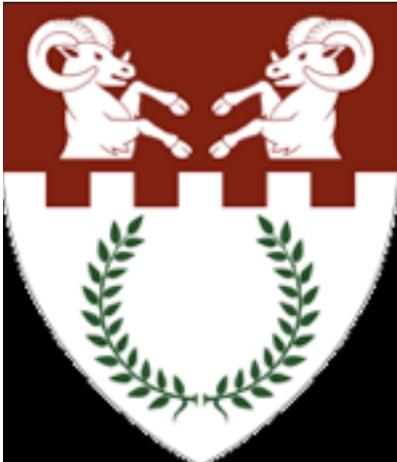


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# Ramshaven Herald

A.S. XLVII March/April 2013

## Measured Steps to Warmer Times

Baronial site	<a href="http://www.ramshaven.com">www.ramshaven.com</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="https://sites.google.com/site/cantonofderwelfengau/home">Https://sites.google.com/site/cantonofderwelfengau/home</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>

## From Our Baron and Baroness...

Although most 'SCAdians' tend to be quite modest, there is still something very satisfying about being recognized for one's efforts. We are not like the monks who used to hide away in some lonely room, slaving away over a piece of parchment that might never be seen by more than a single pair of eyes. We are social. We like to see how our friends and peers are doing. It is exciting to see what new skills people have learned and how they are using them. Seeing what other people are doing inspires us to say "maybe I can do that too?"

Recognizing others for these efforts is what our award system is all about. Some awards are for service while others are for skill - most are a combination of the two. It is important that the Crown keep an eye on the populace to see who befits an award, but it is impossible to know what is happening with everyone at all times. For this reason the Crown relies on help from the Baronies. The Baron and Baroness, in turn, rely heavily on input from their members to know who has contributed to the Kingdom or Barony and make recommendations accordingly.

Often people 'slip through the cracks' when it comes to awards. We have a tendency to assume that a person has an award because they are already 'playing' at that level. At an event it is common to talk about a person's efforts and say 'he/she should really have award X', and then completely forget to make the recommendation after the event. Sometimes when we talk about doing things, we fool ourselves into thinking we actually did them. Only Their Royal Majesties or Territorial Barons and Baronesses can give out official awards, so it is important that these suggestions get to them.

It is also important to note that any person can recommend any other person for an award regardless of rank in the Society. For example, a person with no awards at all could recommend someone to become a Laurel. Whether that happens or not is ultimately decided by the Crown, but there is nothing stopping a person

from making a recommendation. By making a suggestion this helps their Royal Majesties and Barons and Baronesses turn their eye in that person's direction and take a closer look at how they are doing.

If you want a person to be recognized, but don't know which award to recommend, just explain why they deserve recognition and it will get figured out. If you are recommending a Baronial award, contact your territorial Baron and Baroness. If it is a Kingdom award, make the suggestion on the Kingdom web site. Letting your Baron and Baroness know you have made that suggestion might help things along.

To see which awards a person may already have, refer to the web sites listed below.

Kingdom of Ealdormere Awards:

<http://wolfium.com/search.php>

Ramshaven Baronial Awards:

<http://www.ramshaven.com/ramscr/rollofhonour.php?QRY=1>

Another important aspect of our award system is what goes on behind the scenes when giving an award. Someone must be given the task of wording for a scroll, while another might do the calligraphy and yet another may do the illumination. There is the announcement of the Award at Court and presentation by Their Royal Majesties. All of this is done quietly in the background, but it is certainly no small task to recognize a person for what they have done. Court would be very uneventful, were it not for the giving of Awards.

So please, make recommendations!

Penda, Baron of Ramshaven

## What in the Known World is a Poon? or Weights in 14th century Scotland

Imagine you are in the marketplace selling fruits and nuts that you had collected from your land. Maybe you would be able to get a fair price in your hometown, where people know you. But what if you went to another market to sell your produce? How much is a pound? How could you be sure you weren't being cheated? Making sure everyone used the same units was quite complicated in the middle ages. Whenever a new king acceded to the throne, his representatives had to meet to compare their weighing and measuring devices. Eventually, in the 17th century, it was standardized. But even then, there were still some local variations.

Weights are all based on the pound (poon) or the stone (stane). There are four units used to measure weight:

Drap (or drop)  
Ounce = 16 drap  
Pound = 16 ounces  
Stone = 16 pounds

'Drap' and 'Stane' are words from the Scots language, and mean 'drop' and 'stone', respectively. The word pound comes from the Latin word *pondo* or *pondus*, meaning weight. It was about the same as the Roman unit of weight called the *libra*. This is why we still abbreviate the word 'pound' as 'lb'. The pound is made of 16 ounces. The word ounce is from the Latin *uncia*, meaning one twelfth, because there used to be twelve ounces in a pound.

At least since the time of David I of Scotland (1124 – 1153), kings have been trying to standardize weights and measures. Assemblies called "assizes of measure" were formed whenever a new king acceded. At these assemblies, judges representing the crown would compare their pounds, their pints (liquid), their *firlots* (dry measure) and their *ells* (length). They

would then go across the land and make sure that merchants had scales and measurements that matched the official ones. That didn't stop people from cheating! Using fake weights that had not been compared to the official ones was not uncommon.

Eventually, in 1661, the four types of measurements were each assigned to a specific city: the *ell* (about 37 inches) to Edinburgh, the pint (a little more than 1.5 Liters) to Stirling, the *firlot* (anywhere from 36 to 52 Liters, depending on what you were measuring) to Linlithgow and the stone (16 pounds) to Lanark. It took until the 17th century for Scotland to standardize! It was the Scottish parliament, combined with English rule, that brought the system together.

In the next issue: What in the Known World is a Peck?

Lord Beathán MacFinnon,  
mka Ryan Thorpe.



## FOOL is Just Around the Corner!

Once again Fruits of Our Labours will be held at Camp Impessa in Ayr, May 17th – 20th. Site opens Friday, May 17 at 4 pm. Site closes Monday at Noon.

Loft space is available at no cost, lots of camping space no cost.

Please contact [Rylyn](mailto:Rylyn) for reservations. Here is the main web link: <http://angryhat.com/fool/>

There are 'flushies', and showers, as well as established communal outdoor fire pits available for cooking (but no fires in any other areas).

No dogs allowed as per Scouts Canada rules. Site is dry.

Please be aware that the kitchen in the Anneke Snow Lodge will be used as a classroom at various times during the day on both Saturday and Sunday. During these times, it will not be available for use as a common cooking or gathering area.



## Making a Point on Archery

Greetings to the Barony of the Ramshaven!

Their Excellencies Penda and Sibylla honoured me last summer by making me their archery champion. They have suggested that I should introduce myself in that role.

I first tried my hand at the bow while still a girl at Rock Springs 4-H Camp in Junction City, Kansas. Because I had a girlhood infatuation with "all things Indian" I loved getting that opportunity. Years later, I came back to archery, this time in the form of Olympic-style shooting, on my high school archery team. My bow had removable limbs, a sight, and a stabilizer and did not look like anything out of "Robin Hood." I enjoyed it, but the thought of shooting outdoors -- with wind! -- made me nervous as all get out.

Years passed again and I found myself in the SCA. The idea of archery still appealed to me, so one fine Pennsic I accompanied Goodwife Jhone up Mt. Eislinn to the old range and gave it a go. I bought a fiberglass bow the next year and upgraded to a traditional wooden recurve the year after that. Last year, I competed in the Hundred Arrow Shoot at Lilies and while I didn't place, I was quite proud of myself. Re-learning how to shoot without a finger sling (something we used in Olympic style) has been a challenge, but I'm really enjoying the sport again.

My goals for myself as an archer are to improve both my aim and my kit. My goals as Their Excellencies champion are the same as I want to represent our Barony well and do them proud. I'm also working on introducing new folks to the sport: I bought my 3-year-old his first bow two weeks ago! We both went to Late Winter Shoot in Petra Thule for a full day of archery, including an SCA-wide seasonal specialty shoot. This winter there were six simple targets (a black center with a white surround) arranged five in a circle and one in the middle. Each archer shoots six arrows, one at each target. If two arrows hit the same target, the second arrow cancels out the score of the first. The black is worth three points, the white one point. I'm pleased to report I received a prize for placing second in that shoot. Alexander also received a special prize from Baroness Lucia, for being the youngest participating archer of the day (he shot about 2/3 of the rounds).

In service to the Barony I remain,  
~ Wencenedl ~

## Upcoming Events

Their Excellencies Ramshaven hope to see you at the Demo, at Southampton's Bruce County Museum and Archives, April 20th, and the Coronation of Kayla and Trumbrand, April 27th.

Ealdormere's next events, according to the 'Tidings', are:

Forward Into The Past, April 6th (Waterloo)  
Break the Back of Winter, April 13th (Kingston)  
Clancy Day, April 20th (Amherstburg)

See you soon!

*This is the March/April 2013 issue of the 'Ramshaven Herald', a publication of the Barony of Ramshaven of the Society for Creative Anachronism, Inc. (SCA, Inc.). The Herald is available from Erhard Kruger. It is not a corporate publication of SCA, Inc., and does not delineate SCA, Inc. policies. Copyright © 2013 Society for Creative Anachronism, Inc. For information on reprinting photographs, articles, or artwork from this publication, please contact the Chronicler, who will assist you in contacting the original creator of the piece. If an article appears that shouldn't, please accept apologies!*