



# Moresca

Clothing & Costume  
Lena Dun



DEAR FRIENDS AND PATRONS,

I am often asked: "What sort of people buy your stuff?"

This is one question I love to answer, because the answer makes me happy; my clientele is totally devoid of category! You are of no particular age, income, creed, race, sex or other group that I can discern.

You have been to at least one Renaissance or Medieval event, and you tend to appreciate fun and quality. And that's it for conformity!

Sure, some of you are members of the SCA, MSR, Early Music or other small, and by no means homogeneous "groups."

But the great majority of you are just individuals, celebrating individuality - in search of the "Epic Self."

As I watch the public schools striving to prune down the blossoming individuals they are entrusted with to homogenized, "manageable" stumps....As I watch rules and regulations, codes and conformity wax ever more belligerent, even as Walls crumble and empires crash because those very things MANIFESTLY DON'T WORK! ....As I watch the cities become increasingly dirty, violent and unsafe, while at the same time becoming more regulated, rule-infested and boring... I think I discern a connection; a coincidence? As things become more boring they appear to become more dangerous! Not the other way around as has been assumed for so long.

Only the individual pursuing his/her JOY can apparently be trusted to do none harm (Do I hear an echo from the beginnings of this country?)

I feel privileged to in some way be in the service of such people, such an idea. Thank you!

## OUR 1991 Season,

Reflecting our ongoing expansion, began in late April, in our new booth at the Georgia Renaissance Festival, just south of Atlanta.

That over, monsoons and all, we hurried west to open the Colorado Renaissance Festival, still ongoing at the time of this writing, through July 28. We also did Sands Point for two weekends in May and "Somerset" two weekends in June, and are now in the final preparations for our heavy season, starting with:

### STERLING FOREST

The New York Renaissance Festival opens on July 27 1991, and runs weekends through September 15, including Labor Day. Hours are 11 AM to 6 PM. We're in our usual place near the Star Poole Tavern, but not in our usual booth...I'll say no more. For Faire info. call (914) 351-5171

### MARYLAND

The Maryland Renaissance Festival opens on August 24, and runs weekends through Oct. 13, including Labor Day but not Columbus Day. Faire hours are 10:30 AM to 7 PM. Maryland bids fair to become the biggest Ren. Faire in the East, and our first year there was an unmitigated success! We have the same booth as last year, on Valley Meade just down from the Wine Garden. For info., call (301) 266-7304

### CARVER

King Richard's Faire in South Carver, MA. opens on Aug. 31 and runs weekends through Oct. 20, including Labor Day but not Columbus Day. Faire hours are from 11 AM to 6 PM. We're in our newly expanded/renovated booth #51. Call (612) 922-0777 or (508) 866-5391 for more info.

### GEORGIA

Is definitely on the agenda, opening on April 26 1992 and running weekends through June 7, including Memorial Day. We are back to back with the big tavern in the middle. Faire hours are from 11 AM to 6:30 PM. Call (404) 964-8575 for more info.

**COLORADO** - '92 is til under consideration. **SANDS POINT**: We're on if they are. A new possibility for '92 is the Minnesota Renaissance Festival, running parallel to Maryland, if they'll have us and if we can handle it; it is, next to the Texas show, the biggest Ren. Faire in the country.

### NEW STUFF

I finally found THE fabric for the long awaited (by some of you) Early Doublet. It's a beautiful, dense, wool blend satin-weave, (never saw anything like it before), in nine deep gem colors. It's in production as I write, and will be our least expensive doublet at \$145. And beautiful! Men's sizes from small to XL.

"Starmites" were named after a musical where they were launched, on a friend's stage. They are a child of thrift, (or pack-rat tendencies) and crustacean design; For five years I've saved the scraps of our expensive custom-quilted doublet materials. And one day, there it was, a pieced vest with shoulder shields, hand cut, multicolored, (or all black) quilted, crustacean, beautiful, in six sizes from women's small to men's XL. At \$75- and 85- depending on size.

### ON BODICES

Since I first designed our brocade bodice 15 years ago, material costs have at least quadrupled. To keep them within affordable range I've had to downgrade the materials yearly while making less on them. Copies have appeared all over the Faires. The stiffening we've used will eventually accordion pleat under the pressure of even the most svelte slouch. They keep selling, but frankly, I'm sick of them!

AH, the eventual rewards of the pack-rat! The "Starmites" gave me the idea. Out came the bales of precious scraps for a perfect pieced bodice, with three front openings edged with steel bone. NOW we're talking bodice! Bring me your bosoms, ladies, and we will lace you into steel! We're considering a canvas version too. The brocade ones are \$85- and 95- in XL (starting at waist 40"). The old bodice is still available mostly in smaller sizes till we run out or decide to re-instate it. We still have peplum bodices in five sizes and will be working on less expensive bodice variations.

### SKIRTS

To go with all these bodices we have a new skirt. It's a satin double kerchief skirt available in many lush color combinations, edged and beaded. Decidedly flirtatious. Not serious. Wenchy. What else... New doublets (quilted) in lots of new colors; blue, green, purple, and plum velvets. New Skye Clowns. Lots of new baggies. Plenty of stock in all our standard designs.

And, oh yes, you may have noticed the shoes, in our Carver booth last year. Quite gorgeous, yes. There are 75 pairs in our warehouse right now. The truth is that we haven't decided what to do about them yet. Feet need a lot of attention we may not have...

So, 1991. Is the dread "Economy" Jabberwock going to bite us, or is it just showing its teeth and weeding out some schlock? One thing seems clear; if you're small, you have to be best. It's the one thing that will keep you individuals coming.

This is our endeavor, and we hope to see you all this Faire season. Wishing you Joy and merriment and welcome!

Lena Dun

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