



The Baronesses  
Catherine-Aimée,  
Gwynnyd and Iasmin  
of Roaring Wastes  
Invite You to a Competition

## Quest for the Golden Seamstress VI

February 23 - 24, 2007  
U.W.U.A. Local 223, AFL-CIO Hall  
15160 Commerce Dr. N.  
Dearborn, MI 48120-1225

For the sixth year the Baronesses Catherine-Aimee, Gwynnyd and Iasmin of Roaring Wastes are sponsoring a competition that will allow all to display their expertise in creating fitting garb for these current Middle Ages. They invite people to come and see these artists as they work.

In February, 2007 the Barony of Roaring Wastes invites you to take part in - or come and watch - the fifth competition to determine who are the Golden Seamstresses. Not sure you want to compete, but want to participate? There is always a "Challenge Project" happening simultaneously at the site.

The object of the competition is to create a complete set of garb from the skin out and top to toe under the rules given. Teams of from 1 to 6 active members start at 10 PM Friday and continue to 6 pm Saturday. Team members are expected to remain on-site during the competition.

A tavern will be available on Saturday for lunch and dinner, sponsored by the Canton of Brackendelve.

This event is autocrated by  
Baroness Genevieve  
and

Duchess Arabella

You are welcome to contact Baroness Genevieve at 586-731-2579  
or Duchess Arabella at 313-402-5421  
(no calls after 10 PM)

### Calling All Laurels:

We encourage Laurels, if they are not on teams, to attend and serve as consultants-at-large to the various teams or as judges.

### Merchants:

Space constraints this year make merchanting impossible. Sorry.

### Fabric Auction:

There will be an auction of donated fabric & goods to benefit the Barony, the Challenge, or, if necessary, to offset the costs of the event. Donations of fabric, minimum of one yard, or trim, minimum of one yard, are encouraged. A great excuse to clean out that wonderful stuff you just can't find a use for.

### Location:

Our new location is in Dearborn, Michigan, with convenient freeway access. The site has a large room for competitors, with a separate dining area. Quiet, carpeted areas will available for sleeping.

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Map and Directions on next page

### Hotel & Crash Space:

Competitors must stay on site on Friday night.

If you have medical, or other, reasons for not staying on site, or need crash space, please contact the autocrats.

For Saturday night, or non-competitors, there are many hotels in the area.

#### Hampton Inn - Dearborn

Phone: 313-436-9600

Toll Free: (800) HAMPTON

#### Econo Lodge - Dearborn

Phone: 313-565-7250

#### Quality Inn - Fairlane Dearborn

Phone: 313-565-0800

Toll Free: (800) 4-CHOICE

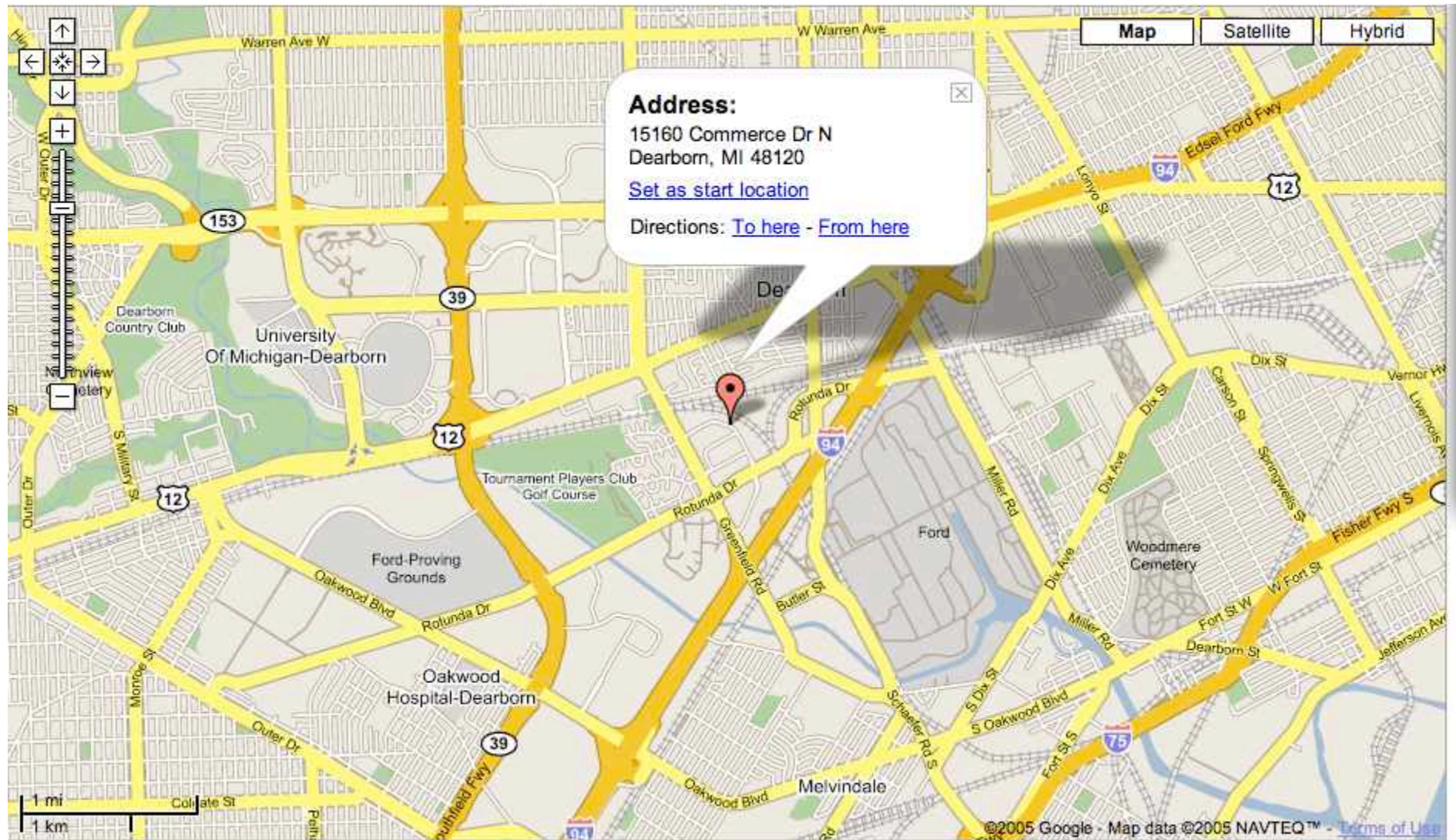
Last Updated November 6, 2006

## Directions:

Take your best route to I-94 in Dearborn, Michigan. Exit at Rotunda Dr. Go West approx 1 mile. Commerce Dr will be on the right.

We recommend Google Maps for directions. Link at

<http://maps.google.com/maps?f=q&hl=en&q=15160+Commerce+Dr.+N.++Dearborn,+MI+48120-1225&btnG=Search&ll=42.311593,-83.185215&spn=0.068803,0.160503>







# The Rules

**Have Changed for 2006 Please Read Carefully**

## **General Guidelines for all Classes of Competitors**

### **The Facilities:**

- You must bring everything that you need – no last minute runs to Joann's
- Unlimited number of electrical appliances allowed, but power may be restricted
- Ironing Boards will be supplied in designated areas. You may bring your own iron.
- Many power strips will be available, but bring your own if you like.
- Tables/chairs are available.
- The Hall is carpeted! Please bring old sheets or fabric to place under your work areas to assist in clean up.
- You are responsible for cleaning up your own area. Please do not leave pins on the floor.
- Bring a sleeping bag, if you want to take naps in a quiet, carpeted places away from sewing area.  
If you wish to bring an inflatable structure or mattress to sleep on, please be aware that, due to space considerations, you must deflate and fold it away when it is not in actual use.

### **Special Safety Note**

Processes that require flame or heat, generate fumes, or consume more electricity than an iron must be cleared with the autocrats \*before\* the event and will be permitted, if at all, only outside the building. Please take into consideration the fact that this competition takes place in February in Michigan. Inclement weather is a probability.

### **Judging Show**

Each team will present their final outfit to the judges and populace on stage at the end of the day. Time limit of FIVE MINUTES for presentations, plus time for judges' Q&A. You will be expected to show all layers in as expeditious a manner as possible. Additional presentations are welcome but will be done while judges are sequestered after the show.

### **Fabric:**

- Flat and Unmarked, may be prewashed or sized.

### **Role of the Laurel**

- We encourage Laurels to attend or to sponsor teams.
- Laurels may make themselves available for at-large consulting to teams for limited periods.
- Costuming, Textile or 'ringer' Laurels (you know who you are, you multitasking people!) count as two people on Advanced and Master Teams.

### **The Scope of the Project**

- Garb must be made for a specific person - the model
- Garb is top to toe, from the skin out  
Includes underwear, corsets, hoops & bum rolls, hats, shoes, pouches, etc.

### **The Team**

- Maximum number of team members is 6
- Costuming/Textile Laurels count as two people on Advanced and Master Teams.
- If the model assists team, they must be counted as a team member
- Models do not have to be part of the team and counted in the maximum number.
- No age limits, either end, for team members. In some cases children or young teens may be counted as half a person. Please contact the autocrats in advance if you wish your team to include children.

### **Accessories Rules**

- Accessories not made of fabric may be done in advance (Shoes, buckles, buttons, purse hardware, belts, etc.)

#### **Special cases:**

- Gloves - May be made/purchased in advance, but must be embellished on site
- Socks - commercial is OK, or may be made in advance

<b>Class Specific Rules</b>	<b>Novice</b>	<b>Advanced</b>	<b>Master</b>
<b>Patterns</b>	Patterns may be drafted in advance or purchased patterns may be used	Measurements may be taken in advance - Must be made/drafted on-site	Measurements may be taken in advance - Must be made/drafted on-site
<b>Fabric Embellishments and Accessories</b>	May be done/made on-site. Underpinnings (hoops, corsets, etc. may be made in advance)	Should be done/made on-site. Underpinnings (hoops, corsets, etc. should be made on-site)	Must be done/made on site. Points deducted for accessories/embellishments made in advance.
<b>Non-fabric Accessories and Embellishments</b>	May be made/purchased in advance. May be made on site, subject to safety considerations and site restrictions.	May be made/purchased in advance. May be made on site, subject to safety considerations and site restrictions.	Should be made on-site, if at all possible, subject to safety considerations and site restrictions
<b>Laurel Participation - Previous winners</b>	Laurels not permitted on teams. Fifty percent or more of team must never have won a previous Golden Seamstress competition	A Laurel is counted as two people on the team.	A Laurel is counted as two people on the team.
<b>Inspiration and vindication</b>	Be prepared to discuss why you did what you did. Books and pictures alone acceptable. You may provide written materials created specifically for this project.	Be prepared to discuss why you did what you did. Written materials created specifically for this project are suggested and should describe how it was researched and made. Books and pictures are acceptable	Be prepared to discuss why you did what you did. Written materials are necessary and should describe this project and how it was researched and made. Materials must include SPECIFIC details regarding any deviations from period practice. ("It was on sale" is not an acceptable excuse).
<b>Special Rule for Laurels Only teams</b>			If the team consists of three Laurels, no visible machine stitching allowed on finished project

# How We Will Choose The Golden Seamstress Team

## Judges

Consists of seven people, both Laurels and non-Laurels. Decision of the judges is final.

## Award Categories

- Early period - 600 to 1100  
(i.e.: Byzantine, Saxon, Viking)
- Middle period - 1100 to 1450  
(i.e.: Burgundian, Houppelandes, Cotehardies)
- Late period - 1450 to 1600  
(i.e.: Renaissance, Tudor, Elizabethan)
- Any other category will be judged separately if there are at least 3 entries: non-European - i.e. Middle Eastern, Oriental - or horse bardings (horse need not be present!), armor, etc.

## Judging Guidelines

- 20 points per category
  - Creativity
  - Fit
  - Scope
  - Workmanship
  - Completeness
- Special points:
  - 25 - Proof & vindication of how/why you did what you did, written or oral (may be done in advance)
  - 25 - Accessories made on site
  - 50 - General WOW! factor of what you tried to accomplish

Total possible points 200

## Additional Awards

- Baronesses' Choice
- Autocrats' special recognitions

# Schedule of Events

## Friday - February 23

- 6 PM Site Opens
- 9:45 PM Rules for the competition read
- 10 PM- Golden Seamstress Competition begins

## Saturday - February 24

- 1AM Site closed to all but competitors and competition staff
- 9 AM Site Re-opens to all  
Activities for the day begin
- 12- 3 pm Lunch tavern
- 4 PM Silent Fabric Auction Closes
- 6PM Competition ends  
Dinner Tavern opens
- 6:30 PM Final showing of outfits to judges and populace
- 9 PM Announcement of the Golden Seamstress winners
- 10 PM Site Closes

## Children:

We're sorry, this is not a kid friendly event or site. Children are welcome if they are a model or part of team, but be aware that unless you keep them busy there is nothing for them to do. Please make sure your children are supervised at all times by someone who is not working on a team.

## Frequently Asked Questions

**Q: Is the Golden Seamstress judging like the Middle Kingdom arts and sciences competition judging?**

A: No. Although based in part on a point system like the MK A&S competitions, the Golden Seamstress judging is much more organic. All judges talk to each other and debate, conversing about various information they've gleaned from the teams concerning the entries. Because of the depth we go to in ensuring we have as much information as possible from team members, not all judges get to talk at length with all teams. As a result, much more conversation goes on behind closed doors about a team's entry than what would normally happen at a regional or kingdom event using our Kingdom's A&S criteria.

One major difference between a kingdom arts and sciences competition and the Golden Seamstress competition is the personal nature of the discussion. One of the things judges frequently consider is the team's experience with the subject matter and each individual's experience with the subject matter. Because of the time constraints imposed by the format, many teams are composed of members already skilled in various techniques that are being combined in new and exciting ways. We look to see if the team has attempted something like this before. We want to know if any member of the team is trying out a new technique. We look to see if this is the ultimate expression of the team's skill to date and how much can be accomplished in such a short time period at the event.

Quite often we are in complete awe of what people try. That's why we have an entirely separate WOW category for things we're particularly impressed by. If a team has done an outfit similar in the past, but suddenly reached a zenith of understanding, we consider that. If a team has NEVER done an outfit similar and did a credible job, that too is considered. All of it is discussed among the judges.

**Q: What kind of questions will the judges ask our team when they speak with us?**

A: The questions vary considerably as the situation warrants, but there are some general themes about which you can expect every judge to request information. In general, all the judges wish to know who your team members are and which team member plays which role (s). They also will want to know what role your model plays on the

team. Are they one of the team members? Or are they merely a consultant for the final product? Judges always wish to know who did which research on the outfit being produced. Was it a team leader who did everything and then planned activities accordingly? Or did each team member research some aspect of the outfit and pool their knowledge with everyone else's? No particular method is inherently better than any other. Who put pieces together? Who put the outfit together? Has anyone done this before?

In addition to information about job responsibilities, judges want to know about the outfit itself. You can expect to have a variety of questions concerning the time period of the outfit and the source of your inspiration for it. All judges will be especially interested in the research you did to support your final work and construction and many will ask you about the choices you made? Why was a sleeve cut a particular way? Why did you choose X author over Y? Why did you use a particular fabric, thread, fitting, or fastener?

**Q: What happens if we don't finish our outfit?**

A: While we do remove points for the completeness of an outfit, those points are not going to destroy someone's chances of winning the competition. We've designed the discussion format of the judging and the point distribution to account for the fact that we simply don't expect ANY team to finish their entire planned outfit. When an outfit is completed, we rejoice with the team. But the lack of a complete outfit will never disqualify you and doesn't necessarily preclude you from winning an award in the category in which you were entered.

**Q: Will we be graded down if we don't have paper documentation or books on hand?**

A: Absolutely not, except in the new Master Category where we do expect written vindication of the methods used and choices made. Because of the way we discuss projects with team members, we rely more on what you can tell us than what you can show us. However, if what you can show us does a better job of explaining what your team is ultimately after, then by all means bring that documentation along! We're ultimately looking for what you do with the sources you have available and how you make the choices you make. Past winning teams have brought as little documentation as a color

photocopy of a manuscript on which an outfit was based. Some winning teams brought dissertation-level discussions about their choices. And for each of these teams, those choices were personal, comprehensive, and appropriate. What works best for you? What are you most comfortable with? Bring those things and be prepared to show them to us or simply discuss them with us.

**Q: Can I enter armour as an outfit for the Golden Seamstress competition?**

A: Yes, though with certain caveats. Armour in certain classes of our researched time periods were perfectly acceptable "outfits" and can be very credibly documented and reconstructed. A complete outfit of "armour" may include more than metal bits strung together or leather pieces artfully arranged. The entire kit is up for critique and consideration. Did you include undergarments? Shoes? Head covering? Why or why not? Depending on site restrictions, the construction of anything that requires forging or melting metal may be prohibited. If your armour includes these things, you will need to have them constructed prior to the event and bring them along with the knowledge of how and why they were made the way they were. Your armour maker or your smith **MUST** be considered part of your team and they must be on site for the event!

**Q: Will we get marked down for asking for help?**

A: Absolutely not. We expect this event to serve as much as a learning experience as a competition and we will never penalize any team for asking for advice or help with their outfit.

**Food and Amenities:**

There will be a tavern on-site, operated by the Canton of Brackendelve.

**Friday Night:**

snacks and beverages for competitors are included in the site fee

**Saturday:**

Breakfast for competitors is included in the site fee.

Lunch: available for purchase

Dinner: pizza will be brought in

Please see the web site at  
<http://www.expo-conv-svcs.com/QS/qshome.htm>  
for menus and more information as it becomes available.