: Robin of Sherwood was a dream once.

RICHARD: But, unless you dream and unless you go on drafting and go on coming up with ideas... This development company that we're hoping to form. The aim is to provide the investors with 3 ideas a year. That's not too much. With a one-of, series or a serial or whatever. Just 3 ideas a year and then try and get one of them off. At least the investors will then, I mean it's a small investment actually, say about 75 thousand pounds a year is the investment. And that isn't just for me. It's spread out over a number of people, you know--somebody to run the office, Paul, also a consultation fee, printing, you know, lots of brochures and all that, and the fee for me to either write scripts or formats. But it will provide us with some sort of base from which we can operate. The big problem is, as you know, you spend a lot of time writing in spec. but you're not getting anything back. It's a bit of a gamble. Then we're hoping to get a thing on MYTHAGO WOOD, we want to try to get an option for that. So as soon as we get up the money, we go about trying to buy an option on this and several books that we thought would adapt. Then bringing other people in. Bringing other writers in, you know. Because it can't be, I don't want it to be a one man party.

MARK: Well, at least with Paul's background you've got a fighting chance.

RICHARD: We stand a chance of getting something off and you see this year. The reason things are bad this year, apart from the general depression is this business about the umm--

MARK: Franchises.

RICHARD: The franchises. All the television companies are sitting on their hands. They put these massive bids in secretly, they're all secretly. So you don't know who's bidding against you. It's like holding an auction in the dark, you know, which is I think, crazy and totally immoral. It should be an open auction and it shouldn't be just money, it should be track record. Which should somehow be assessed by, maybe the IBA or somebody like that. It's all very well for a group of businessmen to put in 60 million pounds to gain control of Anglia Television, then sack everybody. What do they know about television?! How are they gonna run the company?! So, that is going on at the moment. We shan't learn until October what's happening. And then

it's going to take people about 6 months to get really tooled off. Anymay, and by that time they've spent so much money getting the bloody program company they won't have any money to make any bloody programs. So, you know, it's gonna take maybe a couple of years and then it's going to start humming and for the independents, there will be so much work.

MARK: But at the moment, those that are left. Maybe not this year. There's few independents left. Because the one thing you don't want to be with is an independent television company because they are all getting Killed.

RICHARD: They are. Because nobody's buying anything, you see. And they can't afford the overheads. The thing is, if you're going to run a television company, run it from your garage. Don't run it from an office in Wardour Street, because the rental alone is going to wipe you out. If no money is coming in, the rental alone's going to wipe you out. They're going down, closing up. The bankruptcy rate in England is a thousand bankruptcies a week in the Southeast alone. You know, small businesses, small companies. But it will change, there will be an upturn, and when there is, it's gonna be, it should be, gravy train time for a bit anyhow. Not for long. Because then they'll say, wait a minute, we're spending too much money, our profits are down, let's put in another game show. You know, 'cause game shows are cheap.

CHRIS: We heard Richard O'Brien is doing a game show.

RICHARD: Yes, he is.

CHRIS: It's called THE CRYSTAL MAZE or something. How is that? Have you seen it?

RICHARD: Very big in the ratings.

MARK: Yeah. It's a very clever show. I've seen it.

DENISE: It sounds very intrigueing.

RICHARD: It is a clever show.

MARK: It's like a wargame, without war. It's a lateral thinking game where teams go in and have to work out exactly like a war game.

You have to work out how to get the bridge across the swamp and run the computer and go into the computer room and the informational room and all these different things and these teams compete and it's lateral thinking exercises but he's made it into a new age type of game. It's very clever. It think he wrote it as well.

RICHARD: Did he? His concept?

MARK: Yeah.

RICHARD: He's a brilliant guy. Well, I mean anyone who could write THE ROCKY HORROR SHOW must be brilliant.

MARK: I, personally, think he went a bit far on Robin. He went completely--

RICHARD: Yeah. No, it was very naughty. It was very naughty because I mean, people could see that he was sending it up and I got a little bit cross because if you can't be bothered to make a character believable and you're just camping about that's a bit naughty. It's not a joke, you know, this is NO loke.

CHRIS: We were wondering if you've heard anything about what anybody else is doing?

RICHARD: What's Clivey doing?

MARK: Clive's just done ALIENS 3, playing one of the guys.

US: Great!

MARK: It's an extraordinary set. I've been on the set. Clive played one of the characters in it. Ray is doing a thing for the BBC, I forgot what it's called. He did a very good play a few months ago on television which I saw and it was brilliant. He's doing another one for the BBC. Peter was in a thing called WIDOWMAKER last year for Central, I think it was. Judi got married on Saturday. Congratulations! Nick Grace was at the Montreaux Film Festival, he's back now, but he was in something that won an award at Montreaux.

RICHARD: I think it was the LORCA thing, I'm not sure. It might have been something else. Robert Addie is, apparently, back now in the U.K.

RICHARD & MARK: We don't know where.

MARK: But for a large amount of money we could probably find out, whoever's interested. (Laughter)

CHRIS: It's not worth it to us! No.

MARK: (Laughter)

CHRIS: We'll cut that out.

MARK: Yesh, cut that out.

RICHARD: Yeah, we'll tell you what to cut out.

MARK: Jason is doing a thing in the Cook Islands for Central Television, I don't know what it's called.

RICHARD: It's either called THE FAR SIDE OF PARADISE or THE OTHER SIDE OF PARADISE.

CHRIS: What islands did you say? Cook Islands?

RICHARD: Yes. They're off New Zealand. They're in the Pacific. Very nice location. I've been there. He's playing the lead in that and I forget who is playing the female lead. Somebody quite well known.

MARK: Michael--PRINCE OF DARKNESS, no SON OF DARKNESS will be out whenever that's released, shortly.

CHRIS: What we've heard recently is that they are going to screen test it in Florida. Test market it or whatever and then decide whether it is going to go straight to video or--

RICHARD: They can't be too happy about it then.

CHRIS: If it doesn't come out in theatres, it's supposed to come out on video like by November so maybe by next Visions, we'll have it to look at. How's Michael's music thing going? Anything new with that?

MARK: I--I don't know, no comment.

CHRIS: Alright.

MARK: Clive's also writing with Nick Wilton, a series of 13 playlets which he and Nick Wilton do together and they play all the parts, Nick and him. They're doing it for the BBC. They're doing a series of 13, 15-minute play type things.

RICHARD: That's wonderful!

MARK: Which...Little comedy things and Nick Wilton and Clivey play all the parts.

RICHARD: They did that radio show, right?

DENISE: They did HELLO MUM together, right?

MARK: Yeah, yeah.

DENISE: They have a good chemistry together.

MARK: They have, yeah. He's a nice guy, Nick, as Hell.

RICHARD: Who else? Phil. What's Phil doing?

MARK: Phil has got his own pantomime production company now. He directed and produced a pantomime for Christmas and I think that's what he's doing now, as well as running his hotel in Blackpool.

RICHARD: And I saw him in THE MERCHANT OF VENICE, playing Shylock, would you believe? Because he rang me up and we went to wherever he was nearest to us, we went to see it. They did it in sort of 1920's costumes. He played Shylock. He was going, at that time, to do THE MERRIE WIVES OF WINDSOR to play Falstaff in it, for which he would have actually been more suitable than Shylock. But he made a good stab at it. It was interesting. Who else is there? I don't know what the guy who played Abbot Hugo is doing.

MARK: He never stops working. The guy never stops working.

RICHARD: He's usually in the Royal Shakespeare stuff. Or National Theatre-he does a hell of a lot of work. Never stops. Who else?

CHRIS: Valentine Pelka?

MARK: He was doing the WILLIAM TELL (Crossbow) thing for a long time.

CHRIS: Did you ever get a copy of the one you did?

MARK: Have you seen it?

CHRIS: No.

MARK: It's called ''The Lost City'' so if you ever see an episode of TELL called ''The Lost City'', save it for me. 'Cause I've never seen it. They did some interesting stuff.

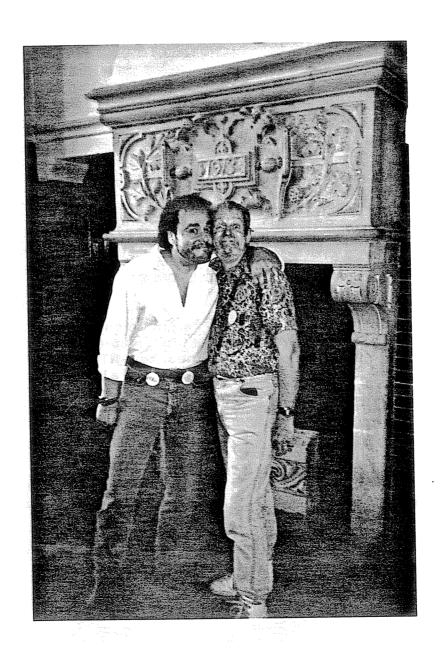
CHRIS: It never aired over here. The 3rd series never aired over here.

MARK: I mean it was so bad that, I mean it was absolutely--they tried to do a cheap Robin of Sherwood.

CHRIS: It was a cheap Robin of Sherwood.

MARK: (In England) They showed 3 episodes and that was it. They show it sometimes late at night.

US: Well, we'll save it for you if we ever see it. Well, thank you for taking time to do the interview, our readers will really enjoy this.





2 FAN'S LAMENT
(To the tune of "Bring Back My Bonnie"--Traditional)
BY THE MAD RABBIT



Oh. Loxlev he died full of arrows John is off herding his sheep Tuck is communing with sparrows And Much can do nothing but weep.

#### (CHORUS)

Bring back. bring back.
Bring back our Merries to us. to us!
Bring back. bring back
Oh. bring back our Merries to us!

Marion's stuck in the convent.
The blonde child is lonely. but brave.
Nasir will forever be silent.
And Will can but endlessly rave.

## (REPEAT CHORUS)

The sheriff and Guy laugh with glee now.
Herne's riddles we no longer hear.
You've broken our hearts. HTV. now.
Cancellation has cost us all dear

#### (REPEAT CHORUS)

The movie is dead as a doornail.

Fourth season is naught but a dream.

But the Spirit of Sherwood shall prevail!

And. thank Herne. we've still got our fanzines!

(REPEAT CHORUS---WITH GREAT FEELING!)



# THE CHRONICLES OF SAINT CIRICUS: MAUNDERINGS HISTORICAL AND OTHERWISE

# by Laura Chevening and Cindy Fairbanks

# Was there an historical Robin Hood? --Sharon Lowachee

". . . Robin Hood is tall. short. stocky, slight, dark, fair, bearded. clean shaven. This one insists he's a dwarf/ A dwarf/ and where do we find him? In a cave, down a well, up a tree, near Hickham. Duxford, Ashley, Calverton, et cetera, et cetera. et cetera. . . /"

One can almost sympathize with King John's frustration here for there is almost as much confusion and disagreement about the historical existence of England's most famous outlaw as was present among the villagers gathered in Nottingham Castle during the Robin of Sherwood episode, "The Betrayal" from which the above quote comes.

Ever since the first written literary reference to Robin in William Langland's Fiers Ploughman, written in 1377 (The ballads are older, but were not written down until much later.), there been debate about Robin's real name, area of operations. social standing and even existence. The current leading authority on the historical Robin Hood, Sir James (or J.C.) Holt (who, incidentally was both the historical advisor to the recently televised Patrick Bergin Robin Hood shown on Fox--and his input showed in many minor but telling details of historical and geographical accuracy!--and himself interviewed on CBS's Robin Hood, the Man. the Myth and the Movie documentary) believes, on the basis of place names, geographical setting and the type of society referred to in the "Gest of Robin Hood"--the earliest and major Robin Hood ballad--that if there was an historical Robin. he was most likely one Robert Hode who lived near Wakefield in South Yorkshire in the early thirteenth century and fled the jurisdiction of the king's justice in 1225. (Whew! That sentence is almost as long as Holt's book!) Holt studied place and family names in South Yorkshire, finding a family with the surname of Hood well established in the Wakefield region which was also adjacent to Barnsdale, the most often cited early locale for Robin's activities.

"It may reasonably be conjectured that tales of Robin were sufficiently well known by 1296 to account for the adoption of the surname, that the Warenne lordship in Sussex, and more particularly, the Lancaster lordship of the liberty of Leicester, of which Gilbert Robynhod was a tenant, account for the transmission of a story based on Barnsdale to the villages of Sussex, and that the Hoods of Wakefield wither brought forth the original Robin or embodied tales of Robin Hood into the traditions of their family. It is more likely than not that Robert Hood, outlaw, the original of the story was a real person." (p. 187)

A number of references in the "Gest" have led some investigators to place Robin not in the thirteenth century favored by Holt, but a century later in the time of Edward II.

This point of view was put forward by John Bellamy in his work entitled Robin Hood, An Historical Enquiry. The basis for his thesis is references to the king's progress through Sherwood Forest to Nottingham and surviving records of a royal valet named Robyn Hode (and even of a John Little!) in the king's household in 1323. Acknowledging that the archetypical Robin cannot have been the Robyn of the wardrobe accounts ('though he insists that the Robin of the "Gest" is indeed that personage!), Bellamy admits that the most likely candidate for the original Robin is Holt's favored choice, Robert Hod, fügitivus, who was apparently accused, arraigned or outlawed at the York sessions of 1225.

Regardless of who the curious reader chooses to believe, these are the two major historical candidates competing for the role of the legendary outlaw leader. As the legend evolved, however, it absorbed elements from many sources, particularly the tales of other established historical English outlaw figures such as Adam Bell, incidents and themes from Anglo-Norman and Latin romances such as the tales of Hereward the Saxon, Eustace the Monk and Fulk Fitzwarin. Portions of the legend as we know it today, especially the existence of Maid Marion and Friar Tuck, were introduced during the fifteenth century. These were clearly fictional blendings of traditional figures from the May games popular in England and France at the time.

The legend experienced yet a third major revision in the 1500 and 1600's, when the tales of Robin Hood became fashionable entertainment in the aristocratic courts of the land. Unable to accept such a magnificent hero as being of the peasantry, the balladeers and poets elevated Robin to noble status. "This Robin so much talked on was once a man of fame. Instyled Earl of Huntingdon, Lord Robert Hood by name." A True Tale of Robin Hood, Martin Parker, 1632.

Doctor William Stukely, an historian of some repute, gave respectability to this claim by establishing an actual (although totally spurious!) family tree for this aristocratic Robin in 1746, claiming he was the pretended Earl of Huntingdon who was outlawed in 1226, pardoned by the king in 1227 only to be outlawed again in 1265. It suited most balladeers at the time to ignore the pretended prefix and simply make Robin Hood be the outlawed Earl of Huntingdon.

The fourth major permutation in the legend came with Sir Walter Scott's *Ivanhoe*, published in 1819. It was at this time that the outlaw of Sherwood was placed in the reign of Richard I and associated with the struggle between Norman and Saxon. In the age of romanticism, the chivalrous yeoman outlaw, the (erroneous) image of good King Richard and the noble, but downtrodden poor hit a responsive nerve—and one politically in tune with both the rise of political liberalism and the continuance of the monarchy—and has remained a staple of the legend ever since.

So, obviously, the search for the true legendary outlaw can be as exciting as one of the numerous retellings of his exploits in Sherwood and Barnsley Forests. For those truly interested in further pursuing this fascinating topic, the following three books are invaluable sources of information:

Robin Hood by J.C. Holt ISBN 0-500-27541 (Revised 1989)

Robin Hood, An HIstorical Enquiry by John Bellamy ISBN 0-253-

#### 35015-8

The Quest for Robin Hood by Jim Lees ISBN 1-8700-10-127

"And now that we've answered that question, can we get on to discussing you-know-who?"

"Alas, no. We've run out of allotted space in this issue of the newsletter. Perhaps the next issue."

"Oh, drat/"

"My sentiments exactly. But, you know, I saw the most amazing sight at this year's Herne's Con."

"You don't mean . . ."
"I most certainly do!"

"Quick/ to the phones/"



1000



#### A Visit to Robin Hood's Britain

#### Robin Hood's Well at Barnsdale Bar and Kirklees

by Jean West

There are so many sites where we can see and touch the historical and legendary Robin Hood that it is easy to forget that all these locations are, in essence, places of the heart.

I wanted to see the Barnsdale Bar area because Professor J. C. Holt had made such a persuasive case that this was the real physical setting where the historical figure we call Robin Hood operated. And I wanted to see the Robin Hood gravesite near Kirklees because however unhistoric it might be, it is where the legends end. I went intending to probe with my senses the reality of history and legend.

Little John frequently swears, "By St. Thomas," in the series, and, now, I know why that is so apt. Thomas the Doubter learned that physical proof is no substitute for faith. At Barnsdale Bar and Kirklees, I received a St. Thomas-like drubbing by physical "reality," a rude lesson in the necessity of faith.

All my road guides promised me that I would find Robin Hood's Well at Barnsdale Bar. The well was given its Robin Hood name in 1622, but because it was located on the historic Great North Road, it seemed the best choice for a location where the historic Robin might have slaked his thirst. Since the Earl of Carlisle had commissioned Sir John Vanbrugh to design an arched stone cover for the well, I knew it would be easy to spot from the Al road. I will not detail the number of times I drove back and forth over the stretch of road where the well was supposed to be. In frustration I stopped at the Al service area and asked several befuddled employees about the well. Finally, the manager said, "Oh yes, well, you used to be able to see it, about a kilometer east of here, but it was paved over when they widened the road a year or two ago."

I don't know if he was right, but, I never found Robin Hood's Well. I should have been disappointed, but, I wasn't. I'd criss-crossed the area, scanned its vistas with a keen eye, stopped, talked to some really kind local folk. And I'd left certain that there was a real outlaw of Barnsdale Bar who we now call Robin Hood, whose path I'd crossed that day. I can't prove it quantitatively, you see, it's a matter of faith.

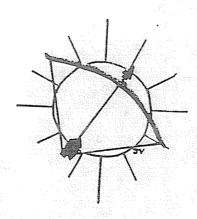
Whenever I got to the end of Howard Pyle's accounting of the tales of Robin Hood, or when I saw Audrey Hepburn as Marion minister death to the aging Robin, played by Sean Connery, or whenever I watched Robin of Loxley die under a blood red sky, I had always ached. I proceeded the 15 miles to Kirklees to put to rest that old grief.

The sign that identifies that you have entered Kirklees also states that it is a "nuclear-free zone." It was jarring to find our modern horrors intruding on this place where Robin is supposed to rest in peace. I knew that I would find r convent, since it was dissolved by Henry VIII, but I readily located the Three Nuns Inn, a pub reputedly built on the site of the priory guest house. (At the time of the dissolution, there were only three sisters in residence at Kirklees, hence the name.) My guide warned that it was "perhaps unwise to seek an actual resting place for the heroes of legend," but I parked at the Inn and walked along the path that stretches towards Kirklees Hall estate. I stopped at the fence where "private property," was posted, beyond which a dog barked furiously. I looked towards the tree line where the reputed tomb of Robin Hood is located.

If I'd pressed on I would have found the stone tomb, fenced by iron. Tudor printer Richard Grafton claimed the stone carried the inscription "Roberd Hude," although the 17th century writer Martin Parker recorded an epitaph from the slab for Robert, Earl of Huntingdon, outlaw for thirteen years, who died December 4, 1198. But, I knew the stone was illegible and the tomb much damaged by 19th century railroad laborers who chipped fragments to cure toothache. So, I went no further, in the physical sense.

Instead, I recalled the words of Robin of Loxley to Marion, "You must care...And I can't die then, can I?" and the words Marion uttered to Robert of Huntingdon, "Let me live in your heart." And so I covered the final distance, not by walking across the meadow, but through a flight of faith.

In Kirklees field, under a warm, bright May sun, I remembered Robin Hood and what he represented. In doing so, I did my part to perpetuate the legend. Lacking a fire arrow, I offered instead a pair of silent prayers. Afterwards I felt the peace which comes from the closure of an old sorrow and the reaffirmation of faith. The wheel turns...and nothing's forgotten.



# Castles of Robin of Sherwood





Photos: Jazet P. Recoman

#### BAMBURGH CASTLE (Castle de Belleme) by Janet P. Reedman

The castle stands on a dark, basalt cliff on the edge of a moon-stark beach of dunes and coarse sea-grass. Out across the waves, on a clear day (rare in the harsh Northmbrian climes) one can see the Farnes, where St Cuthbert had a hermitage, and the Eizabethan fortress dominating the ancient sanctity of Holy Island. On the landward side one can see down the beach to Spindlestone Heugh, site of the old legend of 'the Laidly Worm'.

This place is a climate ripe for legends, and when the mist swirls up suddenly and engulfs the keep and walls of Bamburgh, it is indeed easy to believe it could be the abode of a sorcerer! But even though there are no records of sorcery at Bamburgh, its own history is full of magic and wonder....

Long before the great sandstone walls were built, a fortress of earthen ramparts stood on that high spot overlooking the North sea. The Celtic tribes who lived there called it 'Din Guardi', and some historians and researchers claim it was the traditional home of Sir Lancelot. Remains of the ramparts are still visible in certain lights, and fragments of iron and dark age pottery surfaces when the winds stir the sand dunes on the beach below.

The Celtic settlement ceased to be upon the arrival of Saxon invaders. Realizing the strategic importance of the site, they made it the capital of the Kingdom of Bernicia. One Queen who lived there, Bebba, gave the fortress or burgh her name--Bebbanburgh, Bebba's burgh--and hence Bamburgh.

One time, the pagan King Penda brought his raiding band to the fortress and tried to set fire to the wooden palisade erected atop the cliff. Black clouds of smoke were seen drifting over the Farnes by St Cuthbert, who cried out, "Lord, see what evil Penda is doing!' And miraculously, the wind shifted in such a way the wooden walls would not ignite.

During the Saxon period, several mighty kings lived at Bamburgh, including St. Oswald, champion of the poor, whose right arm never withered after death and was preserved through the Middle Ages in the castle chapel. Unfortunately, this time of glory and prosperity came to an end when Viking invaders poured in from Scandinavia in the 10 C. Bamburgh was burnt to the ground and the Vikings squatted in the ruins.

The site was left desolate until after the time of the Conquest. Like their predecessors, the Normans realized the strategic importance of the site and quickly erected a wooden castle on the cliff.

The lord of this castle was Robert de Mowbray, 3rd Earl of Northumberland. In 1186 he fell afoul of the present ruler, William Rufus, who then brought his seige engines up to Bamburgh, including the infamous 'Malvoisin' or Evil Neighbour--a massive seige-tower. During the battle many of de Mowbray's men were captured and forced to man the Evil Neighbour against their lord, who hurled imprecations and threats at them from the walls. Eventually, de Mowbray fled through the postern gate, leaving his wife Matilda to hold the castle. She held out against the attackers until her husband was captured and threatened with blinding. She then opened the gates to the royal forces, and the castle was taken over by the Crown.

During the Anarchy of Stephen and Matilda, Bamburgh was taken several times and switched hands frequently. At one point the Scots broke in and slaughtered the entire garrison.

The great square keep of Bamburgh was probably begun shortly after this period in the reign of Henry II. It is not as tall as many Norman keeps, being about

60 feet high, but gains its imposing appearance from walls which are ten feet thick in places. The keep is unusual in having a ground-floor entrance and straight staircases inside. The doorway is also interesting in that it is shaped for a mounted man to ride through. This precaution was taken to ensure that if the walls were breached the soldiers could ride directly into the keep, the castle stronghold, to make their last defense. Inside the Great Tower, there is also a crosswall splitting the lower floor, also in the event of a necessary final stand.

In Henry's reign, the walls were enlarged and strengthened to enclose the castle's three wards. Not much building took place in Richard I's time, but King John added some of the round towers and continued to strengthen and repair the masonry. He is also said to have installed an evil constable who sent out his men in boats to rob ships passing the Farnes! John's son, Henry III, continued working on Bamburgh, adding the double-towered east gate in the 1200's.

The castle was briefly beseiged once more during the reign of Edward III--

and, once again, it was held by a woman, Edward's Queen, Philippa.

It remained an important stronghold through the Middle Ages, but its next time of travail came during the Wars of the Roses. Margaret d'Anjou, a strong and capable Queen, fled to Bamburgh with her ailing and oftimes incompetent husband, King Henry VI, and lived there ruling a strange little kingdom on the edge of the sea, until the Yorkists finally moved against her. She quickly sought sanctuary in Scotland and beyond, but the castle held firm for Lancaster in the bloody War in the North.

Bamburgh was not alone. Alnwick Castle and Dunstanburgh also held out against the Yorkist forces. The seiges of these strongholds went on so long, at one point the beseiged soldiers were even reduced to eating their own horses.

Finally Alnwick surrendered and then Dunstanburgh, after the garrisons received news of added Yorkist manpower reaching the North. But Bamburgh held firm; it had long been thought to be impregnable. The great gates remained shut.

In anger Warwick the Kingmaker sent his forces up the beach toward the Castle, bringing with them cannon, a weapon just beginning to be used for seige warfare. A threat was issued that for every shot fired, one of the defenders would lose his head. Still, the gates remained shut.

The barrage began. Fire power hitherto unseen in England slammed into the sullen sandstone walls of the castle and soon pieces were spinning into the sea. Eventually the leader of the defenders, Sir Ralph Grey, was severly wounded by a chunk of flying stone, and the battle was over. Bamburgh lay in ruins, the first English castle to fall to cannonfire.

After this disaster, the castle began to decay at a rapid rate. Queen Elizabeth I attempted a resoration, but her efforts proved too costly. Greater ruin ensued, and soon none dwelt in the castle but the screaming terms and the wind. Finally, in the 1700's the castle was privately purchased, and some restoration attempted, though it was not until the coal magnate, Lord Armstrong, purchased it in the latter part of the 1800's that any major work took place.

Lord Armstrong wanted to live at Bamburgh and set about restoring it to a Victorian ideal of what a medieval castle should look like. Purists will argue that parts of the walls are historically innacurate due to his 'restoration' and that the castle should have been left as a historic ruin, but this is open to debate. For all the Victorianisms, Bamburgh probably still gives the visitor a better idea of what a castle would look like than any broken, hollow shell.

Today, Lord Armstrong's descendants still live in the castle, when not at their other great mansion, the dramatic Cragside. I had the honour of meeting the present Lord Armstrong, and touring through his great castle, which is the second most inhabited castle in Britain after Windsor. Many retirees live in

private rooms throughout the massive hall-plock.

The first part of the castle one sees today is the inner ward with the ruined chapel of St Peter (where Oswald's arm was kept enshrined). Walking up toward the door of the hall-block with the curator. I asked him about the filming of RCS. Unfortunately, he was new and hadn't been there at the time, but he knew when and where He also told me the castle had been used in SECKET (and I've subsequently seen it in the BBC program TMF CFLIS. TVANHOF, and, interestingly enough, in TME SECRET LIFF OF IAN FLEMING!)

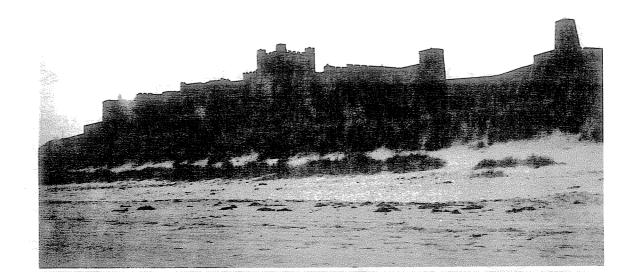
Inside the castle, the first thing the vistor sees is a museum, with some Roman remains and chain-mail. Walking on, you pass through the restored Victorian champers, including the Great Hall, a romantic fantasy actually built on the site of the Nedieval hall, and into the armoury, a collection of weapons on loan from the Iower of London.

As I needed down the unusual straight staircase, I noticed with interest the graffiti carved in the walls, most of it dating from the 1700's. This was carved by wandering visitors when the castle was a desolate ruin.

Heading into the lowest region of the keep, I examined the Saxon well. and then suddenly realized that here was one of the places used in RH and the Sorperer. There is a scene (cut out in some versions) where Robin and the others, after escaping Nottingham's dungeons, fight with the guards before making their way into the bailey. This scene was filmed here: I distinctly recognized it by the big black chains hanging by the door (which the curator insisted I try out!)

At least me didn't make me try out the iron man-trap hanging from the ceiling! Leaving the keep, I headed across the bailey to the walls. The gate Robin entered through looked exactly the same as it did in the show, except no skeletons, of course! Passing through it, I entered the west ward, which seems to have been left unrestored, as evidenced by crumbling walls and masses of ivy. Just below here, in an archaeological dig undertaken about 15 years ago, a gold Saxon piece known as the Bamburgh Beast was unearthed. The view from this section of the castle was breathtaking, but it was an eerie place too, with the wind singing through barbed wire on the ruined gate and the lonely nump of Holy Island dark on the norizon

Certainly the atmosphere was fitting for a sorcerer's castle--or anything else the imagination could devise. There was, and is, no doubt in my mind that this vast, ancient monument with its long history will remain beloved of writers, poets, and film-makers for many, many more years.







Tracey Rose
11, Chapelfields
Frinton Gates
FRINTON ON SEA
Essex CO13 ORD
ENGLAND

I am a British fan, that would dearly love to write to other like-minded fans. I am interested (obsessed, my parents would say) with everything to do with our favourite TV series (in particular a certain Earl's Son.), the Legend of Robin Hood and Archery. I am a faithful pen pal who will answer any letter that might wing its way to England.

Gina Fox 935 Whites School Road Sevierville, TN 37862

Single, born 12-4-58, loves British and American history, Broadway show tunes and music from the 40's, 50's and 60's (also the 70's), watching classic movies and seeing the literary works of Agatha Christie, Doroty L. Sayers and Margery Allingham brought to life on the PBS series MYSTERY.

Janet VanMeter 3274 Mapleway LN Columbus, OH 43204

I enjoy discussing everything from RoS--I'm a fan of either Robin, 12th C Britain, Arthurian Legends, etc. I return letters promptly and request same! Write ma!

Debbie Reynolds 2301 N. Pecos 142 Midland, TX 79705

I love to read. Jason Connery is my favorite Robin Hood (Even over Errol Flynn!!!). I've been fascinated by British history and folklore, since I was a small child. My favorite books, musicians, actors always seem to be British and I have several scrap books. Strange, huh?

Janet Reedman 1036 Hampshire Rd Victoria, BC Canada v8s489

Edits the fanzine LEGENO and is very much into Robin of Sherwood, British History and Celtic Mythology. Is desperately seeking other Canadian Robin of Sherwood fans!



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Michael Praed Network Newsletter c/o Kate Raymond P.O. Box 516 Midlothian, IL 60445

Friends of Robin of Sherwood P.O. Box 237 West Upton, MA 01587

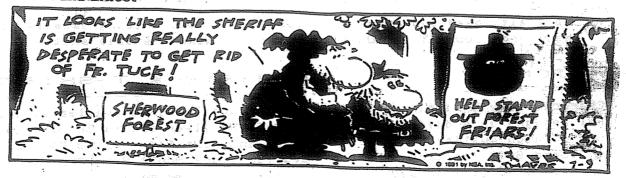
Anglo-Fans Unlimited c/o J.Ruth Dempsey 357 W.Squire Dr.#1 Rochester, NY 14623

#### VIDEOS

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Available from KMD Marketing: Puss in Boots (Jason) Nightflyers (Michael) Winner Takes AllKa.K.a The Boy who had Everything, Jason) Spymaker (Jason) R.H. & Sorceror Swords of Wayland Herne's Son Time of the Wolf If you are looking for these or other films, send SASE for more information to: KMD Marketing 400 Emahlea St. Pitts., Pa 15207

## Frank and Emost



#### NEW PHOTOS!!!

- Just arrived--never-before-seen Colour Photos!!!
- JC-21 Huntingdon in Guard's Uniform from THE BETRAYAL, head to toe, intense look, holding sword across with both hands, castle in in background, stunning!
- JC-22 Robert in ringed tunic shooting bow. Profile, head to above waist. Sunny with forest in background.
- JC-23 Action shot from POWER OF ALBION! Robert sword fighting with Gisburne. Robert is wearing Earl's son clothes and facing forward. Gisburne has his back to you.
- JT-13 Marion in blue-grey dress and cloak from POWER OF ALBION shooting bow, head to hips, facing you.
- MM-28 Third Season Photo, Much tied up, 3/4 length, looking off to side. Sheriff behind him, glaring, looking off to side, wearing chain mail and helmet with nose guard.
- GS-11 The ''Professional Beggar'' (Martin Shaw) being helped out of the Abbey of St. Ciricus by a monk, while other monks look on with arms crossed in the background.

#### MORE NEW COLOUR PHOTOS!!!

- MM-29 Will, John, Marion, Loxley, Tuck, Nasir and Much crouched in front. Castle wall in background.
- RM-14 Robert and Marion embracing, portrait, head & shoulders, looking at you. Marion in dress from POWER OF ALBION.

#### NEW COLOUR JASON PHOTOS!!!

- OS-37 Jason, portrait, head & shoulders, thoughtful look, black leather jacket, sunset beach in background, recent photo.
- OS-38 Jason, head to toe, Black leather jacket, blue jeans, red sweater, water, buildings & factory in background. (Och Baby--Enough said!)
- OS-39 Jason, crouched down, full length, close up, black leather jacket, red sweater, blue jeans, sunset beach in background.
- OS-40 Portrait, head and shoulders, looking at you, smiling sweetly, black hair from JOURNEY'S END, black leather jacket, studio shot.

### STATIONERY

RoS Characters by Christine Several designs in 4 different paper. Send SASE for more information to club address.

#### T-SHIRTS \* T-SHIRTS

We now have T-Shirts available. They are of the flyer art, a 50-50 blend, lt. colours on high-quality writing green and cost \$10 + \$2.50 P&P. Sizes available are Adult S,M,L&XL. XXL is available for \$2 more. To order or for more information, write to club address



Hello to all our fellow ROBIN OF SHERWOOD fans out there and welcome to the first PROGRESS REPORT for WEEKEND IN SHERWOOD!!! Yes we're really doing this and it's going to be an event you won't want to miss.

#### THE SHERATON DAKS

We searched high and low for the perfect place, and just when we had almost given up--Herne led us to Novi! With a name like this, it was meant to be. Also, their meeting rooms are called Willow, Spruce, Laurel and Chestnut. If that wasn't enough, there is a beautiful interior garden atrium and exterior courtyard--lots of green! The hotel people are very enthusiastic about having us there and have been very cooperative. There are two restaurants and 2 lounges. There are heated indoor and outdoor pools, sauna, indoor and outdoor whirlpools, exercise room, tanning bed and racquetball courts. There is a complimentary shuttle service to the Twelve Oaks shopping mall. We are hoping to take over all 214 guest rooms in this 3 story hotel. We are encouraging everyone to make their reservations NOW (whether you've registered yet or not) if you plan to attend! We are trying to get an idea of numbers and would like to have figures to show the hotel personnel and catering department! To get the convention rate of \$50/night flat rate (1-? people=\$50/night) which is in effect from Wednesday before the con to the Wednesday after, call Kelly at TTM toll free 1-800-458-9237.

#### THE SURROUNDING SHIRE

Within walking distance there is a gorgeous mall with lots of neat shops (like a Disney Store), restaurants, a movie theater, etc. There is a grocery store, a 24 hour drugstore, a shopping plaza with a Toys R Us, Pizza Hut, Denny's, & Red Lobster.

A very short drive down the street to another shopping plaza that has a Border's Bookstore—a HUGE bookstore. Near that is a Big Boy and a Bob Evans restaurant. Novi is a new and growing community. Many of the Teachers, Doctors and other professionals are moving to this lovely area and commuting into the city. You will find the hotel and area easily accessible whether you are driving, flying or traveling by bus or train. We will send out more detailed information and maps in later reports.

#### THE MERRIE MEET

We have so many wonderful things planned for this con, we can't wait! We have the two most interesting storytellers who love to talk to fans for our Guests of Honour--Mark Ryan and Richard Carpenter. What more could you ask for? Tell us! Please write with any comments, questions, suggestions, etc. Send SASEs for info. on DEALERS, GOFERING, ART SHOW, FAN PANELS, PROGRAMMING, etc. We can't do this without all of you! Please register as early as you can so we can sleep nights and plan this whole party a lot better. Also Keep in mind that we can only accommodate 200 bodies for the banquet and we expect to excede that in membership. So to reserve your space you must register early. No Memberships Will Be Sold at the Door! If you've never been to a con before, why not come to WEEKEND IN SHERWOOD and make merrie in Michigan next summer?!



## FEATURED GUESTS

(subject to professional commitments)

# MARK RYAN

RICHARD CARPENTER

(NASIR)

(SERIES CREATOR)

## \*\* TEGISTRATION \*\*

Attendance will be limited so register early!!! No memberships will be sold at the door!!!

Attending => \$55 (until May 1st)

\$60 (after May 1st)

(Includes Buffet Banquet with the Guests of Honour for the first 200 people to sign up!)

Supporting => \$15

(Includes Convention Mailings & Autographed Program Book)

## \*\* HOTEL & TRAVEL ADRAGED COS \*\*

Sheraton Oaks Hotel

Nort, Michigan

Flat rate -- \$50/might

Book <u>Motel Room</u> & <u>Discount Airfare</u> by calling KELLY at Total Travel Management, 1-800-458-9237.

Outside USA call 412-281-5252 or 412-565-5844.

(Do  $\underline{\text{NOT}}$  call the hotel directly – Kelly is authorised by them to handle all convention bookings.)

## SCHEDULED PROGRAMMING

MEDIEVAL BANQUET (Costur	nes Optional)
MAJOR OAK AWARDS (For ex	xcellence in RoS fanzines)
ART SHOW	
DEALERS	
COSTUME CONTEST	
FRIDAY NIGHT RECEPTION (Honour)	n the COURTYARD & ATRIUM (With the Guests of
HOSPITALITY SUITE	
FILKSINGING	
GUEST PANELS	
FAN PANELS	
Autograph & Photograph	l sessions
VIDEO ROOM (Bloopers and Evi see but were afraid to ask!!!)	erything Robin of Sherwood you have ever wanted to
CHARITY AUCTION	
WALLYBALL(Nobles vs. Serfs?	
****************	**************************************
Enclosed is \$forattending/	supporting membership(s)
NAME:	
ADDRESS:	
CITY:	STATE:
ZIP:	PHONE:

 $\label{eq:make_check} \mbox{Manney Order Payable in $U.S. Funds to SPIRIT OF SHERWOOD, 1276 $W. Marshall, Ferndale, MI 48220, USA.}$ 

Send SASE for more information on ART SHOW, DEALERS, PROGRAMMING, GOFERING, OTHER!!!

