

Largesse is a Virtue



Medieval Gift Giving and Ideas for the SCA



Period depictions of giving

3 wise men

St. Martin's cloak

Patrons

Books as gifts

Outfitting someone

Gift reciprocity and the creation of bonds

Why I love giving:

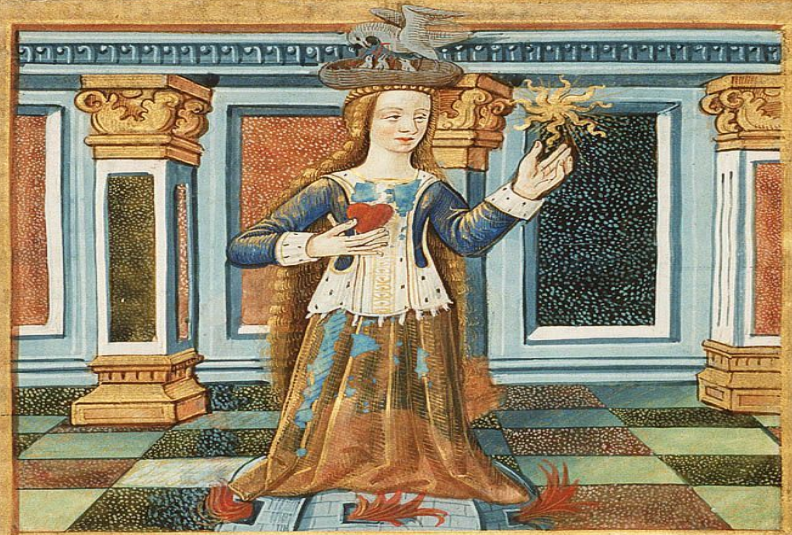
The selfish reasons:

- Gives me an excuse to learn about and meet others
- I get to show off
- Big ol happy
- Allows me to participate on my terms when I'm in pain or anxious
- Gives me an excuse to be involved and to feel needed
- My husband appreciates me having an outlet for my craft supply stockpile

The non-selfish ones

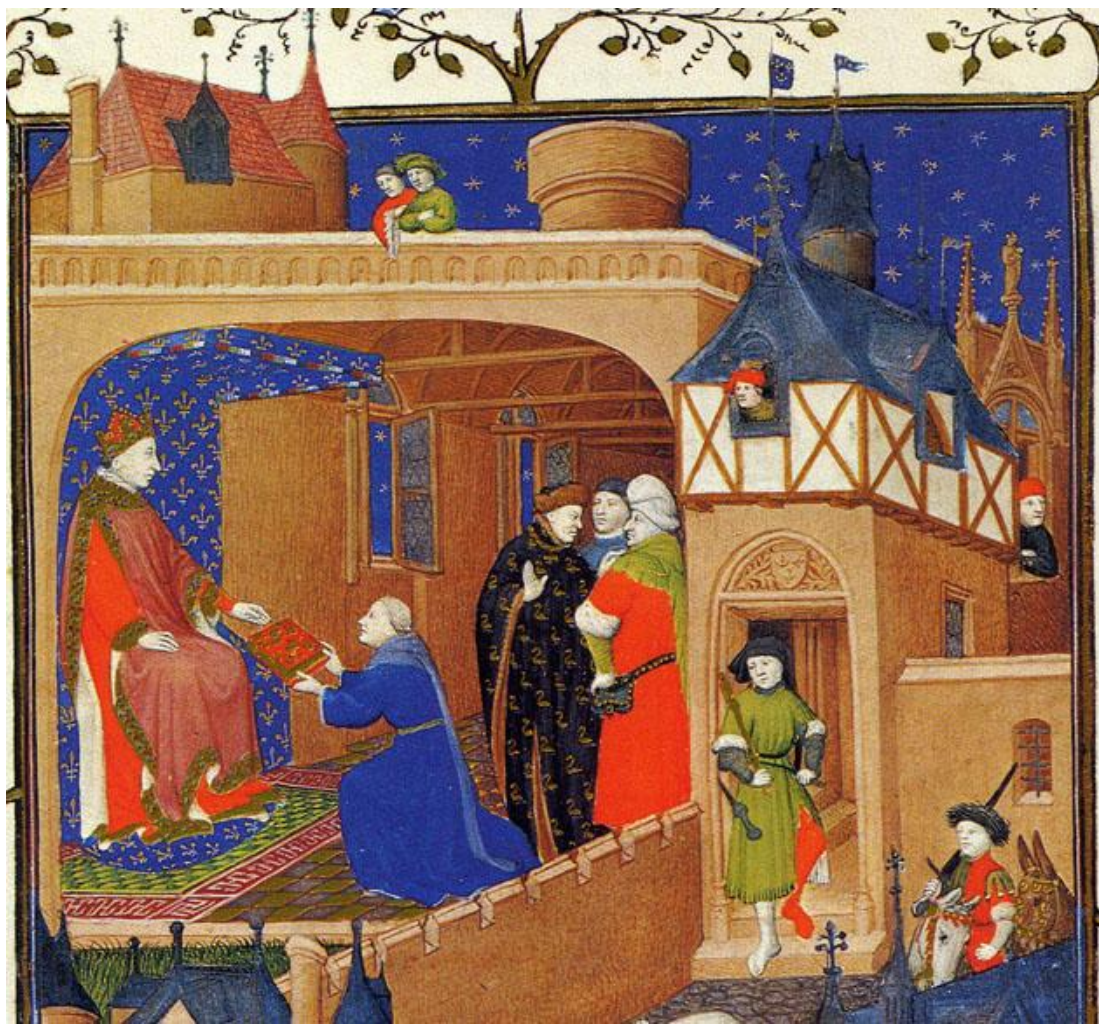
- They feel seen and supported. Sometimes that can make a huge difference on retention
- People get things they need or can pass on
- It brings people together
- Adds to the grandeur and grace

Vener y Ducille sans peine ny toment
La siemie ame quide de tous meffair
En paradis la sus foreusement



Charite.

Dar mon ihesus en terre descenda
En la vierge marie qui maria
Idar moy pour do' humaine son cor
Que a la mort en son cuer entama
Bien vous moustra par moy q' do' agn
Quant proclama



Interkingdom anthropology:

Artemisia doesn't have a backstock

Check in if there is a contact person:
often they don't feel they can ask as it
is a gift, but can provide input.

If you can, be personal. Also think
about the types of people that usually
receive largesse: cooks, event stewards

What does the royal or baronial
progress look like?

Don't forget your barony or local group



Some things to remind the kind:

Don't forget that you can give largesse yourself

The importance of tokens and "I see you"

Don't overextend yourself. People with big hearts tend to do too much. Balance.

Egg other artisans on. Posting patterns, ideas, and supporting other artists is a form of largesse too.



Some basic guidelines:

Don't give something you wouldn't be excited to get. Conversely, don't be a crazy perfectionist (I'm guilty)

Labeling

Food safety and allergens

Labeling

Perhaps someone wants more or you are the expert they've been trying to find

No really, label it!

A bit of packaging or some historical context on a card can make it that much more of a gift. Also the super nifty handmade beads or pins are less likely to get lost.

Maybe mix it up a bit.

If you have anything to do with giving largesse, thank you notes and transparency

You don't have to be an artisan to give largesse. (although you probably are, even if you don't consider yourself one)

Gift certificates (even better if it is to an SCA merchant)

Materials: One of the most historically accurate forms of largesse. Fabric, leather, paper and scribal supplies yarn and threads.

Patronage is also incredibly period. Support other artists.



Use your expertise:

Fighter kits, feast gear, first aid and other things you can put together

If you are an artist, consider kits. Use your expertise on good deals and the right materials as well as buying in bulk and separating enough for a project. How about a really great intro book

SCRIBAL SUPPLIES

Have you considered a song book, poems, or embroidery patterns? Simple octavo with a bit of basic stitching (East kingdom try-it video available.)



Embroidered pouches
Handkerchiefs
Bookmarks
Brooches
Necklaces
Arm rings
Bracelets
Pincushions
Scissor keeps
Needlebooks
Woodcuts
Fans
Felted bag
Threadworked or cloth buttons
Aprons
Hoods
Toy gryphons
Embroidered mirrors
Painted thank you cards

Threadwinders/bobbins
Notebook covers and phone holders
Scroll cases
Silverware holders for feast boxes or worn on belt
Caps. Include sleeping hats
Garters
Trim
Hand sanitizer and masks
Penners and brush rolls for scribes
Veil pins and all their uses
Assembled kits
Cords and braids
Scroll blanks
Spices
Spoons
Embroidered towels
Linen napkins cut when you're sewing
Wet bags for feast gear
Mugs
Cards, dice, and games
Hand flags for cheering on fighters

Arming cap

Winengas

Coif

Caul

Hairsticks

Posaments

Comb case

Safety pin type fibula

Flat cut out wood dolls, horses shapes ala Viking toys