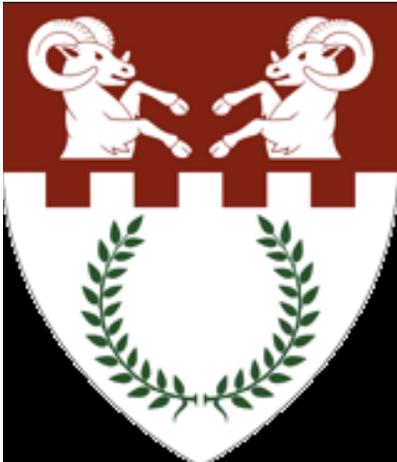


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Ramshaven Herald

A.S. XLVII May 2012

Happy New Year
and other Messages!

Baronial site	Http://ealdormere.ca/ramshaven
Online group	Http://groups.yahoo.com/group/SCA-Ramshaven
Bryniau Tywynnog	Http://www.treheim.ca/bryniau
Der Welfengau	Https://sites.google.com/site/cantonofderwelfengau/home
Kingdom of Ealdormere	Www.ealdormere.ca
Upcoming Events	Www.ealdormere.ca/listcalendar.php

From Their Excellencies Ramshaven

Kolbjorn and Wencenedl, by the will of Their Majesties, Gothi and Brehyres of Ramshaven, to the most amiable and excellent citizens of our fair Barony, Greetings!

A couple short weeks ago was May Day, generally viewed as the start of the summer season in medieval Europe. A tradition dating back to the late middle ages in Cornwall involves a mystery play called "Hal-an-tow", which celebrates the courage of an eclectic cast of characters: Robin Hood, St. George, and a local victory over Spanish raiders. That seems appropriate. Summer in our part of the Knowne World is a season for courage, as our thoughts begin to turn toward the great battles at Pennsic.

Courage is generally included on any list of Chivalric virtues. It's almost a bread-and-butter kind of connection: knights-and-courage. But what is courage? More than bravery, it's that quality that allows us to remain steady in the face of obstacles. It was called "fortitude" in many medieval writings and was considered a "cardinal" virtue - like one of the points on a compass to help one get one's bearings. Like many of the chivalric virtues, courage is cultivated with practice.

Interestingly, in his "Nicomachean Ethics", Aristotle defined two vices opposite the virtue of courage. The first is caused by lack: cowardice. The second is caused by excess: recklessness. The story of Beowulf ultimately illustrates that. When Beowulf faces the dragon alone, he is not being courageous. He is being reckless - and stupid. However, courage can also be faked as bravado. In a world that is concerned with bullying, that bears some thought. When bravado is mistaken for courage and turned on a weaker opponent rather than a stronger one, the result is oppression. This is probably why most of those lists of chivalric virtues temper the call for courage with admonitions for justice and mercy, and why the Knights of our Society swear to "shield the weak".

Although we are a smaller barony when compared to some in our kingdom, our people have great heart. We are pleased to note that courage is a virtue well-practised here and are proud to see it demonstrated by so many of you, both on the field and in the tourney ring, as well as our of armour. Well done, Ramshaven! We charge you to continue as you have and not to let your courage falter.



From Our Incipient Baron and Baroness, Penda and Sibylla!

Greetings from Penda & Sibylla
Incipient Baron and Baroness of Ramshaven

As you all know by this time, the Baronial candidacy for Ramshaven has come to a close and we; Sibylla and Penda, were fortunate enough to be selected for these positions. First, we would like to thank the other candidates for

running. Everyone had great ideas for the future of the Barony and it was wonderful to be asked such a variety of questions at the candidates meetings. Many healthy discussions have come out of the questions asked. Also, we would like to extend a special thanks to their Excellencies Kolbjorn Skattkaupandi & Wencenedl of Rokesburg for making the process as smooth as possible. Of course our deepest thanks go out to all of you who attended the meetings and cast a ballot.

As we lead up to Investiture on July 7th, we hope to speak with all of our members and hear each of your hopes and dreams for the Barony. Please feel free to come and say hello if there is anything you would like to discuss. We have an 'open door' communication policy. We can also be contacted by email at penda.sibylla@gmail.com or by phone at 519-368-3645.

The Queen's Picnic sounds like it will be delicious. Please keep your browsers tuned to the website for more details as they get worked out. There will be lots of things to do for both artisans and combatants alike. Let's all keep our fingers crossed for an excellent, sunny summer day.

We look forward to serving the populace as well as Their Majesties. This is a very special time for Ramshaven in that we have Royalty in our Barony. Wassail to King Edward and Queen Rylyn! May they reign with glad hearts!

Penda and Sibylla



Cloth of Gold

Cloth of Gold 2012 was presented by the Canton der Welfengau in conjunction with War College by the Canton Bryniau Tywynnog, at Scholar's Hall in Kitchener, ON, April 13-14, 2012. The autocrat team consisted of Mori Shiomi Hime, Lady Dubhessa ui Uilliam, and THL Asa Gormsdottir.

The competition officially began at 9:00 pm Friday night and ended at 3:00 pm Saturday afternoon, plus one hour to freshen up and dress their models before the Fashion Show. Upon arrival, the teams took their pick of the classrooms (kudos to the New Kids for grabbing the room with cozy couches!) and settled in for a long night of fitting and cutting, weaving and braiding (and some upbraiding), and sewing. The autocrats provided a Survival Table featuring notions, threads, baby wipes, Kleenex, band aids, extra scissors, duct tape, and a spare sewing machine. At one point technical difficulties were about to throw a spanner in the works for our youngest participant, but the backup machine saved the day.

This year's Cloth of Gold featured four teams:

1. Glyndmere's Sew Tonic Nights (Leader: Lady Sybilla of Glyndmere)
The team created a beautiful set of completely hand-sewn clothes for model Lord Dietrich, including a royal blue tunicella with a wide yellow hem decorated with crosses potent, handmade beaded and embroidered gloves in maroon wool with yellow cuffs, pale tan leather boots with four narrow buckles each, a white shirt with lucet cording, braies, chausses, a coif, and a leather belt.
2. From Russia with Love (Leader: Lady Dubhessa)
This team built a lovely 15th century Russian man's outfit. Their model and recipient, Kal, was proud as punch of his new coat in dark purple wool lined with brown linen and trimmed with gold braid, a sage green linen tunic hand finished with red silk on the hem, neckline, cuffs and armpits (to keep away evil spirits), pants, and accessories including a new belt, inkle-woven on site in red and two shades of blue.
3. I Think I'm Turning Japanese (Leader: Lady Shiomi)

Sadly, this team could not finish due to a family emergency. However their efforts during the night with Naga and Tamarlaine looked very promising, including woven rope footwear and some mysterious hanks of red linen/ramie.

4. New Kids on the Block (Leader: Baroness Liadin Chu).

Baroness Liadin led an atelier of four students including Elyza, Rohesia, Rose, and Fallon, later joined by Caele and her mother Lady Caitlin ui Duibhir. Several of the ladies had never sewn before, and Liadin ably led them in creating their first paper and muslin patterns for tunics and gowns. Thank you Liadin for giving these ladies a safe haven in which to really learn a new skill.



Elyza made a pale green tunic with yellow collar, with excellent gusset and gore work, and began a sage green caftan. Rohesia made a wool coat in a dark green and black weave that looked very comfortable, and a red linen tunic. Rose made a lovely dark blue cotehardie with cloth buttons, and Lady Fallon made a fresh and crisp pale blue linen cotehardie. As well, our only under-20 entry, Caele, made a chemise in banded cream linen (with hand sewn hems) and a cloak in pale blue that hung beautifully and boasted great trim and bling.

No event takes place without a strong support team, and Cloth of Gold was no exception. Ludwig, Sophia, and their helpers did a wonderful job feeding everyone all night: fresh egg salad sandwiches, handmade sushi rolls, fresh-baked muffins and cookies, a lavish breakfast that included amazing BACON, followed by a most welcome lunch of meat and vegetarian lasagnas, Caesar salad, rolls and fruit pies. Coffee brewed all night and a selection of pop and juices was also available. The lovely cooking, patience, and sense of humour was much appreciated. In addition, while boiling eggs, preparing lasagna and making muffins, Ludwig regaled those working in the cafeteria with Guess the Theme Song using his massive playlist. Naga won hands-down. The set-up and clean-up crew despite crushing fatigue swept everything, cleaned the bathrooms, mopped the kitchen and cafeteria floors, ran out the garbage and recycling and made sure everything was shipshape before we locked up.

We even got our baby fix thanks to Annalise and little Ian!

During the event the teams were visited by Princess Ryn, Wencenedl, Baroness of Ramshaven, Christiana, Baroness of Septentria, and Countess Adrielle Kerrec, OL, providing support, bad jokes, and helpful comments. An hour after "Needles Down" was announced, the teams presented a Fashion Show before a panel of judges which included HE Wencenedl, Lady Alais de Poitiers, and Lady Eluned (both of Skrael and previous Pent winners). HE Christiana, Mistress Kaellyn, and Baroness Mahault van der Eych, served as a sort of back-up panel, asking many thoughtful questions of the participants. Everyone received lots of very helpful comments and took many ideas and inspirations home. The happiness and satisfaction during Saturday's Fashion Show was obvious.

Participants received a wonderful range of prizes provided by Queen Dagmar, Baroness Wencenedl, Countess Adrielle, Baroness Mahault, and the Canton der Welfengau. These included: books on topics such as illumination (Catherine of Cleves, Hildegard von Bingen), stained glass and Samurai; many trims, notions and throws; and lovely medieval sewing kits prepared by Her Excellency Wencenedl. These very cool kits included a spool of linen sewing thread, a beeswax pot, a needle case with two needles, silk floss in three period

shades on wooden bobbins, steel thread snips, and an eyelet awl (yes, they were much coveted by one of the autocrats!). As well, Countess Adrielle donated a most handsome reliquary bag in cream, blue and gold which was awarded to Augusta of Ben Dunfirth who made the embroidered beaded gloves.

The Autocrat team would like to thank everyone for all of the enthusiasm and support for this edition of Cloth of Gold!

Aleksandr Mikhailovich served as our Gatekeeper on Saturday

My sincere apologies if I have forgotten anyone, screwed up your name or title, or otherwise mucked up what you did to help make Cloth of Gold 2012 a success.

Thanks,

Asa/Eve

Up and Coming!

Excitement is in the air. The weather is beautiful, sunny but not blistering yet. Ah! what better time of year than to enjoy the fifth Fruits Of Our Labour! Knowing this event is imminent at time of publication, I would love to see and hear about the adventures at this weekend journey into craftsmanship and learning, for the next edition of The Ramshaven Herald. Many thanks to all who put together this awesome weekend!

As we head into the busy summer holiday season, definitely mark August 25th on your calendar, for the second installment of "Middle Ages on the Green", our "just play" event to end the summer.

'Til next time,
Your Friendly Neighbourhood Chronicler,
Lord Adnar.



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