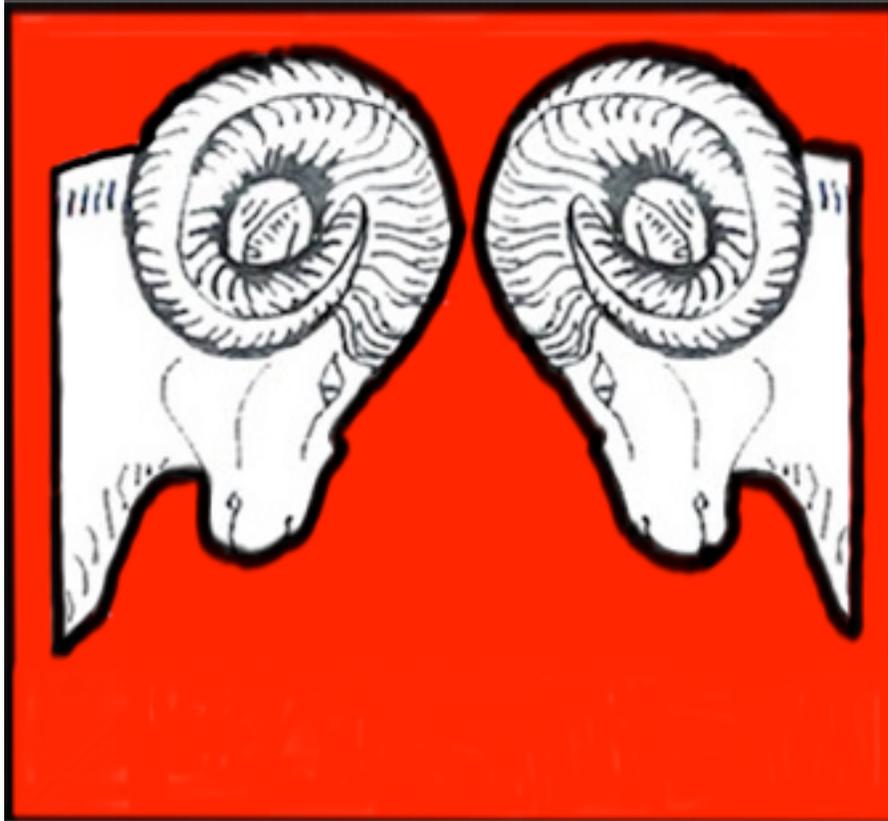


# Ramshaven Herald



A.S. 12  
June 2014

Letters!

## Greetings from Penda and Sibylla...

The Barons Brouhaha is fast approaching on the weekend of July 11 to 13. Over the last couple of months some of you have expressed interest in coming up to our farm to assist with getting ready for the event. There is quite a bit of work to be done to get the barn ready. Most of it is moving stuff around to make the great hall as empty as possible. There is also a section of floor that needs to be replaced, and Penda needs some spotters while he repairs the roof.

We are setting aside the weekend of June 21 and 22 for this task. If anyone is interested please email us at [penda.sibylla@gmail.com](mailto:penda.sibylla@gmail.com). If people wish to 'campout' for the weekend they are more than welcome. We will provide meals and beverages.

Thanks  
Penda and Sibylla

## The Art of Letter Writing

There is a chorus of lament for the “dying” art of letter writing, or Epistolary, from a variety of media streams, such as...

<http://www.brainpickings.org/index.php/2012/12/21/how-to-write-letters-1876/>  
...a review of a book written by J. Willis Westlake in 1876

<http://www.artofmanliness.com/2009/04/16/the-art-of-letter-writing/>  
...a general 'how-to'

and CBS Boston's fairly recent article  
<http://boston.cbslocal.com/2014/03/22/mass-scholars-mourn-lost-art-of-letter-writing/>

Of course, we in the Society know full well that this dearth is rather exaggerated, and disregards the letter writing of pre-Victorian times. From the writings of Seneca, to philosophers “answering” each other over expanses of space

of time, to the various personal correspondences found throughout the period, even to Andreas Capellanus' “De Amore”, letter writing, or message-giving in general, has not, and never truly shall, be lost. The methods may be evolved, and couriers in subtly different form, but the basics of communication remain.

Adnar

## Event Report: Fruits of our Labours, May 17, AS 49 (2014)

I, Colyne, squire, lord of Colynesburg, wish to make known to all who will view the present letters that, on the seventeenth day of May, in the forty-ninth year of the Society, I traveled with my lady wife to the verdant lands of Ramshaven to participate in the activities of the annual Fruits of our Labours event. As our kennel master was occupied with other duties that day, and as the site upon which this event is held does not allow the presence of canines, we were afraid we would not indeed be able to attend the event at all. However, in the last moment, as the sun rose, we received word from the good folk at the manse of Havencroft that they would be honoured to watch over our hound, allowing us to make our pilgrimage.

Though my humours were unbalanced as the day began, we persevered in our journey, and arrived at the spacious site at half past nine in the morn. Our first site was a small field of wagons and wains, but moving past them we came to a large lodge, overlooking a sweeping dale. To the right arose the tents and pennants of those who had braved the chill night and had arisen with breath pluming from their mouths. Straight ahead was an open expanse where both the young and experienced fighters and fencers would later show their worth by placing their bodies upon the anvil of virtue. At the edge of this area sat a sheltered area that would see many meetings and classes held under its shade during the coming days. To the left of these lists were spread the archery and thrown weapons ranges, which were filled with participants

whenever I happened to gaze upon them. To complete this scene, a small croft sat between the thrown weapons list and the main lodge. It was in this croft that I would spend half my day.

To this croft I straight away sped, as I was to teach a class on writing texts for award scrolls based on period sources. Though the class was small, the participants were enthusiastic, and I believe and hope that the College of Scribes will shortly gain new scribes to their ranks.

Following this class I remained in the croft to participate in a meeting of the Bookbinders Guild of Ealdormere. This meeting was graced with the presence of His Majesty, and those in attendance were impressed with the book clasps THL Tarian verch Gadarn had made in her Masters' workshop.

When the meeting was complete, Porfinna and I slipped away to the lodge where were procured victuals provided by Baron Cynred and Baroness Margaret. After consuming our meal, we ventured outside and talked with many friends until the time came once again for me to teach.

I sped back to the croft where I again taught a small class, this time having a round table discussion about the opportunities within the Society for the writer to ply their craft, for there are more than many think.

With my commitments for the day thus met, I wandered to the list field, while Porfinna gleefully ran off to carve bones with HE Lucia and grind pigments with Lady Margeurite. The weather was generally still cool, but the sun did at times pierce the clouds and warm the soul. Some of us thanked Baron Corwyn for this gift, as it is send the good baron can make the sun shine by taking a certain posture. Due to my imbalanced humours during the morning hours, I had neglected to bring my kit, and I was to regret this as I watched the valourous combat to take place on the field. Gerard of Ardchreag authorized that day, and later both THL Hans and Lady Neala would authorize in the double weapon form. A royal tourney was held under

the watchful eyes of Sir Edward and Lord Wulfric, with Duke Trumbrand coming in first, Duchess Kaylah coming in second, and Jack the Pirate coming in third. At the tourney's conclusion a warlord tourney was held, followed by other melee scenarios and single combats.

Though I could only watch the fighting I was happy to spend time chatting with the combatants and other spectators, meeting several people I had not previously known, including a contingent from the Blackwood.

At the fifth hour, court was held in front of the shade. Both Their Excellencies Ramshaven and Their Majesties recognized several individuals for their good works, but the memory of man is short, and already have I forgotten their names, to my shame. One item I do recall however, is that this incarnation of Fruits of our Labours had more teachers and classes than any of its predecessors.

At court's conclusion, we began the journey for home.

In testimony of the aforesaid I have protected the present document by impression of my seal. Written in the year of the Society 49, on the feast day of Venantius of Camerino.

Based on a letter from Wolfert of Malstede to Margaret of Constantinople, Countess of Flanders, August 21, 1248.

## Thank You For Your Letter

Warm greetings and salutations from Adnar, as I break my fast in my humble abode in the sandy hills of Bryniau Tywynnog. There has been a day of rest now, since we looked last at the Fruits of Our Labours. This past weekend, I enjoyed holding wire-working hours with young and old alike, and had opportunity to share some knowledge regarding the Latin language. I must concur, the peace and friendship found through days commonly held such as these inspire and enable me to further my works.

Your letter has inspired me. I may not be as eloquent and polished, though perhaps that may be more from tending to the wilds of my plantings than anything else. As the Chronicler for Ramshaven, I have opportunity to continue honing some of my craft, in the search for writings or information.

When you wrote your letter, I decided to seek your permission to use your letter in its entirety, in this edition of the Ramshaven Herald, so much pleasure I had in reading and re-reading it. In the future, I shall indeed be writing more, in the hopes of passing along your inspiration, and passion for the writer's craft!

Many sempiternal thanks on this day, the anniversary of King Ecgrith's defeat at the Battle of Nechtansmere.

## A Note from Dietrich von Sachsen

[Em](#) and I had a lovely time this weekend. The FOOL Bardic Circles are always a highlight, and I had a great time learning Pole Lathe and making Marzipan (we have plans to make a whole bunch of marzipan mice.) Thanks to all those who made this happen.

Oh, and thank you to his Grace [Mark Patchett](#) for getting "A Shieldman's Lament" firmly lodged in my head.



## A Thank You Letter From Lady Odette

You know, without the fabulous people who support our event, FOOL would not be possible. Despite the iffy weather forecast, and the cool weather, people came. It was totally awesome to see full bunks and a sea, well, a small sea of tents in the camping area. Thank you to all of the participants who braved the cold nights and the breezy days to make our event a success.

Teachers...without teachers, our event would be nothing. We were able to offer the most classes ever this year. We always have cool classes, and this year was no exception. There was bone carving, antler carving, woodworking, blacksmithing, bead-making, textile and clothing classes, and, and, and, this list goes on. As I populated the schedule, I was completely awed at the skills we have here in Ealdormere, and the generous sharing of said skills that are offered by those who teach. Thank you all so much for your generosity. I truly appreciate all that goes in to the time and effort it takes to plan a class, and bringing it all out to FOOL to teach. Thank you all for making our event what it is.

Team FOOL....without Team FOOL this event wouldn't happen. The pre-event planning is one thing, but the weekend is long and there is a lot of work which happens seemingly seamlessly. The team of people who pull together for this weekend is amazing. Without them I've no idea what I'd do. This year especially, when I wasn't sure I'd even get to the event in time to open gate, without fail, Team FOOL pulled together, jumped in and all was good. This year Saints Percival and Christiana, and Gwyndion came to my rescue, not only for opening the event site, but during the weekend, teaching, checking washrooms, sitting gate and being there when I needed them. As ever, Tamsin runs a most efficient gate. She forgets nothing, and I mean nothing. She is organized and everything is in order and easy to find. She does more than I ever think necessary and it turns out we need it anyway. Such foresight is hard not to recognize.

Erhard (Adnar) is always there when needed, taking care of everything from dealing with the pump issues we had this year, ducking out of a class to do so, to clean up, and absolutely everything else we need in between. Ken and Margaret ran the tavern again this year, feeding people with amazing meals. I cannot say enough about how much I appreciate their efforts. Despite having a restaurant and a little farm with what currently seems to be a gazillion animals to care for, they come out and cook for our little event. Many thanks to our Marshals this year, who gave us a full compliment of activities, which was lovely to see. We had Youth Combat, Armored Combat, Rapier, Thrown Weapons and Archery! How cool is that? All sorts of people came together and helped in bits and pieces. A special thanks to Ian, who bought a membership, to come to his first event, solely so he could take a shift at gate. Last and not least, my thanks go to Rylyn. By becoming my co-autocrat, she takes a huge burden from my shoulders. Her organizational skills are awesome, and without her, this event would be so much harder to pull off.

Thank you all for coming out, for teaching and for working so hard to make this event so successful. It means the world to me.

Odette

## An Invitation

The Canton of Bryniau Tywynnog invites one and all to our annual Middle Ages On The Green, the canton's "Just Play Day". In its fourth year, this "demo-event" - a picnic in essence - will be held again at Laurel Creek Conservation Area at the Critter Pavilion, on Saturday August 16th, 2014.

We look forward to seeing all who can come out for this late-summer, post-Pennsic event! We will publish details to the Bryniau website.

Baron	Penda of Ramshaven
Baroness	Sibylla of Ramshaven
Seneschal	Evan Quicktongue
Armoured Marshall	Vanion
Exchequer	HE Kohl of Rokesburg
Chronicler	Adnar Dionadair (Erhard Kruger)
Arts & Sciences Minister	Brigit Larkin
Herald	Joffre
Kingdom of Ealdormere	<a href="http://www.ealdormere.ca">www.ealdormere.ca</a>
Barony of Ramshaven	<a href="http://www.ramshaven.com">www.ramshaven.com</a>
Canton of Bryniau Tywynnog	<a href="http://www.bryniau.ca">www.bryniau.ca</a>
Canton of Der Welfengau	<a href="http://www.derwelfengau.com">www.derwelfengau.com</a>
Incipient Canton of Northgaedham	<a href="http://www.ramshaven.com/northgaedham">http://www.ramshaven.com/northgaedham</a>
Email list	<a href="http://groups.yahoo.com/group/SCA-Ramshaven">Http://groups.yahoo.com/group/SCA-Ramshaven</a>

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