

Table Manners ♦♦ Many imagine that medieval mealtime was a huge, sloppy free-for-all featuring belching, smacking and grunting. The truth is there were some very strict rules of conduct at the table. Here are just a few: Never take up food with hands not washed ~ Don't spit over the table, nor down upon it ever ~ Let not the piece of food, when it has been touched by the teeth, be put back upon the dish ~ While food still continues in your mouth, beware of drinking ~ Be it forbidden to put the elbow on the table ~ Don't scratch your limb, after the fashion of a mole, as you sit down ~ Let not persons eating, clean their teeth with their knife ♦♦

Robin Hood's wife dishes the dirt about the outlaw who stole her heart.



"I met Robin at my father's castle. It was love at first sight! We've worked hard to keep the spark alive over the past eight centuries!"



"I always enjoy dancing around the Maypole during May Day festivities. Robin has two left feet, but he tries his hardest on the dance floor!"

Courtship Essentials



"My advice to young couples is to find something you both enjoy doing together. Robin and I love to enter archery contests. Sometimes I even let him win."



Hawks and Falcons: First for Hunters, Now Stylish Pets.

Falconry was quite a status symbol in medieval society, and a rather expensive hobby. The birds required specialized housing and all kinds of accessories, and falconers were required to feed the birds a balanced diet on a daily basis. The average citizen might keep common birds, like sparrowhawks and goshawks, while nobles preferred more exquisite birds, such as peregrine falcons or golden eagles. People took their pet hawks everywhere, perched on a shoulder or wrist. A few couples even chose to get married with falcons by their side, and a lady was advised by her husband to take her bird everywhere so it would become accustomed to people. Indeed, these symbolic birds of wealth and power led very pampered lives, with many living indoors with their owners.



"A hawk is a faithful and stylish companion for women, too!"

"Not many pets can also help feed your family. My hawk rocks!"



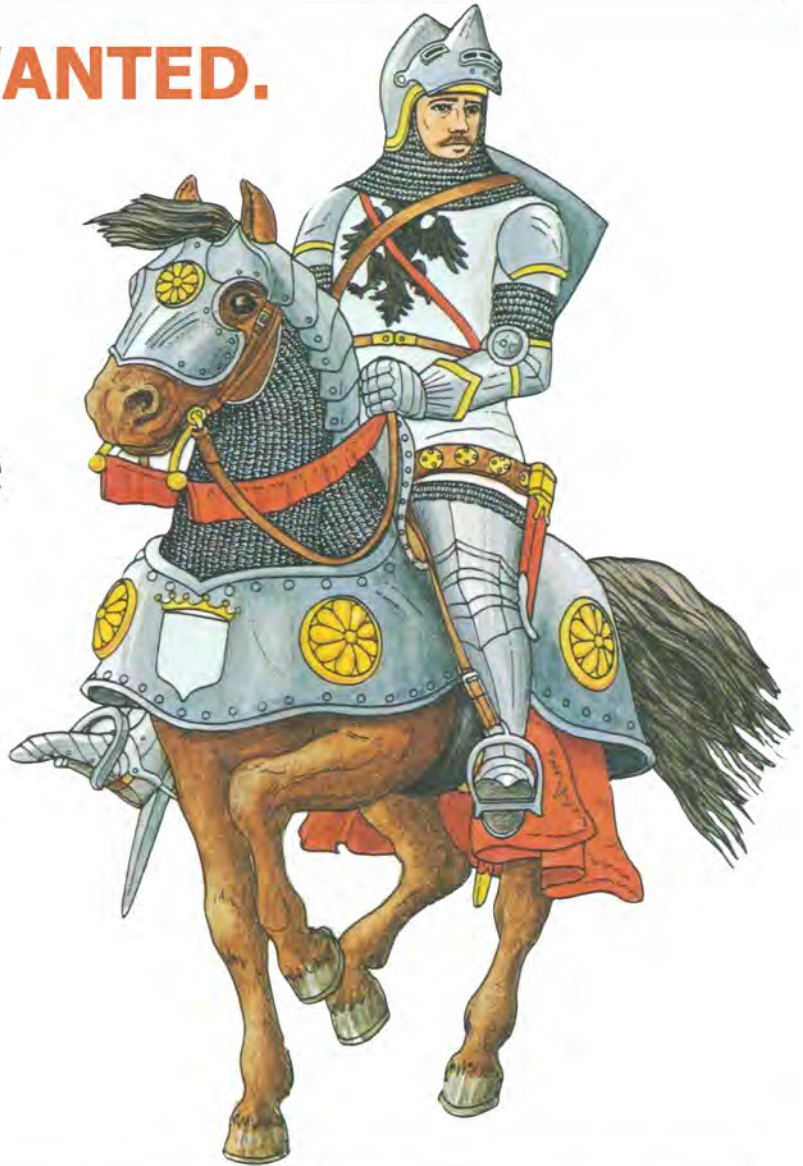
TOO DICEY?

Another popular pastime in the Middle Ages was playing dice. However, this was frowned upon - not because it encouraged gambling... but because it promoted cursing! Zounds!

DRIVERS WANTED.

The Ultimate Ride.

Introducing the
all-new
1251 Warhorse.



In addition to weapons and armor, a knight needed a warhorse – a big, strong stallion that could carry a lot of weight and still move relatively fast. Warhorses weren't cheap! In the 13th century, a warhorse cost about \$130 in today's money. Sound like a good deal? Back then, it would take a soldier 32 YEARS to earn that much. A knight could win a warhorse (as well as armor and money) as a prize at a tournament. Sort of like winning the lottery – after being bludgeoned repeatedly by the other contestants.

Warhorse is shown wearing helmet and combination of plate, mail and leather armor. No knight, regardless of how advanced, can overcome the laws of physics or correct careless riding. Please carry your shield at all times.