

# The Fencer's, Dancer's, and Bearbaiter's Quarterly

*The Newsletter of the Southwark Trayn'd Bands*

Vol. II, no. 1.

October 1993

Greetings once again from the FDBBQ, the official mouthpiece of STB policy.

For those readers who may be unfamiliar with the Southwark Trained Bands, we are an organisation devoted to quality living history for the late Elizabethan and early Stuart period. At the same time, we see it as our mission to prove to the world that there is genuine fun to be had from the past. Other important principals of the group include first-person interpretation, and attention to civilian as well as military aspects of re-creation.

We welcome contact with other individuals and groups of similar interests, and are always happy to take in new members. To be a member, one should basically share the same sorts of living history goals the group is founded on, have one outfit of authentic kit, contribute actively to the group (there are many ways of doing this), and not be particularly more obnoxious than the rest of us. (If you are officially listed as a member, you will have received a membership list with this bulletin—if you should have and did not, let us know). Give a call to either (or both) of the officers listed here for more information.

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Since the last issue, the Bands' Virginia wing has held its first 'Mousehole' event, re-creating a Spanish raid on England during the Armada. The northern wing participated in the 1993 Siege of Shapwick, in the guise of the Shapwick Trained Bands. The Bands also had their Elizabethan encampment at the SCA's Pennsic War again this year, including our third annual Elizabethan Nite. This year's merriment was even better than last: our guests were a most enjoyable lot (thanks for dropping by!), and we were all quite inspired to do it again next year.

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## Upcoming Events

20 November 1993: Jamestown Fall Muster, Jamestown VA. We are aiming to make a major showing at this early 17c. event, building on our participation last year. Jamestown is particularly enjoyable as food and shelter is provided, and we need only bring our most needful personal effects and razor-sharp wits. Call Jeff Morgan for information.

13 November 1993: Elizabethan Event, Toronto, Ontario. Call Victoria Hadfield (416-968-6730) for information.

4 December 1993: A Shapwick Christmas, Stratford, Ontario. There will be a reprise of last year's Christmas party. Call Jeffrey Singman for information.

16 April 1994: The Raid on Mousehole. This event will re-enact a Spanish raid on an unsuspecting English village at the time of the Armada, and the Bands will be there, probably in the guise of local trained bands. This will be our major Elizabethan event in 1994. Call Jeff Morgan for information.

1st weekend of June 1994: Siege of Shapwick, Ethel, Ontario (near Stratford). An English Civil War event: if there are enough STB people there, we will operate as a group for this occasion. Call Jeffrey Singman for information.

July 2-3 1994: Battle of Marston Moor, England (350th anniversary re-enactment). At least one of us is planning on being there, and hopefully to take the opportunity to meet with corresponding groups in England.

Mid-August 1994: Pennsic War. We are hoping to field an Elizabethan camp at this SCA event, with demonstrations of pike-and-musket drill and yet another Elizabethan Night. Call Jeff Morgan for information.

October 1994: St Mary's Muster, St Mary's City, MD. This is a major event for the 17c/ECW re-enacting crowd, and we are very interested in having a high-profile presence there in 1994. Call Jeff Morgan for information.

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The Village of Shapwick (our affiliate site in Ethel Ontario) is continuing to develop the grounds; we have completed the foundation of the alehouse, and are currently negotiating to obtain wood to build it. Meetings of Shapwick are on the last weekend of every month. Call Jeffrey Singman for details.

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The second edition of *The Elizabethan Handbook. A Manual for Living History c1588-1603* is now available. The text includes some substantial improvements on the original: the costuming section has been upgraded, there are additional songs, dances, and games, the bibliography and lists of suppliers and contacts have been substantially expanded, and there have been additions and revisions throughout. Retail price is US\$15; shipping is \$2 in the US (\$1 for each additional copy), \$2.50 to Canada (\$1.25 for each additional copy), and \$3.25 overseas (\$1.50 for each additional copy). Discounts are available for wholesale orders, for those who purchased the first edition, and to active members of the Bands. Orders and inquiries may be directed to Jeffrey Singman.

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Now that the work of revising the Elizabethan Handbook is over, we are turning to some other research projects. One of these is a similar handbook for the early seventeenth century, to cover the other part of our living history period. Another is the publication of two brief guides (about 15-20 pp. each) for the use of beginners, one on the Elizabethan period, the other on the seventeenth century. We are also working to collect and publish

information for the authentic recreation of the Elizabethan military, and of the Trained Bands in particular. We are also accumulating lists of suppliers of quality goods at good prices— if you are looking to buy something, or have a hot tip on a supplier, feel free to give Jeffrey Singman a call.

The *English Civil War Society of America Handbook* should also be available for purchase within the next year, and we highly recommend it to all members: it is probably the most useful collection of information on the subject for re-enactors between two covers. Contact Jeffrey Singman for further information.

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Our regiment's intrepid clerk, has been amassing substantial body of important resources for living history: primary and secondary texts, recordings, etc. He will happily make copies of relevant materials for active members of the Bands at cost. Resources include:

—The Southwark Trained Band Songbook and Tape (a collection of 16-17c songs).

—Many of the sources listed in the bibliography of Janet Arnold's *Patterns of Fashion*.

—Dance resources such as the 1653 edition of Playford's *Dancing Master* and Cunningham's transcriptions of the Inns of Court dances.

—Many of the other sources listed in the bibliography of *The Elizabethan Handbook*.

(He would be glad in theory to provide copies to anyone who needed them, but is, alas, not so leisured as to make this practicable).

Call him for more information.

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We are aiming to produce STB t-shirts before the end of this year. The current scheme is to have 'The Southwark Trayn'd Bandes' on the front, with an illustration from the Lant Roll, and a contemporary verse on the Trained Bands on the back. Get yer orders in

for Xmas! Call Jeffrey Singman for information.

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The Bands have just sent in an order for a set of dies for coinage of the end of Elizabeth's reign (1582-1603), specifically the halfpenny and penny pieces. The coins should be available before the end of October. Again, there will be a reduced price for active members of the Bands. Call Jeff Morgan for information.

Other prominent schemes for the next year include replacing our St George banner (which has mysteriously disappeared), and to increase our stock of military equipment.

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As always, the Trayned Bands welcome any interested parties to get in touch with us. Principal contacts are:

Jeff Morgan (Acting Quartermaster/Sergeant)  
RFD2 Box 222D  
Afton VA 22920  
(703) 456-8486

Jeffrey L. Singman (Acting Clerk)  
2244 St. Francis Drive Apt A107  
Ann Arbor MI 48104  
(313) 677-1451  
Jeffrey\_L.\_Singman @um.cc.umich.edu