The Carolina Insider: Old Salem

Old Salem is a beautifully restored historic neighborhood in Winston-Salem, North Carolina. It was founded in 1766 by Moravians, a German-speaking Protestant sect with roots in Central Europe. Some of Old Salem’s 100 buildings are living-history museums demonstrating shoemaking, leatherworking, dyeing, weaving, baking, jewelry making, pottery and metalworking.

When you visit, be sure to compare the skyline of this National Historic District with that of modern-day Winston-Salem just down Main Street. At Old Salem, you can either walk around and enjoy the ambiance or purchase admission to eight of the restored structures. If you go inside, you’ll be able to see artisans in period dress at work. One very popular spot is the Winkler Bakery, home of the famous Moravian cookies and breads.

Other buildings are shops, private homes, or part of the campus of Salem Academy and Salem College, women’s schools that grew out of an early Moravian one. The headquarters of the Southern Province of the Moravian Church is still there, including Home Church; built in 1800 and still in use.

Old Salem is located southwest of the intersection of Business 40 and U.S. Hwy. 52, within sight of downtown Winston-Salem, North Carolina. Once there, go to the elegant new Visitor’s Center, 900 Old Salem Rd.

Hours are 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Saturday, 12:30 p.m. to 5 p.m. Sunday. Tours are offered daily except Thanksgiving, Christmas, and Easter.

For more information, call 888-653-7253 or visit the Old Salem web site at www.oldsalem.org

Doreen Anglis

Library Instruction Gives Students an Early Boost

We’d like to thank the many faculty who have taken advantage of the library instruction which we offer to classes as requested. While all full-time library staff have been involved this effort has been spearheaded by Sarah King. She has, as of the beginning of October, documented approximately 30 separate classes which have come through the library computer lab for library instruction. If it were not for the fact that we had some duplication (some students attended more than one session) the number of students would be equivalent to the entire Charlotte campus student population!

Why is this so great you might ask? There are numerous reasons not the least of which is that students are instantly gaining some comfort and familiarity with the library. More importantly, I think that the single biggest benefit is that students are made more aware of our many virtual resources. As faculty and students who have attended any of my library instruction sessions can attest I frequently mention that what is physically available is really only the smallest sample of what is actually available. The comparison I like to make is between the 170 paper journal/magazine/newspaper titles to which we subscribe and the nearly 5,000 titles accessible through Academic Search Premier alone (and this is just one database!). I strongly believe that students who have attended these sessions have been given a great head start and one leg up on the ladder of success here at Johnson & Wales.

If, as a faculty member, you have not yet had the opportunity to participate in a library instruction session please contact Sarah.King@jwu.edu. If you are a student and think your class should come by please feel free to suggest it to your instructor.

Richard Moniz
Take a Trip to the Renaissance (If you Dare!)

Think Renaissance fashion is a thing of the past? Think again--the Annual Carolina Renaissance Festival will be coming to Charlotte this year for its 11th annual stint. Granted, its content may be less sophisticated than that of Charlotte Shout, but there will still be plenty of entertainment and unique food. The festival will be held each weekend from October 2nd until November 14th, and will run from 10am until 5:30 pm each day. Tickets are $14.00 in advance at Harris Teeter and $15.00 at the door.

Participants will be exposed to a number of uncommon events—jousting matches, wenches, sword swallowing, and the occasional themed wedding. But, perhaps most interesting is the booth at which attendees can purchase the right to wing tomatoes at (pre-designated!) employees. In addition to the live events, there are plenty of places to shop. The array of shops is widely varied and original, and a large percentage of the merchandise for sale is hand crafted by the shop’s owners.

Even more interesting than the tomato throwing (in my opinion) is the number of participants who choose to dress in full Renaissance garb. In fact, the employees are required not only to dress accordingly, but speak in the dialect of the time (so mind your thees and thous.) Don’t have any Renaissance-y garb? Don’t worry; all manner of codpieces and corsets will be available for purchase from the fashion merchants at the event.

In order to prepare you for your brief time in the Renaissance, here are some interesting factoids about the origins and fashion of the period—I guarantee they’re scarier than anything else you’ll see this Halloween.

- The Renaissance took place in 15th and 16th century Europe and signaled the end of the Middle Ages. While it is generally known as a time of improved cleanliness and personal hygiene, it was still far from sterile—even the richest people bathed only once or twice a year, and very few people ever washed their clothes.
- A “biggins” is a tight cap intended to keep the wearer’s outer hat clean. Due to the bathing habits mentioned above, the hair of the wearer was more of a threat to the hat’s cleanliness than the elements.
- The codpiece was originally worn out of modesty—the tights men wore in the period left little to the imagination, and they decided it would be best to cover up. However, as time passed, they came to be used as exhibition devices rather than a means of covering up, and, most amusingly, men often used them as a place to store whatever they might be carrying. Just think of them as the wallets of the Renaissance.
- Both men and women wore homemade makeup in spite of the fact that the recipes they used were toxic and caused painful skin irritation.
- Women’s low cut dresses required them to paint their entire upper torsos with the pale makeup they favored. It was also highly fashionable to add a little color by drawing blue veins onto the whitened chests. The color of clothing was also highly important to the wealthy. The undyed grey material generally worn by the poor was dubbed “the rat’s color,” and the brown fabric also worn by the lower class was referred to as “puke.” Surprisingly, sunny yellow was the color of mourning.

Intrigued? Check out these books, available in the library.

- Survey of Historic Costume by Phyllis Tortura ~ GT 580 .T67 1998

Sarah King
Will you Shake on It? The Origins and History of the Handshake

While it may seem like a distant prospect for many of our students, one day every Johnson and Wales graduate will be on the hunt for gainful employment. There are many skills that must be mastered before one can land the job of one’s dreams, the least of which is not the handshake. Business people in America use handshakes to greet each other, to seal deals, and to show that they are in agreement, but where did the handshake originate? In other countries people greet each other with a kiss on the cheek, a hug, or a bow; what inspired the adoption of our particular greeting?

Interestingly, the origin of the handshake is a hotly disputed issue amongst historians. There are as many as a dozen interpretations of where the handshake came from, and in each one the gesture itself has a distinct meaning. Some of the more entertaining potentials follow:

**Europe:** It is believed that in Medieval Europe the handshake was used as a gesture of peace. The two people involved would offer up the hand they normally used to wield their weapon in order to show that they were unarmed and meant no harm. This same explanation is said to be true of the ancient Greeks, who engaged their stabbing hand in the shake. Another variation on this explanation asserts that the shaking motion would dislodge any weapons a person had hidden in his sleeve.

**Africa:** There is an African folk tale that tells the story of two tribes who had long been at war. It is said that one day, after years of fighting, the chief of one tribe walked to the border of his enemy’s land, threw down his shield and weapon, and offered to clasp hands with his enemy in friendship.

**Arabia:** In historical Arabia, it was common for men to kiss the hands of their superiors. It is said that the handshake was born when two men met in the desert and neither would allow the other to kiss his hand in a gesture of subordination. Since each man prevented the other from raising his hand to be kissed, they simply stood with their hands joined. As a result, to give a handshake in Arabia is to show that you believe the person with whom you are shaking to be your equal.

In each situation the handshake is a gesture of peace, respect, and equality—there is no concrete explanation as to why we adopted it in the United States, but the most popular theory stems from our English ancestry. In Victorian England reforms rendered public kissing, the prior form of greeting, unacceptable—its replacement was the handshake, a gesture that required less closeness but still showed respect. It may be that as a result of this historical change, America’s founding fathers continued to proudly engage in the ritual of hand shaking.

Sarah King

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Baking and Pastry Websites

One of my areas of interest is baking and pastry. All of my work experience through the years has been either in a stand alone bakery or in the pastry department in a foodservice organization. Thus, when I surf the Internet, I am often looking for creditable pastry/baking websites.

**Pastry Wiz Food Resource Center** at [http://www.pastrywiz.com/](http://www.pastrywiz.com/) This site has theme pages for holiday decorating, culinary job board, shopping resources, and recipes. You can sign up to get a recipe delivered every day to your inbox. Or, you can join a food talk discussion group.

**Retailer’s Bakery Association** at [http://www.rbanet.com/](http://www.rbanet.com/) This site is geared towards the professional baker. Here you can become a member of the RBA and get access to even more information about future events. There are good links to other organizations, trade publications, and industry resources.

**International Cake Exploration Société** at [http://www.ices.org/](http://www.ices.org/) If you are interested in cake decorating or just like looking at pictures of gorgeous cakes, then check out this website. There are also great links to other pages that showcase cake decorating equipment and supplies. ICES is a great organization that promotes cake decorating in a non-competitive atmosphere. There is even a North Carolina Chapter that includes people from across the state. The group alternates its meetings between the Raleigh and Charlotte areas. Each meeting includes demonstrations about new techniques, prizes, and food. I am a member of the NC ICES group. If you are interested in attending a meeting, just stop by the library and see me or send me an email at jmoats@jwu.edu.

Hope you enjoy visiting these websites. Let me know what your favorite baking or pastry or culinary sites are on the Internet.

Jean Moats
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Submitted by Lisa Lehmuller
Hidden Words

Created through Edhelper.com by Jean Moats

Find each of the following words.

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New Books

Bel Canto: A Novel
Bonesetter’s Daughter
Traveller’s History of China
Franchising: A Case-study Approach
Contented Cows, Give Better Milk
The Cutting Edge
CIA World Factbook 2004

New Videos

The Mystery of Edgar Allen Poe (DVD)