1 Project output formats

1.1 Sample braids

Recently I realized that I need several sets of samples: one that's fit to be shown off at demos at medieval fairs in this country, one that can be used at generic craft fairs and classes and one that can be shared online. Furthermore, I wanted to have a 17th century style recipe book for my own reference, one that I can fill up in whatever order I learn new braiding techniques and just need to jot down a few notes on those braids. As I don't know where my teaching will take me and in what format, I decided to make some posters that can be hung on a wall or pinned to a screen either independently or in connection with a class or demo I'm doing myself.

The samples for a 15th century style book of braids are mostly done in silk, although there'll be a few linen ones based on existing finds. The set also includes a few finished products using the technique: bookmarks and Renaissance gown fastenings (ties and button-and-loop frogs) in a simple purse with silk purse strings.

1.2 Printed material

1.2.1 Helsinge book of strings, a 15th century sample book

The area I live in is known in the medieval documents as the parish of Helsinge and as many of the manuscripts of the era are known by either owner or collector or the place they are stored in, I thought this would be an appropriate name for my book of strings. The layout follows loosely that of the Harley manuscript, with an upright black-letter font (Lucida Blackletter) and well-filled pages. The space next to each section and subsection title will accomodate a silk sample braid sewn on.

One day I may calligraph a book for my own use, but for medieval fairs I want to have something that I can easily recreate (i.e. reprint) if the old one gets wet or just to dirty to be handled. Cloth paper is too expensive for this purpose, but at least some versions of the book will be printed on off-white paper. I once learned a very simple medieval bookbinding stitch that I'm going to use to bind these books.
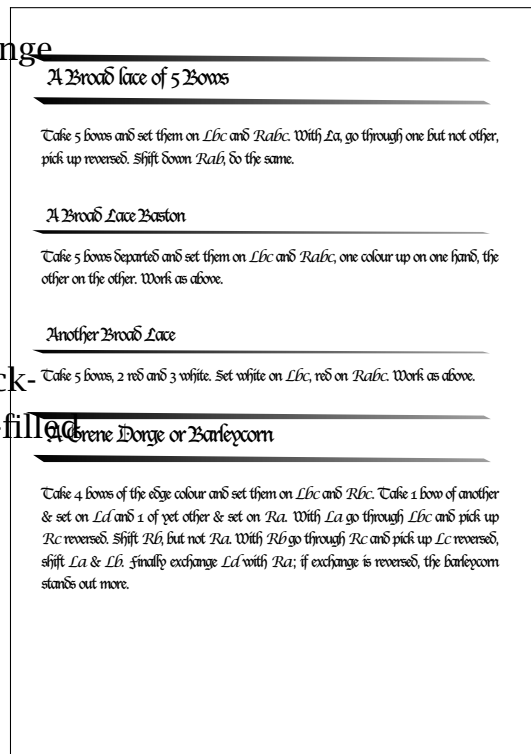
Figure 1.1 A page of Helsinge book

(scaled down, without braid samples)

1.3 A 17th century recipe book

This is the book I'm compiling for myself, to use as reference when working at medieval fairs and other places where one might frown at using a modern book. The texts are the same as for *Helsinge book*, but it is typeset with Lucida Calligraphy, a slightly later handwriting font; not quite like the cursive the enigmatic Lady Bindloss used, but in the same vein. No samples, no figures, just notes on how to set up a certain braid.
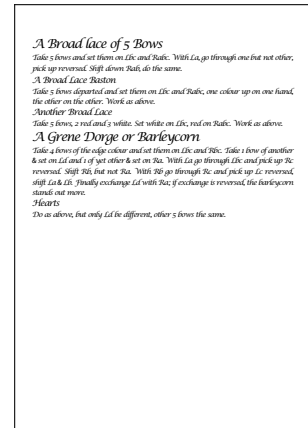
Figure 1.2 A draft page of my period notebook

1.4 Scrapbook and posters

I've decided to make my modern sample book and most of the posters in the standard scrapbook size, 12 x 12 inches. They'll be partly interchangeable as most scrapbook albums have clear plastic pockets into which the page is inserted. As the pockets are also designed to accomadate several layers of paper or cardboard, a single-sided poster with samples will fit nicely into an album.

The texts are printed into frames, but after that I put everything together by hand, so they have a slightly old-fashioned feel, but are still legible. If I want to change the texts, I only need to replace the damaged texts, samples and backgrounds, but do not have to start over from beginning.

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name: dummy
file: IMG_5219_sm.jpg
state: unknown
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Figure 1.3 One of my sprang posters (in Finnish)

1.5 Instruction sheets

The instruction sheets will contain full - both written and graphic - "modern" instructions on how to make a certain braid as well as a colour photo of the finished braid. All the graphics are generated by MetaPost, following a style that Elizabeth Benns and Gina Barrett used in "Tak V Bowes", as that is the way I personally find clearest. In text I'm sticking to the 15th century style that Noémi Speiser also uses; it is not the way I originally thought of fingerloop braiding, but I have grown to understand and like it and there's no reason to deviate from what is more or less the standard in the field.

In my other material English comes first, but the instruction sheets will be done in Finnish first as there's a demand for such a material among others at schools. This is where I'll be deciding on what kind of terminology to follow in Finnish, so it is important for me to start with the most extensive instructions and then do the shorter versions later, based on my English sample books.