

# INK ALMSBANK

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SUMMER 1996  
ISSUE #15



## *THIS ISSUE...*

Exclusive Interview  
with OR's Heimgest

Shamanism for Survival

Hail the *North West*  
*Viking Ship Project!*

Landwights Abound at  
Earth Work '96

A Frithstead for the Folk

*plus all of our regular features!*

THE RUNESTONE is a journal of the ancient Northern European religion known as Asatru. It is dedicated to our Gods and Goddesses, to the people of the North, and to the values of courage, freedom, and individuality within the context of kinship.

THE RUNESTONE is published four times a year by the Asatru Folk Assembly at the equinoxes and the solstices. Subscriptions are \$12 per year in the U.S., \$15 per year in Canada, and \$18 per year overseas (\$24 Airmail), payable to the Asatru Folk Assembly P.O. Box 445, Nevada City, CA 95959. Our e-mail address: [asatru@oro.net](mailto:asatru@oro.net) Web page location: <http://www/luna.co.uk/~heathen/afa/>

The opinions in this publication, unless otherwise noted, are those of the editor. We read all correspondence carefully, but the press of other commitments may prevent replies.

Advertising rates are available upon request.

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## CALENDAR

**JUNE 8 - LINDISFARNE DAY.** In the year 793, three Norwegian dragon ships raided the monastery at Lindisfarne, officially starting the Viking Age. Toast them with your favorite beverage and leaf through a good book about our sea-wolf ancestors.

**JUNE 9 - DAY OF REMEMBRANCE FOR SIGURD THE VOLSUNG.** No Teutonic hero outshines Sigmund's noble son. His courage and nobility won him fame shining through the centuries. Recall his glory by listening to Wagner's *Ring* operas, or by doing something generous, in imitation of Sigurd's goodness of heart.

**JUNE 20 - MIDSUMMER.** This is the sun's moment of greatest glory, and the time of longest daylight. After today, the sun's decline begins. Decorate your house with sunwheels ☀, and burn a candle in her honor.

**JULY 9 - DAY OF REMEMBRANCE FOR UNN THE DEEP MINDED.** Unn was a strong-willed matriarch who established dynasties in the Orkneys, Faeroes, and Iceland. Do something to make your family line stronger and more permanent. Recall the deep-minded women of your clan today.

**AUGUST 9 - DAY OF REMEMBRANCE FOR KING RADBOD.** This Frisian king ejected Christian missionaries and upheld Asatru in his country against great pressure. Pour a libation to the ancient Frisian Goddess Friagabi, "Giver of Freedom." Like Radbod, you can renounce the alien faith. Here are some words reversing the Christian oath the Saxons were made to swear: "I forsake the Christian God, and I forsake all worship of him, and I renounce all his works! I take up the words and work and worship of our Gods and Goddesses, of Thor and Odin and Tyr and all who are their companions!"

# UP FRONT

Summer is upon us, and people all around the country are looking for a break in their routine. They try new things and explore new options. Maybe they learn to water ski, or go parasailing. Summer is a time to change old patterns.

It's the same for us at the AFA. In all the years we've been putting out *The Runestone*, I don't think we've ever run an interview. But when our own Greg Stinar had a chance to put a microphone in front of Heimgest of the Odinic Rite, we knew it was time to make a change in policy! The result awaits you in these pages, and you'll come away knowing a lot more about our English cousins.

Dr. Brian Regan, our resident scholar, undertakes a big task in this issue. He points to Odin as a source of shamanic knowledge that can save the European-descended peoples from catastrophe. This implies convincing us that there is a problem in the first place - no small job, when most would rather ignore the storm gathering on the horizon. In short, Dr. Regan blames Christian-induced oedipalism for a psychological and moral collapse that threatens our existence. You'll find his comments provocative and challenging.

On the lighter side, we have informative comments on health and heritage, and an inspiring update on the progress being made by the Viking Ship Guild. Elsewhere, a short description of Frigga's Web so moved us that we commissioned cover art in honor of this very important Goddess. Of course, we have our usual assortment of news, announcements, and a personality profile - this time of energetic Cathy Clinton of Wotan's Kindred.

Pleasant reading, one and all. Have a nice time hanging out by the pool, camping, and playing tourist - and remember our noble Gods and Goddesses as you do so!



# SUMMER 1996

THE RUNESTONE • A journal of evolutionary Asatru

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# ASATRU

## AN OVERVIEW

Are you new to Asatru? Is this your first copy of *The Runestone*? If so, you might like a little background on what this is all about, so you can better understand the contents of our magazine.

Asatru is the original, pre-Christian religion of northwestern Europe. It was followed by the Germanic tribes that became today's Englishmen, Scandinavians, Dutch, and, of course, Germans. A related religion and way of life was practiced by the Celts - our modern Irish, Scottish, and Welsh. Because these two groups are so similar, it's fair to say that Asatru expresses the heritage of Northern European-descended people as a whole. In short, this is the faith of our ancestors! Because it is our native belief, we feel it best expresses our way of looking at the world. It helps us live lives of virtue and honor, in touch with the turning of the seasons and with all those who have gone before us. It is a spiritual path of wisdom and courage in a world that sorely needs these traits.

Our forebears believed in a number of Gods and Goddesses. Some of us think of them as real in the most literal sense, and others view them as symbols that help us understand the divine aspects of the universe. However you consider them, it is useful to know the names and roles of some of the main ones:

ODIN - father of the Gods, associated with wisdom, magic, and ecstasy  
THOR - a God of strength and might, defender of Gods and humans  
FRIGGA - mother of the Gods, wise, involved with family and children  
TYR - renowned for valor, sacrifice, and warrior prowess  
BALDER - most beautiful of the Gods, soft-spoken, brave, and good  
SKADI - mountain-dwelling Goddess who hunts on skis  
HEIMDAL - guardian of the Rainbow Bridge, leading to the realm of the Gods  
IDUN - Goddess who keeps the magic apples that restore the Gods' youth  
LOKI - mischievous trickster of the Gods who often works against their aims  
FREYA - Goddess of love and fertility, but who also has a warrior aspect  
FREY - a virile fertility God whose domain includes love, joy, and prosperity  
NJORD - God connected with the sea as a source of food and wealth

What does our religion value? We preach and practice courage, honor, the importance of family and ancestral bonds, strength, freedom, and joyful, vigorous life.

*The Runestone* is published by the Asatru Folk Assembly, a modern European-American tribe honoring the spiritual path of our ancestors.

## Runestone Interviews Heimgest!

*England is, for many of us, an ancestral homeland. Our language, as well as a great deal of the rest of our culture and traditions, derive from that tiny island bound between the Irish Sea and the North Sea. Perhaps it's no surprise that the revival of Germanic religion caught on early in England, or that it is a growing success there today. Events across the Atlantic cannot help but influence the development of Asatru.*

*In England, the word used isn't "Asatru," it's "Odinism." Different countries go about the Reawakening in their own unique ways - but the essence remains the same.*

*Heimgest is the "Director of the Court of Gothar" of England's Odinic Rite. Greg Stinar, our man in Ireland, had an opportunity to interview him recently at the OR's Annual Moot. Here's a peek into the mind of a world-class Odinit, your kinsman across the waters...*

# THE Odinic Rite SPEAKS

by GREG STINAR

**GREG** - *Tell me about your own background, and about the Odinic Rite...What were early influences on your development? What drew you to the O.R.?*

**HEIMGEST** - It would be hard to say exactly "when" or "what," because as far as I can remember I've always had an interest in history and myth. In my mid teens this developed further and I became very interested in our culture, our heritage, and the destiny we could have - and of course our mythology I also had an interest in politics. I became even more interested in the legends and lore surrounding the mythological side of things, esoteric and exoteric, and realized this religion, what we call Odinism, was my natural religion.

This together with an experience which falls into the esoteric side (though I won't go into that now), led myself and a group of my friends, who shared at least some of my interests, to form "The Heimdal League." This was totally closed or exclusive. We only took people we personally knew as good friends...that continued through the rest of the '70's. There was then a couple of other "Odinist groups" we heard about, such as Saxnot. They were a very good group at that time. They'd been formed by among the earliest members of The Odinist Committee, among founder members really and they provided a more "active" aspect. When the Odinist Committee wound up, they continued to provide an active Odinist movement.

The Heimdal League, as I said, was a closed type of group. When the Odinic Rite was formed in 1980, the Saxnot leaders were invited to join and decided they would. Also, the leadership of another group, Frey Hof, which had been formed in the '60's I believe, joined the Odinic Rite. We'd heard of the OR, but we kept to ourselves, this Heimdal League, until the mid '80's when it had basically served its purpose. We'd grown older as well, of course, and things had naturally changed - you know, people were getting married, having children and such. Anyway, in the mid '80's I and a couple of HL members decided it was the right time to join the Rite. That's it, fairly briefly.



*GS - Do you have any bonds with any other Asatru or Odinic groups in England or..how about a worldwide perspective? Who are you compatible with, or friendly with?*

**H** - In the U.S. there's the Asatru Alliance whom we, since its formation, have classed as close comrades; this has been further strengthened by my visit there as a guest of the A.A. at the Althing. Asatru Folk Assembly we also regard as comrades of ours. Steve McNallen is someone we've always had high regard for. Previous to Else's imprisonment, we would have included the Odinist Fellowship as people we respected, regarded as allies. There are a few smaller Vinland groups also - Thorr's Hammer Kindred, Second Mountain Kindred and a couple of others. There are of course other known so-called Asatru or what have you groups in the U.S. whom we have no wish to cooperate with or contact at all. Some we hold with "exceptional caution" to say the least. In Canada there is Heritage and Tradition...good folk.

*GS - What about the group I've heard of in Australia? And I've heard that Belgium is represented, and there are some others...*

**H** - Well, in Europe...it's easy to make the mistake that the Odinic Rite is an English or British group because the first "nation" for us isn't a geographical nation; it's the Odin Nation, so to speak. It's a blood nation, so we have members in almost every European land, and functioning branches in Germany and France, which also includes French-speaking Belgium. We have...contact with numerous groups across Europe, both West and East. Then there are other groups who are not specifically Odinist, like the various Baltic heathen groups. We regard such indigenous heathen movements as comrades. In general anyone, or group, who is a truthful, sincere Odinist or Asatruar, whichever term you like - we hold as comrades. Those who don't accept the Folk issue we have no time for..or we regard as hostile.

*GS - If you would, define that a little. Mention was made today by Stormer of the Folk issue in contrast with some of the other groups which are more universalist. Why is the Folk issue of such importance?*

**H** - Religion not only defines an identity but ultimately means "that which binds"...It's always ethnic at source. All organic religions are folk-based because they interpret the interactions with the Forces, the greater Forces...the Gods, and their lands. It's the shared experience of that folk unit, and interaction with the ancestors and folk soul.

We are not opposed to any group which would not harm us and our folk integrity but we are opposed, totally, to the destruction of folk identity - ALL folk identity. We would say this destruction is "race hate." This is what people don't like to mention. We could say that it is NOT race hate to wish to preserve the unique groups who are best served by their own ways, their own religions. It's race hate to seek to merge all into a human soup...No one but a lunatic would suggest there should be only one type of tree or grass or bird, or any other form of life; all have a unique role to play in preserving life on this planet. But when it comes to humanity..there is this mania, this perversity, this sickness in fact that claims all...must be broken or forced into one gray soup.

*GS - Where do you draw the line? What I'm getting at is that some people, some hardliners, make a split, say, between Celtic and Teutonic.*

**H** - No, we don't make this separation. Maybe one or two individuals [in the Odinic Rite] may, but the Rite's policy doesn't. We hold that originally Celts and Germanics, Teutons, are of the same root race. Though we are dealing with different languages and tribal





groups...we are of the same basic ethnic group. The myths are parallel, with different names, [but with the] same message, often. We agree with Steve McNallen's material on this in *The Runestone*. We would not draw a hostile distinction between the various tribes of the basic folk entity. This is a very divisive issue which is often played up by those not of our Folk. I think also another reason people will use the "Celtic" blanket today is because it is safe. It wasn't mentioned by the German National Socialists; they said Teutonic, Germanic, Nordic...Had they include Celtic, you probably couldn't say that without eyebrows being raised and people looking for your jackboots...

*GS - Over the years, what changes have you seen in the Odinic Rite? Is there more interest, less interest? Is there a different emphasis as far as what would attract people, or what the agenda is among like-minded individuals?*

**H** - The numbers have definitely increased, say..in the last five years, up from a very tiny sort of number to a better level. In general, in the last two to three years there has been a far greater awareness and interest in Odinism in general, and obviously this has affected people such as they find their way into the Odinic Rite. It has also led to various smaller and often confused groups springing up. This was foreseen. We are quite rightly viewed by many as very hard line Odinists. There are some that mix Wicca with Odinism - this, that, and everything with Odinism - there are even gay and lesbian groups that call themselves Odinists. I think we are known as being hard core, and that, yes, it's true. Those who do come to us are in general going to be more in tune, more interested than at one time. We will be hoping to reach more people in the coming year. There has been quite a significant change since 1990 in that there has been far more activity...We were in danger of stagnation. We were becoming over-bound with bureaucracy; it was becoming a "talking shop" and not a "doing shop." Now obviously there has to be talk and order, but action also. So since...the publication of the Book of Blotar, we've seen quite a dramatic increase in the number of active Hearths being formed, and this is where a lot of activity should take place. Hearths will meet regularly and actually practice the religion - not just talk of it.

*GS - And a Hearth is more or less equivalent to a kindred?*

**H** - Yes, the difference would be that the kindreds...Well, the Asatru Alliance says they are not a movement or organization; they are an "alliance of independent kindreds," whereas the OR is a movement, an organization. The Hearths are the OR...Possibly it has to do with the size of the countries, possibly with the Vnlanders' frontier pioneering outlook and the older European outlook...but we've seen a great increase in interest and activity and actually living the religion. Much more investigation and innovation; this is increasing. Also, I want to add, the caliber of members is higher. People attend things because they "live" the religion and their intent is stronger. We don't get the fancy dress types or those who regard it as a hobby.

I must also make a point about "influence" - we can see our influence world-wide. Influence is a very potent thing because it is hard to find the source and therefore destroy [it]. Even those influenced often have no idea who, where, or what really influenced them.

*GS - How do you reach prospective members initially? What's your PR program?*

**H** - Initially we didn't have a PR program as such, and part of that was deliberate...Initially we didn't make it easy for people, because we only wanted people who were really interested. We didn't want those who walk into an occult shop and





there are 400 different groups advertised and one week they'll be into this and one week they're that and "Oh, one week it would be nice to see an Odinst thing." Now how most people found us was either personal contact with existing members, or mention in various books and publications. These people were obviously already interested, at least more than the average, to buy and read such things; then they would contact us.

We will now in the coming year be slightly more open and we will have an Internet site, in fact we have this now. But originally, we didn't have any real PR, and even now it's very low-level. In 99 per cent of the cases, we avoid discussions with the media in any form.

**GS** - *Why is that?*

**H** - Because in Europe and I suspect everywhere - but definitely in Europe...they are not really interested in the serious side of things unless it conforms to the "set" of the establishment, what it would allow. Otherwise they want to portray you as demons or bogeymen, or eccentrics to, you know, provide fear or humor for the masses. So...we have no intention of willingly allowing ourselves to be included in either of these categories, so we don't talk to them - yet. We'll review this in time, but our media are not interested in sensible portrayal unless it is highly un-opposed to the establishment point of view. We have a free press but it's only as free as it is allowed to be. If you look at the papers which sell, they're comics, they're manipulated sheets; I took copies of one over to America - and this is the biggest selling paper in Britain - it's a comic! It's establishment propaganda.

**GS** - *What guilds are included in the OR?*

**H** - Well, our structure is in some ways different from the A.A.. We aren't, or aren't yet, concerned with guilds. There's little need. However, we may have an Archers Guild at some point, and, having returned from Vinland full of inspiration and highly impressed by the quality of mead brewed by A.A. members...we may get a Brewer's Guild.

**GS** - *Do women find something in the OR? I've noticed several in attendance today*

**H** - In general and unfortunately at present, the women are underrepresented...But we have noticed that some female members we've had, they were absolutely firebrands; they've been brilliant. Then they meet a boyfriend who isn't Odinst or interested in it and they've given it up. They have the same "rights" as anyone else; and we *would* like more women.

**GS** - *What draws women to the OR? The same things as the men, or is there any specific focus women would tend to have?*

**H** - No, we haven't noticed any real differences. Of course, there is less interest in the more obvious warrior things, but having said that, a lot of women do have an interest in the warrior aspect. We have had some women who enjoyed the ritual, but then found it too "powerful" - they actually said that...Now it must be said that they were very "New Agey" type people and I suspect that male or female they would have said the same thing.

At the present time there seems to be no difference in interests.







**GS** - What about you? What interests do you have outside of OR functions, work...?

**H** - Hmm, outside interests...I wouldn't say "outside" interests because everything is in some way on an Odinic level. I have an interest in art, but I view it with the awareness which Odinism has given me. I've an interest in cinema and music - but regular interests? Normal sorts of things...I like to paint...writing...to visit places, but that's also with the [Odinist] awareness. I suppose that Odinism encompasses all, as a religion should. Whatever interests I have, it could be said "Oh, you're only in that because you're an Odinist."

Of course my greatest joy is seeing my children grow but again it's linked with Odinic awareness. I don't have anything separate because to us religion isn't something you practice separately from life.



## F•L•A•S•H•E•S from the Hammer

**Tower Books** has agreed to carry a hundred copies each of *The Runestone* and *Wolf Age*. This is just the beginning!

The AFA has produced an audio tape of articles dealing with regional, "Fourth World" Asatru - specifically, the formation of a California-based Asatru "tribe" that would have strong links to the land. Called simply **The Calasa Tape**, it is a useful model for Asafolk anywhere who want to create alternative social structures or to identify with the sacred geography of their region. See our ad in this issue.

**Help name our Viking ship, and win a place on the crew!** It's going to be 36 feet in length, and will sport a dragon on its sail. If we select the name you propose, you get a neat certificate and

rights as a crew member! One entry per person, please, post-marked not later than Leif Erikson Day, October 9, 1996. Send your entry to the Viking Ship Guild, 8709 NE Winters Road, Camas, Wa 98607.

**AFA membership procedures** are now simplified and revised! Dues are less and the membership application has shrunk from three pages to one! What's more, there will be one membership category instead of three. It's easier for us, and costs you less. If you've always been tempted by AFA membership but have been holding back, *now is the time to write us for the new packet of membership information!* Current members will be phased into the new membership classification as their renewal date comes due.

Take a look at the **AFA's web page!** It's got a basic introduction to the AFA, a product list, information on guilds, and various other bits we have, and adding more, of course. We owe a debt of gratitude to Randy and Jim, and to Stormer of the Odinic Rite. Tell your friends!  
<http://www.luna.co.uk/~asathen/afa/>

Need an communication. Need to get word to us quickly? E-mail requests will always get a response—usually the same day.  
e-mail: [asatru@oro.net](mailto:asatru@oro.net)

# Shamanism for Survival

ODIN SHOWS OUR FOLK THE WAY!

DR. BRIAN REGAN

To be properly understood, the following work requires an introduction. Its author is a professor of Germanic languages with distinguished professional credentials. Yet the word he bears is far from the sterile conservatism of academia - it rings, like the Gjallarhorn itself, announcing Ragnarok!

The problem he poses is the collapse of the West, and the decline of Northern European-descended people into numerical, cultural and political oblivion. There is not room in this essay, or in this issue of *The Runestone*, to show the facts that led him to this gloomy prognosis. Immediate factors include a birth rate that fails to keep up with deaths, coupled with an immigration crisis that will get much worse under the pressures of Third World population growth and resource scarcity. Underlying it all, says Brian Regan, is a society-wide oedipal complex that makes us hate our fathers, and ourselves.

But our author is not content to present us with the bad news, for he shows us the way to overcome it with the good - by tapping into the eternal, invisible "undergirding of the world" represented by shamanic experience, and by the God Odin. Read on, and listen while the thunder shakes in the distance, portending the storms to come...

Today the world is witnessing the slow, systematic genocide of the Northern European peoples, the destruction of our culture and values, and the plunder of our resources by outsiders and by highly placed criminals within our own ranks.

How has this come to be? Let us examine a little history...

The religions of the Near Orient excel in political control. That, after all, is the primary reason they have attained the positions of power they hold. In Islam, for instance, the main obsession is with submission. ("Islam" means, in fact, "submission" - allegedly to Allah, but in reality to those with the power to kill.) Judaism is based on paranoia. Christianity is based on the demonizing and guilt-loading of the sexual instinct.

The early Protestants, especially the Puritans, added sanctimony to the mix: The "impure" were legalistically outlawed and subjected to imprisonment or death by those who were "holier than thou." They set off a competition between themselves and the Catholics to see who could kill more "devil worshippers," i.e., women (and often men and children) who were, or were accused of being, witches.

With their fanatical anti-Papism, the Puritans also built their church on the rock of hatred of the father, the original image of all authority in the individual. Such deep-seated hatred of one's own father is known in psychology as "oedipalism." This aberration came to be the distinguishing mark of our culture in America.

Long ago in the wilds of northern Europe, when the aurochs still lived and the Romans ruled the southern realms, our ancestors lived a fierce and desperate life, far more severe than we have now. They did not, however, succumb to lethargy and despair, but rose up with energy against the fierce conditions of their time. They reached into a depth beyond life to hoist the strength with which to live and grow and to found a new civilization far superior to any the world had ever seen. In their myths, that depth had many names, but the most descriptive of them all was - the Well of Wyrð.

It was reached through shamanry. This is the practice, by gifted men and women, of entering a special, altered state of consciousness - without drugs, it must be emphasized - and undergoing what has in recent decades come to be called a "near death experience" or NDE. In this condition, they were able to depart from their bodies, travel afar, commune with the dead, and discern the future, among other extraordinary things. Shamanism is the original religion of all mankind, and it springs up spontaneously on the fringes of even such political religions as Judeochristianity. It is the immediate contact with the superrational "Utterly Different," with Wyrð, whence all life flows.

It was the Germanic shamans, whose archetype was Odin - known in the various dialects as Wodans, Woden, Wotan, and so forth - who taught the Goths on the Ukrainian plains how to be "berserk" in battle. This meant fighting with the strength of bears or wolves, being struck with swords and fire and yet remaining miraculously unharmed (compare with the example of modern "fire walkers"). In Gothic, the name *Wodans* means literally "the One Possessed" by otherworldly powers. It is a description of the state of shamanic possession, turned into a divine name.

That was an epoch of frequent genocides of whole tribes, a time when starvation was well known to everyone, winters were endured without modern conveniences, and life was indeed nasty, brutish, and short. Yet the fact is that the Gothic nobility energetically met these conditions of existence - they not only survived, they thrived. They set up an empire which encompassed all of Ukraine and modern Russia west of the Ural Mountains. And even when defeated by the Huns in 376 they struggled on. After eventually casting the Huns out of Europe in 470, they set up kingdoms in Italy, southern Gaul, and in Spain which lasted for another century or two.

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Wodan...is at hand  
to help us...All we  
need to do is call on  
him to do so.

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During the last two centuries of the Western Roman Era (about 275-475), their Gothic form of militarily-hued shamanism was carried to their northern kinsmen in Germania: to the Franks, the Saxons, and the Norse. There it became the foundation for the armed might of the emergent kingdoms. It enabled both the leaders and the common folk not merely to know the hidden things of past or future which might affect them, but steeled them and gave them the will to prevail in the most adverse of circumstances.

As Christianity spread - with its army of bureaucrats, its organizational efficiency, its powerful tool of writing, the stable language of Latin and the immense prestige of the mighty *Imperium Romanum* - the cult of Wodan, the divine shaman, was thrust into oblivion by the new political religion. This has remained the case until today.

But today Judeochristianity is itself crumbling under the impact of its own success. As

Friedrich Nietzsche pointed out a century ago the truth, which it has always claimed to champion, has now shown that the bases of Christianity and Judaism are false, based on pious and arrogant historical and political lies maintained over many centuries. The "New Age" religious explosion, for instance, did not come from some other planet as so many New Agers like to claim, but from the willful self-destruction of Judeochristianity. In desperation, the Judeochristians are now trying to make us feel guilty for our very ancestry, so they can earn a few more alms before someone blow their votive candles out.

In this environment, Wodan, our God of the living and the dead, the link to our ancestors and to Wyrd, is at hand to help us. As before, when he enabled our folk to survive incredibly fierce challenges, he can give us the power to survive the final onslaught of those who would destroy us. All we need do is call on him to do so. He stands on the other side of the thin veil the conscious mind drapes before the mystery of existence: the screen it constructs to prevent itself from trembling in bewitched awe at that *mysterium tremendum et fascinans*, the mystery of Wyrd. We need but summon him to guide us into its life-giving depths.

This brings us to a discussion of today and the true nature of the current, overwhelming propaganda-culture in America; we need to examine it lest we have some lingering doubts about our position, and lest the ceaseless wordflood from Big Biz and Big Brother leads us to think that their ideology is somehow morally right and ethical.

As already mentioned, the quintessence of Americanism - what makes Americans different from the natives of all other nations - is oedipalism, hatred of one's own father. It should be emphasized that this is a phenomenon of the deep unconscious and, as such, is repressed and denied by the conscious part of the mind. Thus, most people will compulsively deny that they are driven by this unconscious force even as they rationalize their anti-father actions. Oedipalism is a psychological complex named by Freud after the ancient Greek drama of *Oedipus Rex*, whose namesake killed his father and married his mother. In a healthy individual this stage of envy and hatred of the father is overcome by the age of five or so. In psychologically sick ones, it never is. Mastering this early stage makes possible the integration of the personality and culture. The father is internalized and his values and ways accepted as one's own. He is also the source of all authority in a way the mother can never be. If the child graduates successfully from the oedipal stage,

respect for authority, tradition and patrimony becomes part of his or her conscience and the foundation is laid for the humanization of the individual, male or female. Otherwise that individual becomes deficient in humanity. In extreme cases, there is no humanization whatsoever, and the individual remains at or regresses to the cultural state of an animal, becoming a feral, inhuman creature.

Historically, oedipalism springs from Puritan Protestantism and its abandonment and rejection of our historical, cultural, and ethnic patrimony. The American immigrant experience consciously or unconsciously effected the same rejection. The ahistorical mindset - ignorance of the past - is a logical consequence of this deliberate rejection of our inheritance. "Freedom" to the average American psychologically means freedom from one's father, the internalized source of all authority and restraint, especially self-restraint.

The fact is that American males hate their fathers and the whole role of fathers; they want to remain children and adolescents all their lives. And that means, in real-world terms, that they want to break their link in the chain of life, regress to the animal stage and terminate evolution. For in the world of real effects and real results, the rule is forward to higher life forms, or die.

This is not a cultural shift, not some sort of change in direction on the part of America; it is simply a natural extension and development of what was always latent in the American mentality from the Puritans onward. This development has, of course, been greatly accelerated by TV and the other media.

We are now reaching the end of our civilization and are going to dissolve as a country and a culture. Our natural defenses, traditionally maintained by men who constituted the *patria*, the fatherland, are no more. Every line of analysis shows this; the current "conservative" movement is little more than an escapist flight from the consequences. It even has science-fictional (i.e. mythological) aspects, as when "conservatives" expect that "science" will produce a *deus ex machina* technofix which will save them from the global catastrophes now gathering force on the horizon. God forbid that Americans should shake off their oedipal stupor and ideological trance, and embrace the life-giving rigors of their ancestral, father-respecting culture! The "neoconservative" escapism carefully dodges the real issues. It does not address the root cause of our fall into the abyss: oedipalism.

The list of disasters awaiting the Northern European peoples and the culture they have laboriously constructed over the millennia is a long one. A genocidal fate awaits us for reasons that range from a drastic drop in our fertility, to the demolition of our demographic structure by rampant Third World immigration into our homelands, to the devastation of the global environment. Our politicians, naturally, will invent more diversionary tactics to seduce our people as our extinction becomes more obvious in the next few years (about a decade). But this future is quite certain, unless we *change our minds*. Only if we make an *act of will* to live, will we do so.

Since the cause of our downfall is religious - the Puritan ethic which denies our biological and cultural heritage - the only answer is religious. This is to say that for most people of Northern European descent there will be no answer. They will continue to embrace Judeochristianity, which asks them to pay now and fly later. Most will continue to be convinced by the propaganda urging them to quietly accept the extinction of their kind.

But for those of us who seek to survive the fast-approaching collapse, the answer is a return to the original religion of our ancestors: the shamanic cult of Northern eons past. We know from anthropology that this form of religious practice pre-existed civilization and lasted for untold millennia from the beginning of mankind. Its staying power is well proven. In contrast to the materialism of modern man, it is based upon the conviction and knowledge of a supernatural undergirding to the world, an undergirding whose existence we deny at our peril.

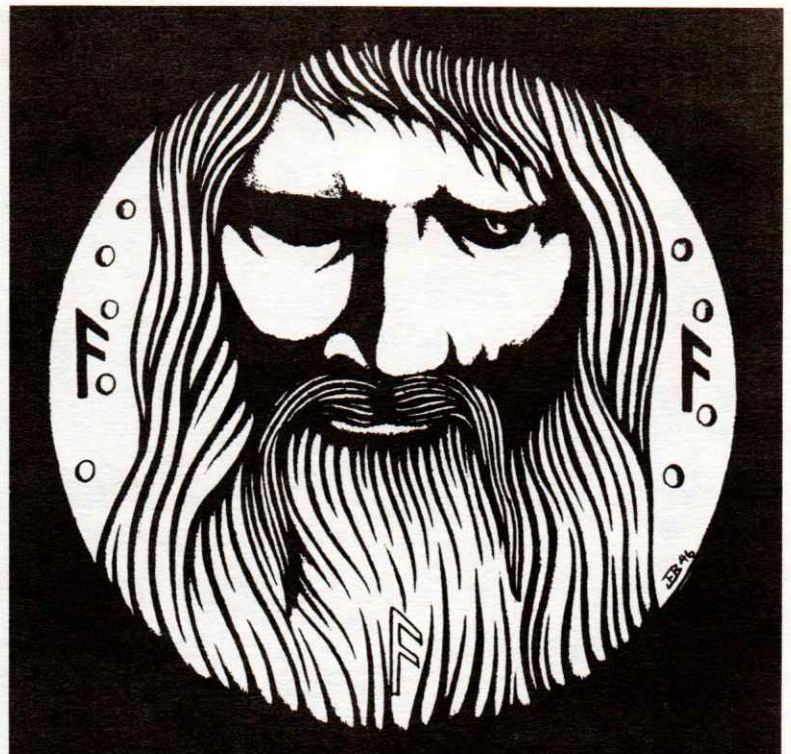
Likewise, in contrast to modern Judeochristianity, the shamans of past and present have always maintained that there are truly evil forces in the Otherworld. Modern Judeochristians believe only in a benevolent Yahweh who would never, ever, allow malefactors to choose otherworldly damnation for themselves. On the other hand, the early Arian form of Christianity not only believed in evil spirits, but seems to have treated Jesus very much as a shaman who had gone to the world of the dead and returned with enhanced powers. This is certainly how Christianity was sold to the Goths.

Shamans of the North and elsewhere have likewise always been involved with the cult of dead ancestors. Modern Americans,

whose oedipalism prevents them from honoring their own deceased forebears, let alone consulting them, are bereft of this source of hope and help.

And above all, the *woda*, the Germanic shaman, was a link to the Beyond for the tribe, the ethnic group, the race. This was why the Christian missionaries had to destroy him and his female devotees, later called witches. In Germany they even changed the name of Wotan's Day to "Midweek" (*Mittwoch*) to extirpate his memory. This enabled them to impose an ideology much more supportive of imperial and royal power. This was arguably a historical necessity to convey the wisdom and technology of classical antiquity to our ancestors and produce modern science. It was perhaps even decreed by Wyrd that this take place.

But Christianity has in its turn now died by self-immolation, another act of Wyrd. In order to reawaken our people and make possible their survival, we must return to the spiritual sources which made that survival possible through the long ages before the Judeochristian interlude. It is from the depths of the triply-named wellspring - the Well of Memory, the Well of Wyrd and the Well of Screams - that we can summon the power for our folk to survive. And we either survive as a folk or we die as a folk. There is no *tertium quid*, no third alternative. Let us therefore summon the God of our fathers, the mystical channel of all life: ODIN..



What's new with the

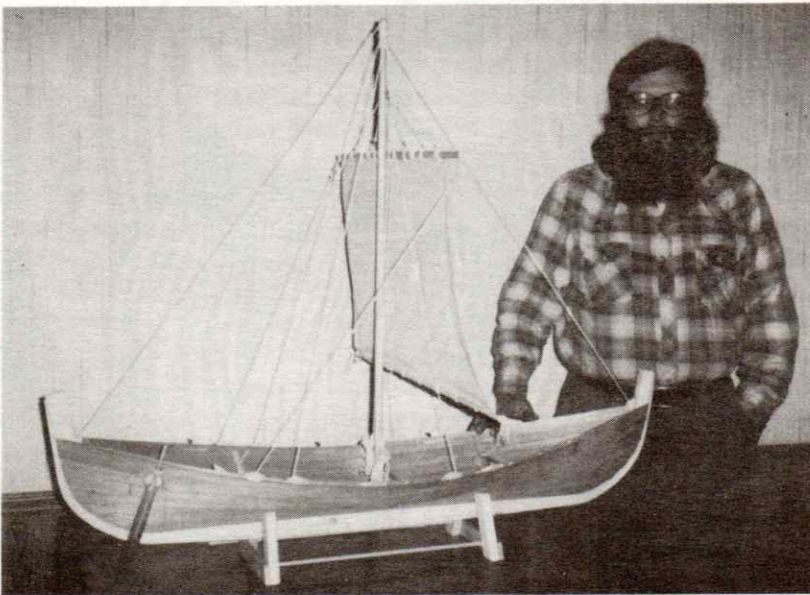
# Viking ship PROJECT?

STEPHEN A. McNALLEN

*Viking ships are the stuff of fantasy. Is there anyone among us who has not, at one time or many, dreamed of standing on the deck of one of these sea beasts under full sail? Can there be any more expressive symbol of the pre-Christian past, or a more definite affirmation of our noble ancestors?*

*A ship of this sort would be - will be! - a powerful tool for awakening our brothers and sisters to our ancestral heritage. Asatru becomes harder to ignore when it can manifest marvels such as this!*

*The Viking Ship Guild tired of fantasy, and wanted something more tangible. They decided to build a Norse vessel, and you've watched them launch their project, if not yet their ship, in the pages of *The Runestone*. But a lot has happened since our last issue was delivered to your door.*



Let's start, as Viking ships should, with the matter of wood. We've got it - three massive logs of Douglas fir. Sure, oak would be nice, but it's not going to happen, is it? The price of our fir was definitely right, which is to say, FREE! A sawyer will be cutting it into boards at no cost, and air drying will also be contributed. To make this package even more complete, about seven hundred dollars of stem post and carving has been donated, as well! Another party has agreed to donate a secure storage space. Offers of labor are also flowing in from skilled carpenters and novices alike.

Don't forget, you can play a part in this project! The Viking Ship Guild has devised a whole slew of incentives to entice you into the action. See the box that accompanies this article for a listing of the bait they have set for you.

One never wants to tempt the Gods with overconfidence (What's the Norse for *hubris*, anyway?). Nevertheless, the spectacular progress being made on this project is unlike anything I've seen in my quarter century's acquaintance with Asatru. Maybe our ancient Gods are hungry for their much-deserved attention? They can rest assured, in their watery abodes, that when the dragon sails they will gain great honors from the Asatru Folk Assembly. Hail Aegir! Hail Njord! Hail Ran!

## HELP FLOAT OUR BOAT!

Donate \$100 and you will receive membership in the Viking Ship Guild, and a T-shirt emblazoned with the Guild's name and a neat picture of a Viking ship. You'll also get a frameable certificate acknowledging your contribution to reviving this bit of our heritage and history

Donate \$200 and get everything mentioned above, *plus* your name on a bronze commemorative plaque attached to the vessel, *plus* the right to come along as a crew member on voyages!

For \$500 or more, your business will be advertised as a major sponsor in addition to all the privileges listed above! Remember, a lot of people are going to be hearing about this ship, which makes it a GREAT advertising possibility!

## NAME OUR SHIP!

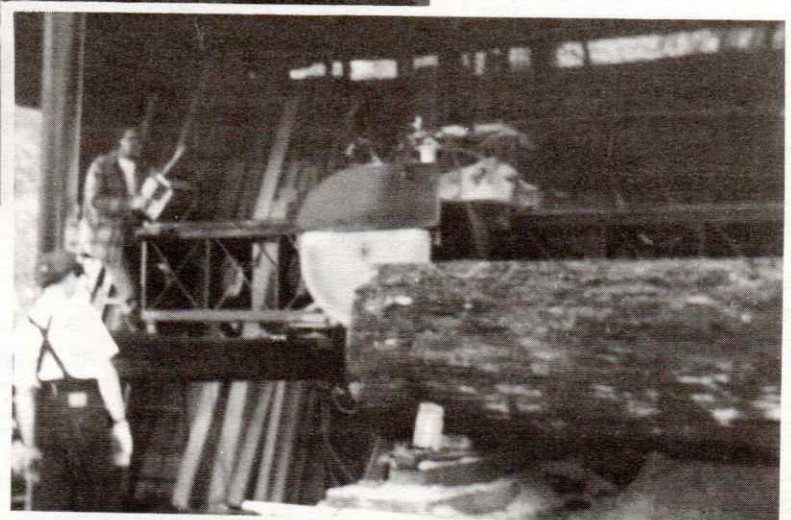
This 36-foot vessel, ready to breast the waves beneath its colorful dragon-decorated sail, needs a name! If you're the one who suggests it, you win an appropriate certificate and rights as a crew member! One entry per Viking, please, to be received by the Viking Ship Guild with a postmark not later than Leif Erikson Day, October 9, 1996.

Send your entry to 8709 NE Winters Road, Camas, WA 98607.



**LEFT** Glen and Reinhold survey the assortment of logs at the sawmill

**BELOW** A Douglas fir log, selected by the sawyer himself, begins the first of the milling processes. To ensure quality, the finished wood will be air-dried up to one year.



**OPPOSITE** Master craftsman Glen Ten Eyck explains the engineering advancements developed by Viking boat builders. His 1/12 scale model, shown at Wotan's Kindred's Summer Finding event, is a preview of

## THE POWER OF MYTH

Joseph Campbell

I have owned five copies of this book. I gave them all away but one. The one I have kept is heavily underlined, and the margins are all scribbled with notes. The contents of this volume allowed me, for the first time, to look upon the world as a "thou" instead of an "it." When this happens to you, you will never see the Universe and all its pulsing life the same way again. I know this sounds like a religious experience, but I can explain it no other way.

*The Power of Myth* is a summing up of Joseph Campbell's work as a world-renowned mythologist and teacher. He is one of the rare, outstanding thinkers of our time. His commitment was to give resonances to our own innermost being and reality, so that we experience the rapture of being alive. Journalist Bill Moyers said it best: "I never met anyone who could better tell a story. Listening to Joseph Campbell talk of primal societies, I was transported to the wide plains under the great dome of the open sky, or to the forest dense, beneath a canopy of trees, and I began to understand how the voices of the gods spoke from the wind and thunder, and the spirit of the gods flowed in every mountain stream, and the whole Earth bloomed as a sacred place, the realm of mythic imagination."

This book is written as a dialogue between Campbell and Moyers. It reads easily, so don't let the complexity of the subject detour you. It has only eight chapters that

cover an astonishing amount of material from the first storytellers and the beginnings of myth to how to make them serve us in the present hour. *The Power of Myth* shows us how life comes from death, and bliss from sacrifice. It presents the principal theme of classic mythology, which is that the cause of all human suffering is mortality itself. All these parts combine to create the hero's quest.

Our Northern myths excel in hero stories. Their message is that technology alone cannot save us. We must also rely on our intuition, our true being. The archetypal hero story is about conquering the dark passions, and the hero symbolizes our ability to control the irrational savage within us. His journey is not a single courageous act, but a life lived in self-discovery. His ultimate aim is the wisdom and power to serve his folk. This service can take almost any form. As a writer of prose and poetry, my obligation is to serve the inarticulate. I must tell the stories of the fields and the gutters and the streets, anywhere life pulses fecund and the voices of those who dwell there can't speak for themselves. Finding out how you can best serve is the quest of self-discovery, something you and you alone will know.

How does one win this kind of wisdom? Knowledge of the world and of the self runs along the printed page, the backyard, the other side of the world - that is where the lesson starts. "From sacrifice, bliss..."

The ancient symbol of the hunter and his relationship with the hunted is the timeless and mystical cycle of death, burial, and resurrection. This symbol was seized upon by the world's great religions as the revelation of eternal truth, that from death comes life. We see this clearly in the sacrifice of Odin on the World Tree:

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*I know that I hung on that wind-swept tree, swung there for nine long nights, wounded by my own blade, bloodied for Odin, myself an offering to myself; bound to the tree that no man knows whither the roots of it run. None gave me bread, none gave me drink, down to the deepest depths I peered until I spied the runes."*

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We have another example of this in the death and prophesied resurrection of Balder, the son of Odin and Frigga.

So the experience of suffering is rapture, wisdom, and enlightenment. But the *lesson* of suffering is to awaken the heart to compassion. In this and other respects, the myths are clues to our deepest



spiritual potential. When you know the stories of the myths, then you see their relevance to things happening in your own life.

Campbell says that the threat we all face today is one of not living in terms of our humanity but instead living in terms of the system imposed on us. To relate to the system but without compulsively serving it, you must learn to live as a human being. You do this by holding to your own ideals and by rejecting the system's impersonal claims on you.

Read the Norse myths, and take your first step into a larger world.

(Doubleday, 1988, Barnes & Noble, hardcover, \$14.95.)



RUNE NAME: *Wunjo*

W

**KEY CONCEPTS:** *Wunjo* is the rune of joy, clan fellowship, and fulfilled wishes. It binds kin together in a harmonious whole, and thus gives wholeness to the individual, as well. It reflects joy in life, cheerfulness in the midst of struggle, and the fulfillment that comes from growing toward perfection.

**AFFIRMATION:** Conflict is absorbed in the greater whole. I unite in joy and fellowship with my kin.

## Here are some publications that deserve your attention!

P

**Dragon's Fire**, 1015 Rutledge Avenue, Phoenixville, PA 19460. Subtitled "A Heathen Journal for All," seeks to encompass not only Asatru but also Celtic and Norse Wicca. \$15 per year.

U

**Folkvang Horg**, 20, Ascot Drive, Longford, Cannock, Staffordshire, WS11 1PE, England. Focuses on Asatru's Goddesses, but not to the exclusion of other topics. 12 Pounds for airmail, 10 Pounds surface.

B

**Huginn and Muninn**, P.O. Box 1159, 121 Reykjavik, Iceland. Dedicated to the Njall philosophy associated with Asatru in Iceland. \$10 U.S., preferably cash.

L

**Lina**, P.O. Box 12012, Champaign, IL 61826. Quarterly journal of Frigga's Web, independent organization dedicated to the work of this esteemed Goddess. \$15. includes annual membership dues; payable to Alissa Sorenson

I

C

**Our Hammer**, c/o Odinist Prison Project, P.O. Box 6088, Harrisburg, PA 17112-0088. Covers activities of the O.P.P.; issued irregularly. No mailing list - request on an issue-by-issue basis. Free, but of course the honorable thing to do is to send a buck.

A

T

**Renewal**, Box 4333, University of Melbourne, Victoria, 3052, Australia. Very good writing, particularly "Ota's Talking Point," and lots of information that you just won't find anywhere else. \$12 *Australian*, plus \$4 for airmail.

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O

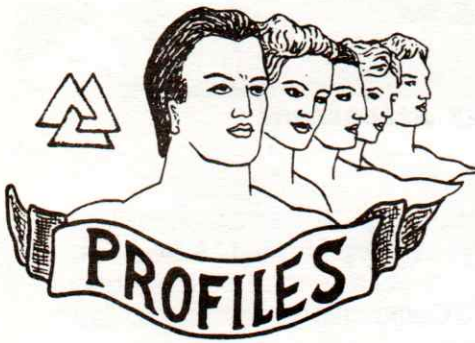
**Theod**, P.O. Box 8062, Watertown, NY 13601. A magazine dedicated to Anglo-Saxon religion. Lots of material, with an emphasis on "the big picture." \$15 per year.

N

**Uncle Thorr's Magazine**, P.O. Box 080437, Staten Island, NY 10308-0005. Outspoken, frequently humorous, comment on the Northern religious scene. Quarterly, \$15 per year

S

**Vor Tru**, P.O. Box 961, Payson, AZ 85547. Journal of the Asatru Alliance. Lots of content. Steadfastly tribalist/folkish in orientation. \$16 per year.



# Cathy Clinton

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## IN ASATRU

What do you call a woman who has a degree in business and another in interior design, both earned with honors? A woman who can write rituals, organize gatherings, give advice on publicity, present a workshop? A woman whose good sense makes itself heard whenever there's planning to be done or decisions to be made?

Well, you could call her Cathy Clinton.

Cathy is a woman who makes Asatru happen. She's the face and soul behind the letterhead of the Organic Gardening Guild, and she's a stalwart crew member in the hyperactive Viking Ship Guild. Wotan's Kindred's extravaganzas owe much to her inspiration and work. And - I almost forgot! - she has a *paying* job, too!

Cathy's very organized, and I think she'd be an impeccable housekeeper if her husband didn't insist on building Viking boats in the living room, hosting gatherings, and generally being an enthusiastic latter-day Norseman.

Cathy was born in Tokyo, where her father worked for the Bendix Corporation. In less than two years, however, they moved to Maryland where Cathy grew up as one of five children. Eventually she met a legal clerk named Reinhold Clinton, and the couple moved to the Pacific Northwest where he is now an attorney.

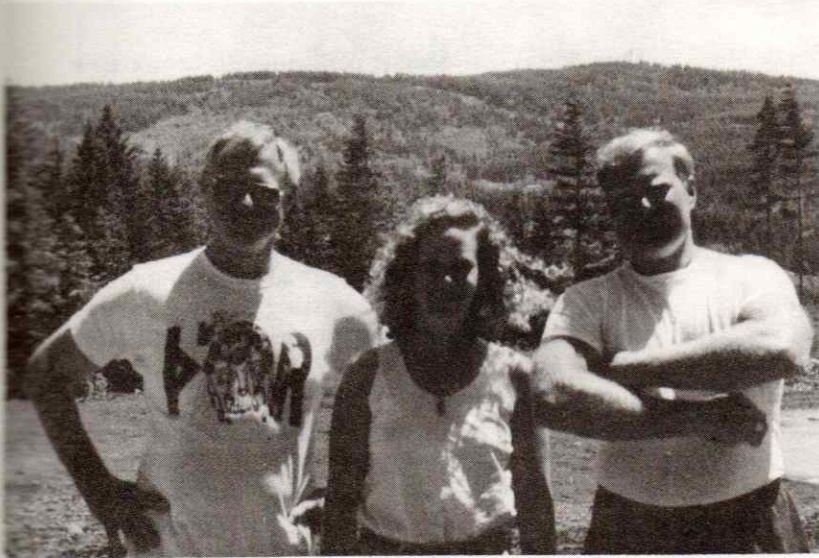
As a young adult, Cathy traveled throughout the US and southern Europe. However, her wanderlust remains unsated. "I dream of one day soon traveling for an extended period in Northern Europe...I would like to see Ashton Hall, in Lancashire, England, where my ancestor Sir Robert Lawrence lived. He was a Norman knight who fought at Acre with Richard the Lionhearted." Another forebear Cathy reveres is Abraham Lawrence, a soldier in the Revolutionary War.

For a woman as connected to her ancestry as Cathy, Asatru came naturally. Her journey to the Gods started when Reinhold introduced her to the pagan worldview, and later they discovered Asatru together. In October of 1991 Cathy and Reinhold, along with Randy Lessley, founded Wotan's Kindred.



BELOW LEFT With Ostara's and Nerthus's blessings, Cathy reverently plants one of several trees on their Camas, Washington property.

BELOW Links are forged between the AFA and Wotan's Kindred during the 1995 Midsummer Celebration in Washington. L to R: Steve McNallen, Cathy Clinton, Reinhold Clinton.



"Although I feel all of the Gods and Goddesses of Northern Europe express themselves in my life, it is Holda in particular with whom I most identify. I enjoy the very tangible and 'human' quality of our Gods. Though bigger than life, they are accessible, real. I am certain that our Gods are far more than mere archetypes. There's a great deal more to life than that which can be easily explained!"

Cathy's life is taking on a more settled look as time goes by. She and Reinhold now have their long-desired rural acreage, complete with a house, a dog that you *don't* want to tangle with - and a large stone circle that makes a dramatic backdrop for Wotan's Kindred's rituals! Now that Reinhold's legal practice has taken root, they're starting a family and we can expect little Reinholds and Cathys to be running around the house in the not-too-distant future. "I hope to have a large family...family comes first for me, and I can hardly wait!"

## *Sowing seeds ... Reaping Friendships*

by CATHY CLINTON

The festivities of Osatra over, the days now grow warm and the land is more and more verdant. At last, IT'S TIME TO PLANT!

Bigger is better! Paul Handy, who has been raising increasingly large pumpkins over many years, was kind enough to give us seeds to grow our own. They'll get as big as 400 pounds! So we'll have some "killer" jack-o-lanterns come Winter Nights. (Although we have yet to figure out how they will be moved to the ritual site, or anywhere for that matter.)

Remember in the last issue we asked for contributions of ways in which you successfully preserve your garden produce while best retaining the original texture and flavor? Why not drop us a note over the next month and tell us how you preserve your garden treasures? Big thanks go out to the few who have sent their ideas so far; they look great!

It's high time the OGG had a member directory to help us network more easily. Those of you who have written and expressed an interest will be receiving a registration shortly. We look forward to hearing from you!

OGG, c/o Cathy Clinton, 8709 NE Winters Road, Camas, WA 98607



# GUILD NEWS

Viking Ship    Aerospace Technology    Warrior    Seith    Organic Gardening    Genealogy

**The Viking Ship Guild** continues to make progress toward its goal of building and launching a replica Viking vessel. When Wotan's Kindred held their Summer Finding festival, the Guild displayed a scale model of their dream craft which had been laboriously constructed by Glen, one of their members.

There's a LOT of news to give you about their progress toward floating a Viking ship! In fact, we've given it space as a standard article in this issue, complete with photos.

The Guild has contacted several other groups around the world who have either constructed Norse ships, or who plan to do so. Hopefully they can learn from the experience of others so that we can have a keel in the water all the sooner! To contact the Viking Ship Guild, write to Reinhold Clinton, 8709 NE Winters Road, Camas, WA 98607.

**The Aerospace Technology Guild** also took an active part in the Summer Finding festivities. Three different rockets shot into the air to start the event - a tiny streamer-recovered one to test the winds, a larger one, and finally a huge Estes "Mean Machine." Guildmaster McNallen explained that the ATG considers model rockets teaching tools, and that the aims of the Guild are actually much broader, encompassing the fields of aviation, rocketry, and space flight.

The sixth issue of *Sleipnir*, the ATG newsletter, has also been published.

The Aerospace Technology Guild can be reached through Steve at *The Runestone*.

**The Warrior Guild** continues to break new ground in its research into the martial applications of hamingja ("Nordic ki"). Steve gave a progress report on this study for Wotan's Kindred, and put the attendees through a series of exercises which facilitate the development of this "soul force."

Other Guild members are working on re-viving the specific shapeshifting, animal-related warrior cults described in Pennick and Jones' *History of Pagan Europe*.

*Wolf Age* #4 is out, with a long article on valkyries, a discussion of whether mercenaries are warriors or not, a piece on the religious right to own weapons, and "how to do it" tips for adventure journalists.

**The Seith Guild** links men and women interested in seith, or Teutonic shamanism. The third issue of their newsletter, *Earthways*, will probably be out before this issue of *The Runestone* reaches you. They can always use articles and artwork, whether or not you are in the Guild itself! Contact the Seith Guild through Ragnar Schuett, P.O. Box 2366, Loveland, CO 80539.

**The Organic Gardening Guild** has a short article in this *Runestone*. If you're the kind of person who likes to get your hands dirty in Mother Earth, write Cathy Clinton at 8709 NE Winters Road, Camas, WA 98607.

## Announcing our NEW - **Genealogy Guild !!**

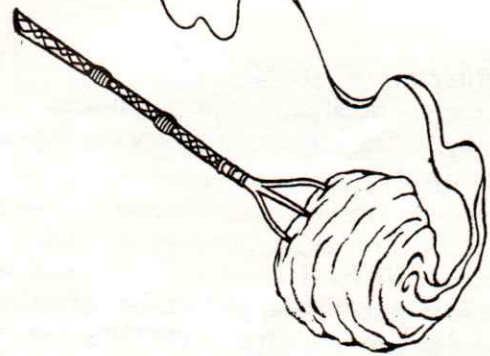
From your letters, it's obvious that most of you have a strong appreciation for your ancestors - from distant times through the recent past. We Asatruar are fortunate to have so many among us who have learned research skills and have the knowledge to assist others with this marvelous inquiry into "ourselves". What do we envision for this guild? Surname and place name indexes, research tips, family lore, library/computer resources, a bimonthly newsletter.. Interested? Send additional ideas and inquiries to guildmistress Sheila Edlund, c/o AFA.

# Frigga's Friends WEAVE a Web

## *A Frithstead For All Heathen Folk*

*Frigga, wife of Odin  
and mother of many of our  
Norse deities, is deserving of  
our love and attention.*

*Indeed, without her blessings all  
our hopes and aspirations as a  
Folk are doomed to failure, for  
she is the very embodiment of  
motherhood and the domestic  
life essential for the tribe's  
physical and cultural existence.*



Stephen A. McNallen,  
and Frigga's Web

**I**t was with pleasure, then, that we learned of Frigga's Web, a frithstead dedicated to this great Goddess (A *frithstead* is a place where peace prevails, and disputes are deferred to allow productive work to proceed in harmony. The *thing*, the old Germanic assembly, is another example of such a place).

Frigga's Web is designed as an umbrella organization that integrates the efforts of several guilds and halls dedicated to the practical and mystical work that Frigga governs. It is open to women, men, and young folk who honor Frigga's ways and her gifts to human-

kind, though there is no necessity that Frigga be any member's closest friend among our Gods and Goddesses.

The following guilds and halls are designed so that any members are encouraged to network with each other, each person being both a teacher and a learner of lore and skills. As well as interacting among themselves, all of the guilds and halls are meant to serve the larger Heathen community by providing information and inspiration. The Frithweavers' and Lifebringers' guilds go even further, offering members' services upon request to all Heathen folk.

## List of guilds and halls forming Frigga's Web:

### **Frithweavers' Guild -**

Mediation, diplomacy, promoting conditions for frith among the folk.

### **Householders' Hall -**

All the skills and lore needed to run a household, raise a family, and care for houses, home farms, gardens, and other property owned by the household. There is no need to own a house or property in order to join - your household is wherever you live!

### **Clothcrafters' Guild -**

All the clothcrafts, including spinning, weaving, dyeing, knitting, embroidery, sewing, tapestry, felt making, etc.

### **Web of Life Hall -**

Work to care for and protect the natural environment as part of Frigga's web of life.

### **Reeves' Hall -**

Skills, lore, and support for everyone with organizational, administrative, or management responsibilities, whether for heathenry or as part of their daily life or job responsibilities.

### **Lifbringers' (Midwives') Guild -**

Skills and lore to care not only for the physical needs of mother and baby, but their religious and psychological needs, as well as those of the rest of their family as they await and welcome the new child. (This one is a partial exception to the general "gender-neutral" policy of the other groups. Both men and women are needed, but they play different, gender-specific roles dealing with women's and men's different but related aspects of the mysteries of reproduction, birth, new life, and the sudden transformation into parenthood.)

### **Children's Hall -**

Develop Heathen educational materials, activities, and religious practices for children; support Heathen parents, relatives, teachers, and all who are responsible for children. Children are encouraged to join and be active members.

Frigga is the spiritual mother of everyone who follows our faith. Therefore, Frigga's Web welcomes all Heathens and serves all Heathens. The only membership requirements are these: Keep frith within Frigga's holy frithstead, and bring no dishonor by word or deed upon Frigga and Frigga's Web.

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*Membership dues are \$15 annually, which includes four issues of **Lina**, the quarterly journal of Frigga's Web. Send check or money order payable to Alissa Sorenson, or for more information write to Frigga's Web, P.O. Box 12012, Champaign, IL 61826.*

## A TIP OF THE HORN...

A TIP OF THE HORN TO...Farrell McCarthy, of New Brunswick. Mr. McCarthy learned that Disney, Inc. planned to put an amusement park on Grasse Ile, Quebec, where thousands of Irish immigrants died and were buried. Thanks to his personal campaign, the graves of our Celtic brothers and sisters - part of the great Northern European family - will not be desecrated by Mickey Mouse and the Matter horn.



AND, THE OTHER TIP  
OF THE HORN...



AND THE OTHER TIP OF THE HORN TO...the American media at large. When two illegal aliens were beaten by law enforcement officers after a hundred-mile-an-hour chase, it literally became an international incident. Four days later, the body of a 14-year old girl who had apparently been kidnapped, drugged, raped and killed by an illegal alien was recovered from the Eel River in northern California. The response? Minuscule coverage in the press, no rage, no indignation.

# Health, Wholeness

and

## HERITAGE

by FERANULF

The source of physical illness is the spirit realm. This has been the contention of learned healers the world over for thousands of years (a way of thinking that has begun to find acceptance in modern medicine only recently). The Old Wisdom asserts: As long as the integrity of the spiritual self remains whole and unbroken, disease cannot gain access to the physical body. Spiritual health is dependent upon certain factors, one of which is described as faith. I use that word in its simplest, most literal sense. To have faith means to trust - in the life process (*Wyrð*) and one's place in the greater scheme of things (*orlog*). It means to trust in oneself and the validity of one's own experience.

It is no shocking revelation to point out that a variety of forces have been set in motion in our society over the course of the preceding generations which have seriously undermined the faith of our people, our sense of continuity and belonging. So it is that we *asatruari*, we who follow the ancient Gods of our Folk, must be willing, sometimes, to act as healers of the Folk Soul.

Again, the traditional role of healer is to empower the individual against disease. Ritual magic has often been relied upon, in dire circumstances, to draw forth and channel needed power

to the ailing person. However, there are less dramatic ways to alter what is often merely an unhealthy point of view. Doubt, fear, anxiety, pessimism, and similar states are literally expressions of spiritual dis-ease. Abuse of the self (through immoderate habits or violence) or to the extended self (children and loved ones) are characteristic of those whose vital element of faith has been debilitated or destroyed. And, like a virus, the dis-ease can be passed from one individual to the next.

In many cases, then, healing can be a simple matter of education. Knowledge is power, after all, and sometimes just opening a person's mind to a healthier, life-affirming view is all that is necessary. This is the teaching of Freya in *Hyndluljod*. Here, the irresolute and would-be hero, Ottar, is empowered as he is instructed concerning his ancestry. By this reconnection with his lineage he receives the strengths that are his inheritance. He gains insights into the working-out of *Wyrð* and the part he has to play in it. This is the power of the spoken word to strengthen and heal; it takes many forms.

Another way of educating can be by example. Self confidence is an essential character trait; without it, a person's protective "vital force" is weakened. Careful observation proves that, in interpersonal exchanges, be-

havior communicates more than actual words. One can speak of honor, strength, and courage as well as the other Noble Virtues of Odinism, but to display them personally, daily, speaks more than a thousand pages of rhetoric.

The importance of good humor and even cheerfulness in the face of adversity cannot be overemphasized. It is repeated consistently throughout the poems of the *Edda*. Preparedness and faith are enough, in many cases, to ward heroes against harm and attract the favor of the Norns.

One of the agents at work to undermine faith and spiritual health in our society is the doctrine of universalism. Its first noteworthy proponent was the supposed Jesus of Nazareth. Before him, the world's sages bore their messages to their own people, for whom they were rightfully intended. Jesus, however, promoted his teachings to all the world as he knew it. He sought to tear down cultural structures with his obsession: one world under one standard of measurement. This is what Sartre referred to as the will to anonymity, "humanity without a race," scrubbed clean of ethnicity, heritage, tradition, and lobotomized. The ideal of "one world, one people" must perforce be antagonistic to the existence of unique folk cultures. The empowering

ideal of universalism is *unity*, while that of the belief in the value and preservation of folkways is *separatism* - a word that has been shaded, unfortunately and undeservedly, with negative connotations. The universalists suggest that folk traditions are outgrown modes of spiritual expression, and that our spiritual identity is universal in nature, transcending the ethnicity they perceive to be a limitation or obstacle to spiritual growth.

This is nothing more than dualism approached from a different angle. Dualism and universalism always go hand in hand. The former acts to create a kind of wedge between the physical and the spiritual. Later the universalist doctrine calls for one to discard the physical altogether. Thus the self is separated from being, from its "is-ness" and is thereby weakened.

But "Odin married the

Earth and the spirit and the flesh were made one," as Mills so concisely observed, and when he did, the whole of the European entity, as much as still had some connection between self and being, gasped with renewed vigor. At last the conflict created by Christ's "glad tidings" was resolved and we, restored to wholeness, took the first steps on the path of spiritual rebirth - for heritage, health, and heredity are one.

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The way of the warrior is one of service to others. Learn how the warrior tradition of the ancient Northlands is practiced today! Find out what it really means to be a warrior, and what YOUR "warrior type" is. Discover how runes and meditation can be valuable tools for the warrior. This tape is of special interest to the martial artist, policeman, soldier and all who seek to live the warrior's virtues, but it will help any serious seeker cut through the nonsense that surrounds this noble and fearless path of service!

## THE CALASA TAPE -- NEW!

A tribal approach to Asatru - this compilation of articles is a model for Asatruar everywhere who wish to rediscover the links to the land in which they dwell. Power spots, local/regional creation myths, and the requirements for being recognized internationally as a distinct people with definite cultural rights - are all covered in this thought provoking tape.



# BITS & PIECES

*Eye on Iceland* is a quarterly magazine dealing with one of our favorite places. It's loaded with cultural information, up-to-the-minute travel tips, and reviews of restaurants and accommodations. If you're planning a trip to Iceland, or just want to dream, you can get a subscription for \$20 (\$25 outside North America). The address is P.O. Box 67, Lumberville, PA 18933.

Looking for a sword or other edged weapon? Or maybe an axe or shield? **Knights Edge** offers a catalog full of attractive weaponry, jewelry, and the like. A Viking sword with an overall length of 38" will cost you about \$130, and a 26" Viking short sword can be had for about \$160. (The difference between the two is that the latter is of heavier, more durable construction.) You can write them at 6348 N. Milwaukee Avenue, Tower 173, Chicago, IL 60646-3728, or call 1-800-516-EDGE.

**Are you of Norwegian descent?** Then you're invited to participate in a survey being sponsored by Saint Olaf College, in Minnesota. Questions revolve around the overall fate of descendents of Norwegian immigrants: Has the promise of America been fulfilled for them? What is their status in American society? All responses will be confidential. For a questionnaire, write to Odd S. Lovoll, King Olaf V Professor of Scandinavian-American Studies, Department of History, 1520 Saint Olaf Avenue, Northfield, MN 55057-1098. I hope they ask questions about religious preference! It would be nice to throw some wrinkles in their statistics...

If you're interested in brushing up on your Danish, Swedish, Norwegian or Old Norse - or if you want to get a degree in the languages and literature of old Scandinavia - check out the web page belonging to **The Society for the Advancement of Scandinavian Study** on the Internet. They list every college in the country which offers courses in these subjects!

Just in - a great issue of *Wodanesdag*, put out by Wodan's Kindred up in Canada. It's issue five, but the first we've seen. I'm assuming they took a kindred newsletter and expanded it into something of broader Asatru interest. Well, they succeeded! Check them out at P.O. Box 190, Union Bay, BC, Canada V0R 3B0.

**The Euro-American Student Union** is working for the interests of our people at the University of Puget Sound, in Washington. At least one of their leaders is Asatru, and the group seems to have a good program. They have a web page at <http://www.nwlink.com/~justin49>, but unfortunately they don't have a regular mailing address yet. Send mail addressed to the ESU care of the AFA and we'll see that it gets to the right place.

Do you want **free (sort of) housing in Casper, Wyoming** for eight years? The catch is that you have to fix up a place that is really trashed in exchange for living there. Send us a letter if you're serious.



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## CONTACTS

*We will run your contact message free of charge for two issues. We reserve the right to reject any message we feel is inappropriate, in bad taste, or generally a bad idea.*

**Nietzsche said** that the supreme will of a man and woman should be to create children greater than themselves. Agree? Viking lady wanted by this Viking lord to be the queen of his heart and the mother of his many future Viking children. I'm 40, blond, hazel-eyed, 5'11", 167 lbs., ruddy complexioned, sharp cheekboned, muscular, trim, soft-spoken, strong, gentle, with an IQ in the 99th percentile. Let's form a fortress of love and create a conquering dynasty! I'm Finnish, German-Estonian, and Russian. Contact Roy Tapio Kosonen, PO Box 322, Georgetown, CT 06829-0322.

**Pen pal wanted**, will answer all. Send SASE for *free art* images of Loki & Thor. Write: Quen Andresen, RR2 Box 276, Bayard, NE 69334.

**Rob Heidrich**, 20706 S. 84th Avenue, Frankfort, IL 60423, would like contact with fellow Asatruar in his area.

**E. Crabbs**, PO Box 149, Farmington, WV 26571, would like contact with kindreds located within two hours of her.

## 11" x 17" Poster

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# MOOT POINT

Heilsa, Steve,

I'd like to relate some interesting events that have happened to me.

...I toasted Ullr at Yule, asking him to aid me in learning biathlon. While I was quite impressed by the regular weekend storms all the way into March (in central Maryland, of all places) I wasn't ready to chalk it up as divine. I'm skeptical of such claims, avoiding the *Life of Brian* effect (His shoe fell off, it's a miracle; a man who can talk speaks, it's another miracle, etc.). Back on 4 February I also raised a horn of mead to Odin, asking him for a set of orders that would let me make a difference, referring to my scheduled transfer in June '97.

Late February things started happening. The Department of Defense has a college program I never bothered applying for since I'm not qualified (I have too much time in service) and the competition is so fierce that waivers are never granted. On 28 February - a Wednesday - the Program Manager got on the phone with me (!) and said that they had a vacant seat (!! ) and he would give me a waiver (!!!) and extend the deadline for me to submit my portfolio (!!!!), providing I could put a package together in four days. I did, and as of the 25th of March I was accepted, and will be transferring to Rochester NY for 9 months. Not only will this help me get the orders I wanted, but this will put me 5 hours away from the number one US biathlon training center for the entire biathlon season.

I'm normally about as skeptical as they come. But this is such an absolutely unprecedented situation that I can't help but see both Odin's and Ullr's hand in this; it's just too much for me to write off as chance.

Hail Odin! Hail Ullr!

Jim

*Heilsa, Jim!*

*People who hang around our Gods and Goddesses for very long find the most unusual things begin to happen to them. Asatru is not just an anachronistic expression of cultural loyalty, nor an excuse for any particular social or political worldview. It is a living religion, involving links with living Gods and Goddesses!*

*Hail the Aesir and Vanir!*

*Steve*

Hailsa!

...My exploits in teaching a class in lore on Tyr's-day nights continues. The number of guys who show up on the outdoor bleachers on our Housing Quad's exercise yard varies, but there is ALWAYS somebody. My format is simple. I take a load of study materials out to the yard with me (Thorsson and Gundarsson books, as well as the Eddas and other Hollander translated books). Once I'm out there, I invoke Odhinn to assist we young kinsmen in our endeavors. We draw from the Well of Mimir, and drink the draught of Kvasir. I have a different student hammer -hallow my rune pouch, and then draw a single stave from the bag. The rune which is drawn is the subject for the evening. I always begin by asking each student to share one thing they already know about the rune chosen. Sometimes the students have very little or basic knowledge, but the gratification comes at the close when I once again ask each student to share one thing they have LEARNED about the rune chosen. You can feel the power of our Ancestors as they laugh and revel at our pursuit of truth...

With Respect,

Andrew

*Heilsa, Andrew!*

*I wanted to quote from your letter to show your format for a class, which I think others will find useful. You all deserve a tip of our hats for doing so much despite the restrictions of life behind prison walls.*

*Hail the Gods!*

*Steve*

Steve,

...It's been an experience living here [in Northern Ireland] so far to live in a place touched, but still removed from much of the US pop culture; even less here than in England, or Dublin for that matter. People are basically polite, trustworthy, respectful and well educated but, unlike back home, reserved, unwilling to insult, usually a bit shy and wary about new ideas...Crime is exceptionally low by Dallas standards, people love kids as opposed to seeing them as a burden to the career track, and I would say that there is far less a separation between generations here than at home, probably because there is not a complete turnover of culture and values every generation or so. The parents and kids seem to have a few things in common. We like this...

Greg

*Heilsa, Greg!*

*Your letter hits on some of the social ills described by Brian Regan in his article appearing in this issue. The deliberate recycling of popular culture, which enables the hypsters among us to make fortunes by artificially creating "needs" then filling them, is related to the idea of "father-hatred" central to Brian's essay. Your experience in Northern Ireland is a much-needed reminder that there IS another way to live.*

*Hail Odin!*

*Steve*

