

# The Travance Chronicle

October 1213

Amizar Wuzwhir, Editor

## September Festival Combat Tournament

by A. C. Goggins

This month's combat tournament saw Travancian fighters and martial artists competing for the title of Fighter Extraordinaire. With over twenty-five contestants shared between two weight categories, the contest was hard-fought, and proved to be quite the spectacle - attracting a crowd of at least as many onlookers.

The lightweight category showcased the combative abilities of some of the town's newest members, with Silver Mist emerging as the victor following a nail-biting final against Skull Biter the warrior. In the heavyweight category, Iars Sirian managed to narrowly snatch victory from Brother Aldric in a well-fought third round, making him the second champion of the afternoon and bringing the competition to a close.

The crowd and judges were duly impressed with the high standard of skill displayed by all entrants to the competition, and the two victors each claimed a prize of a modest pouch of gold, kindly donated by the management of the Dragons Claw Inn.

### Introducing Meander Correlis, Winner of the Poetry and Singing Contests

Meander Correlis is a proud graduate of Crownhurst Academy, with an honors degree in Chemistry. She has always been a proponent of both science and the arts, and poetry has been a passion of hers for many years. When not mixing chemicals or making compounds, Meander enjoys spending her time reading or drinking a cup of tea with friends. Here is her winning poem.

#### A Study in Fire Meander Correlis

Within my laboratory, I combine  
The building blocks of nature's opulence.  
And with these complex compounds, I design  
My firebombs, which, with a throw, commence.

First is powder, black as night, and then  
Add clear yet potent pyroglycerin;  
This chemical ignites in seconds when  
It comes in contact with pure oxygen.

Then fearsome fire leaps up to explode  
The powder that lays there in beakers base:  
A chain reaction that cannot be slowed--  
That firebombs fierce, unrelenting pace--

Test stopped with cork, which gives off odorous fume,  
Whose banishment will force it to resume.

### Family Festival in the Proper

by Meander Correlis

The month of September featured a wonderful festival held in the Proper, an event where young and old alike could congregate and participate in contests, hunt for treasure, or even just sit back and enjoy the delicious food prepared. The contests included singing, poetry (a reading of the poems published last issue was conducted at the festival, and everyone voted on their favourite), magical and melee combat, storytelling, baking, and arm-wrestling! I conducted an interview with Iars Sirian, the winner of the melee competition, about his history with combat. This interview is included on page two of this issue.

Here are the contest winners:

Contest	Winner
Combat	Iars Sirian
Apprentice Division	Silver Mist
Storytelling	Amizar Wuzwhir
Poetry	Meander Correlis
Baking	Dimetri Yhatzi
Singing	Meander Correlis
Arm Wrestling	Daniel Taylor

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## An Interview with Iar Sirian

by Meander Correlis

Meander Correlis: Would you mind telling me a little about yourself? Where you're from, maybe where or from whom you learned to fight?

Iar Sirian: Well sure, I'm from a little tribe up in the far north that was wiped out about six years ago. It's just your ordinary Barbarian tribe constantly under assault by the elements, dangerous beasts, and the many other tribes in the area that didn't like us. Haha, I remember back to my first raid my father took me on when I was in my sixth year. Heh I learned to fight the practical way. Fight or die. Hunt or starve. It probably didn't help that my little sister was constantly trying to kill me. I left my tribe when I was around thirteen... hopped on the first trade caravan as a guard and the rest was history. I was taught and studied in countless fights, battles, and skirmishes across Arawyn led me to the style I use today.

MC: Oh my. Wow. That's quite the history. You mentioned the style that you use; I noticed that you used a very different style of swordsmanship than I've seen anyone in the Proper use. Could you tell me about your style?

Iar: Well, I've always been a more defensive fighter. What I learned is that with a solid footing and bracing your arms against the blade you can form a solid wall much like a shield. Then, with a special made blade of my own design, you are able to use your lower hand as a pivot point to make strikes against your opponent while maintaining your defense. Of course, that's just the base stance... Like any real style you have to keep options available and change stance as the flow of combat changes.

MC: I remember the way you held your blade. \*pauses\* Of your own design? So you made the blade specifically for your style of fighting?

Iar: Correct. The balance and the grip is designed to favor a very specific range of movements. The weight and thickness gives it that extra presence

that helps establish a more solid defense while offering that extra durability to absorb hits without breaking as easily. I didn't make it myself, I'm no smith... but I did design the thing... Haha, and it took several attempts for the smith who made it to get the balancing just right.

MC: Still quite impressive! I doubt that many can say they've designed so effective a weapon. That was very informative! Thank you for giving me such a good overview, Iar.