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# Ramshaven Herald

A.S. XLVI January 2012

*If the Shoe Fits...*

Baronial site	<a href="http://ealdormere.ca/ramshaven">Http://ealdormere.ca/ramshaven</a>
Online group	<a href="http://groups.yahoo.com/group/SCA-Ramshaven">Http://groups.yahoo.com/group/SCA-Ramshaven</a>
Bryniau Tywynnog	<a href="http://www.treheim.ca/bryniau">Http://www.treheim.ca/bryniau</a>
Der Welfengau	<a href="http://dw.sca.gamv.ca">Http://dw.sca.gamv.ca</a>
Kingdom of Ealdormere	<a href="http://www.ealdormere.ca">Www.ealdormere.ca</a>
Upcoming Events	<a href="http://www.ealdormere.ca/listcalendar.php">Www.ealdormere.ca/listcalendar.php</a>

Unto the Populace of RamsHaven do Their Excellencies, Kolbjorn, Gothi and Brehyres Wencenedl send warmest Greetings:

The changing winds of January are blowing. Although as we write this letter the winds are cold and snowy, it's been an odd January, with a lot of warmer, even rainy days. It's hard to know what to expect in such times. It's easy to see the weather as a personification of the times themselves – a time when it is easy to lose hope.

Sir Guillaume de la Belgique, former King of Caid (and one who has also had the experience of sitting a baronial high seat) maintains a blog called "Chivalry Today." An article there notes that one of the common themes of medieval writers on the chivalric virtues was hope. In a follow-up, Sir Guillaume takes the unique tack of examining the chivalric virtues by looking at their opposites. He points out that while "despair" is an easy antonym for "hope," the true opposite in action is hate. He writes, "Despair can be overcome, but hate is the deliberate and calculated assumption that a person, or a group of people are completely and utterly beyond redemption."<sup>[1]</sup> That's interesting. When we allow ourselves to hate or fall prey to anger we don't leave room for hope and the result is abandonment. That simply does not fit with the chivalric ideal of the strong being "the shield of the weak."

While not a medieval author, Czech poet (and later president) Vaclav Havel said about hope, "[It] is not the same as joy that things are going well, or willingness to invest in enterprises that are obviously heading for success, but rather an ability to work for something because it is good."<sup>[2]</sup> That speaks well to a chivalric concept of hope.

Hope is more than a mere emotion. Hope must be actively cultivated. It must permeate the way we treat each other.

Recent months have brought some unexpected turmoil and disagreement to our fair barony. While it might be more pleasant to attempt to

turn a blind eye to such things, that does not make it go away. The disagreements are unfortunate, because ultimately they detract from the enjoyment of our Society. It's important to bear in mind, however, that those who oppose you aren't being deliberately malicious; they also have what they see as the best interest of the barony in mind, although our understanding of what is "best" may differ. The challenge is coming to consensus. We would encourage everyone to work constructively together to reach resolutions which are acceptable to all involved. We are sure the good people of the Barony are more than capable of doing so.

Although our time on the high seats grows shorter, we hold high hopes for the Barony of RamsHaven. Most immediately, we hope for strong and active cantons that communicate and play together well. In this vein we are looking forward to the parallel events coming up on April 13-14th: Cloth of Gold run by Welfengau and War College run by Bryniau Twynogg. We also hope that our Society continues to be a means of learning, a break from the mundane, and a source of cheer for each of you.

<sup>[1]</sup><http://chivalrytoday.com/knightly-sins/>

<sup>[2]</sup>Havel, V. "The Politics of Hope", *Disturbing the Peace*, 1986, English translation by Paul Wilson, 1990, pg 181.

## On Gallivanting...

This New Year presents another calendar full of opportunity. Though the fun and puppetry at Septentrian Twelfth Night is just past, merely a couple of weeks ago, I look forward to seeing everybody at upcoming events such as Saint Valentine's Massacre, Forward Into The Past, Fruits of Our Labour, and by summer our own yet-to-be-branded summer event (August 25th) Start marking your calendars!

Meantime, between events, we have on top of our regular activities, planning for the Baronial Investiture in July. I should get my best footwear out for this!



## Speaking about shoes...

First, I'd like to thank Diego for this article idea, and a reference website to start with, to boot!

I've cobbled together a few other footwear-related items that have come across our path from time to time, as starting points for any, such as myself, who still dream of wearing that great pair of shoes to go along with their kit.

Surely, one can find several footwear vendors at Pennsic, or, check out what is available through the web. One such website is Westland Crafts, though ordering is a bit peculiar. Here's the link:

<http://www.westlandcrafts.com/>

Stepping beyond this, though, we find ourselves in range of making our own footwear. We can start with such sites as Muirenn pointed out on Ealdormere's E-list,

<http://earthandliving.blogspot.com/2008/08/viking-shoes-tutorial-sort-of.html>

or Diego's favourite source, Marc Carlson's [Footwear of the Middle Ages](http://www.personal.utulsa.edu/~marc-carlson/shoe/SHOEHOME.HTM), found at [www.personal.utulsa.edu/~marc-carlson/shoe/SHOEHOME.HTM](http://www.personal.utulsa.edu/~marc-carlson/shoe/SHOEHOME.HTM) The latter is a good research and tutorial resource, collected both from fellow Society members as well as professional associates.

Yet where could we find leather for that first project? Edward and Rylyn get their stock of leather from Tundra Leather on Main Street in Hamilton, where Master Tarkatai Ba'hadur (Sean Dalgetty) works. Locally, one could also try

Pfeiffer's on Duke Street, near Frederick in Kitchener (more known for their shoe repair, but they do have some supplies from Tandy Leather)

Hopefully, this brief snapshot will enable the cobbler in us all! Happy Stitching!

## Spotlight on...Naga!

Brendan Smith is an Industrial Carpenter by trade. In his own passionate and proud words: "I build walls." Once, when I showed him a badly constructed wall (NOT erected by him of course!), he simply said "That hurts my feelings..." At the time of this writing, he has 1 3/4 children, his second being imminent! By this March he will have been in the Society for 16 years.

Yoshikuri Nagayori Go Taisho is a sixteenth century Samurai living in Japan's capital, Kyoto. His interests include the Bardic Arts, fighting and melee tactics, cooking, general Japanese research, and archery. His favourite colour: green. His quest: to be more involved in the Arts and Sciences.



Naga, could that be you...? Wrong shoes though!

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