

The Charter:

To Their Excellencies Bjorn and Jennet, Baron and Baroness of Loch Salann, do come the needle workers of Loch Salann. May it please your Excellencies to grant us this charter and allow us these articles:

That there be formed in the Barony of Loch Salann a guild for the needle workers who are interested in the technique and history of needlework.

That this Needle worker's Guild shall encourage research.

That this Needle worker's Guild shall teach technique and history.

That this Needle worker's Guild shall promote excellence in its art.

That this Needle worker's Guild shall display such works as it shall create.

Submitted to their Excellencies this tenth day of December in the year XLVI Anno Societatis (being 2011 by the common reckoning)

We , Bjorn Hrafnsen Ohnstad and Jennet Moir de Brechin, Baroness of Loch Salann, do hereby grant and recognize this charter of the Barony of Loch Salann Needle worker's Guild.

Bjorn Hrafnsen Ohnstad  
Baron

Jennet Moir de Brechin  
Baroness

## Barony of Loch Salann Needle workers Guild Structure

The focus of this guild is to promote the art and enjoyment of needlework as well as to further our knowledge and develop our skills in various needlework styles.

As needle workers in the SCA, we will study the history of needlework and we will use our skills to recreate the glory of another time. Knowledge of the history and techniques of needlework will increase our appreciation of the time spent during the Middle Ages to adorn clothing and furnishings. Today, our use of period stitching techniques will increase our knowledge of what life was like in the past and will enable us to understand the achievements of those in the Middle Ages.

The Guild will sponsor classes and displays of needlework at various events throughout the Barony. We will endeavor to meet at events in order to share knowledge and to learn from one another. We will also undertake projects for the Baroness of Loch Salann to allow her to distribute the fruits of our labors as largesse. There will be an electronic newsletter, which will distribute schedules of classes and news of interest to the Guild.

If there comes a time when a member wishes a critique of work in order to solve a problem, find a resource, or seek improvement, then and only then, will that work be scrutinized and any critique offered. However, the primary efforts of the guild are to promote needlework, to encourage the development of needlework skills, to appreciate the time and effort involved in needlework, and to admire each other's accomplishments in the needlework field.

The Guild will be sponsoring a leveled learning program, although participation is not a requirement of membership. This leveled education series is for those who wish to measure their skills in a progressive manner. This is not a competition, but simply a means to observe the progress of learning and mastering new skills and techniques.

### Officers and Contact information

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Historian  
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Other officers to be determined.

## Levels in the Education Program

Each member of the guild receives a scissor fob bearing the guild initials."BLSNG"

**Novice:** Anyone who demonstrates skills in one category of embroidery. There must be two significantly different pieces demonstrating two separate skills within that category. Upon completion of the examination you will receive a (needle case bearing the guild initials).

**Journeyman:** Anyone who demonstrates skills in two additional categories of embroidery. There must be two significantly different pieces within each category, demonstrating two separate skills, for a total of four needlework pieces. Upon completion of this examination you will receive a (thimble holder bearing the guild initials).

**Needle Artiste:** Anyone who demonstrates skills in three additional categories of embroidery. There must be two significantly different pieces within each category, demonstrating two separate skills, for a total of six needlework pieces. Upon completion of this examination you will receive a (chatelaine bearing the guild initials).

To pass from one level to another you must demonstrate skills in the required number of categories. There are eight categories and you may take them in any order. You do not have to do all of them. You cannot use the same category twice. The purpose of this education program is to expand your skill level.

For examination of your work you must show your needlework to three guild members. You choose one of the guild members, one is chosen by the guild head (in order to obtain a member who is well-versed in your particular skill offering) and the first two choose a third member. These examinations are to be conducted with you present in order to discuss your work, how you created your work, and to help you improve in the skill if necessary. This is a pass/fail. With the exception of the historical documentation category, there is no documentation required. These are technical skills assessments. All pieces must be completed with the back available for examination. The embroidered area for each piece submitted for examination should measure no less than 4x4 inches.

As an example, if you are endeavoring to master a category of whitework, you may submit one piece of drawn thread work, but your second piece must be in a different category such as pulled thread work or cutwork.

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## Categories and Techniques

1. Counted Thread
  - Cross stitch
  - Assisi work
  - Monochrome embroidery (i.e. Blackwork)
  - Pattern Darning
  - Hardanger
  - Counted Satin Stitch
  
2. Canvas work
  - Tent Stitch
  - Basket weave
  - Upright or Gobelin Stitch
  - Bargello
  - Petit Point
  
3. Whitework
  - Drawn thread
  - Pulled thread
  - Cutwork
  - Buratto work
  - Reticella
  - Mountmellic
  
4. Metal Thread and Passementerie
  - Surface couching
  - Or Nue
  - Bullion Work
  - Underside couching
  - Opus Anglicum
  - Tassels
  - Slips and Guards
  
5. Surface embroidery
  - Mastery of any four specialty stitches (i.e. Queen, Long armed Cross, Rice, etc)
  - Laid Work
  - Beadwork
  - Split stitch/long and short stitch
  - Raised work (stumpwork)
  
6. Stitched and Manipulated Fabric
  - Quilting
  - Trapunto
  - Smocking
  - Appliqué

7. Teaching

Class Plan

Kit for class as well as stitched final design if applicable

Actual teaching of a class with three evaluators present.

8. Historical Research

Any paper documenting period needlework technique.

Additional Techniques and/or categories are yet to be determined.

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