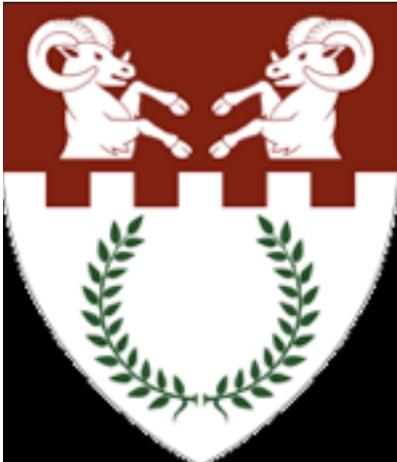


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# Ramshaven Herald

A.S. XLVIII Summer 2013

## Sunny Memories

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="http://www.derwelfengau.com">www.derwelfengau.com</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...

Pennsic is an experience we all should enjoy at least once while playing in the SCA. We have recently returned from our sixth, the second year as Baron and Baroness, and the first as land agents. That said, it was our most laid back Pennsic so far.

The shopping is grand, the fighting and fencing even better! So much excitement all wrapped up into two glorious weeks that one couldn't possibly do absolutely everything. There are plenty of opportunities to take part, help out, and participate in our beloved medieval hobby.

Ramshaven pride was everywhere, and yet we still returned with "banner envy". "Might I suggest we make it prettier," came the request of

our Herald with regard to our camp. After some lengthy discussions we came up with a plan. Ramshaven land, Ramshaven gate of larger proportions, medieval cooking fire, banners, (mind, silk will be the death of me, I swear), and presenting our populace with items of pride. Admittedly, we felt abashed when Septentria showed up for opening ceremonies with their wee silk banners waving feverishly in numbers so great they were even giving them out to people outside of their barony...

Pennsic is great for (perhaps too much) inspiration. We attended a wedding down on the lake at Casa Bardeci. Breathtaking to say the least! Torches flaming beside the the lake, a ceiling resembling that of the Sistine Chapel in the Vatican City, gracious courtyard, roman pillars, vines and flowers everywhere, a second floor complete with a dark wooden staircase,

walls adorned with paintings of actors and actresses in medieval clothing, a dining hall with suits of armour, and an amazing hardwood dining table with seating for at least 16...and just less than a week to set up...

There are plenty of other sites almost as fantastic and entertaining but to list them all would require writing a novel. Needless to say, there is a lot of pride that comes with participating at Pennsic, which generally does filter down to the homelands for everyone. Pride is what drives us and brings us home to a place where we create and live out our dreams - ready to play harder, ready to participate whole heartedly. We are proud of Ramshaven. Without our commissariat the fighters of Ealdormere would be parched and starved! Wassail Ramshaven!

We look forward to assisting the populace of Ramshaven in "the dream."

Baroness Sibylla of Ramshaven



## The Shining Towers of Bryniau Tywynnog...

*Just a short time ago - it seems so far off after a couple of weeks of Pennsic adventures - there was a lively and enlightening discussion on the current arms of the Canton of Bryniau Tywynnog, and how it represents our group. I found the history behind the arms quite interesting, so here are the well-put words of two contributors.*

From Ragnarr (*"the old", but surely he jests*)

"More of a history lesson time.

Eyrny mentions that the heraldry doesn't match the wolf/trillium/red she has come to connect to.

I would agree with that. Of course, there is a good reason for that - Bryniau predates all of those things. We speak of a time when there was only the "wolf and the wild and the will" - that is when Bryniau came to be, a lonely citadel in that wild. When we fought or shot we proudly did so under the banner of the bear against the white hills - the symbol of our barony (*that of Septentria*). Those hills are reflected in the chevron that was chosen (matching the chevrons of our barony). The tower? Actually a reflection of Cynnabar - a strong group we met when we travelled far far away with our marshall to participate in big events like Squires revolt.

I wish I remember more of the discussions from when we chose those symbols - I'm wondering if they had a connection to the first Kitchener SCA group (Twynneath which became Bryniau was the second group to form) as well that I am forgetting. Sadly, there was alcohol involved and the memories are no longer there.

Once there was a canton award of the tower (and another of the berry). I know I still have my tower around - but Bryniau went through a "small" period with few people doing all of the work, and they already had theirs, so it sort of faded.

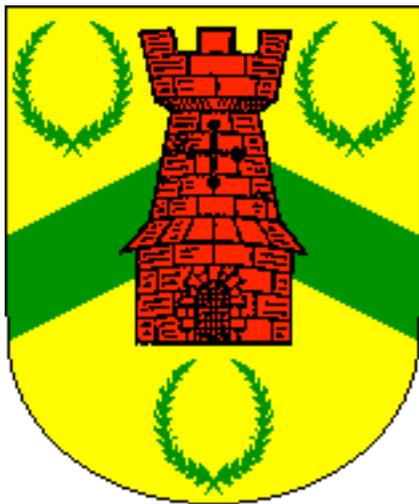
In the fight to create Ealdormere our principality symbols became very important to us (as it should be) and those symbols were worn and flown more often. That can be seen in the wolf pennons in our banner box.

Once upon a time we had Bryniau pennants to match those wolf pennons in the box. But most of those had a space at the top for people to add their own devices - and hence they were more 'personal' pennons. Note that the Ramshaven guidons (when they came along years later) used

that same pattern of personal arms on top. There are plenty of small and mid-sized plain yellow pennons (for the canton) and red ones (for the principality that became the kingdom). I'll grant you they are old and have seen better days now. Personally I'd always wished we could have afforded to add something too them (not just the plain colour) but it was what we could afford.

In yet later years, the barony came along with its own layer of symbols - with Barons and Baronesses who pushed the use of those symbols to "bond" the groups in the barony (which really didn't see themselves as a barony when it began).

While I certainly understand that a strong lonely tower in the "wild woods between Der Welfengau and far Trinovantia" isn't a symbol that many see us as now but long ago it was who were were and we certainly did play with those symbols.



From Garwig

"Okaaay--Let's see now. I first got into the SCA when my daughters, Carole and Dale introduced me to it. The original Canton in K-W was called Duvrau, or something like that. It faltered, then withered and died. Konrad was one of the members of that, and he came into Bryniau Tywynnog when it was first formed.

Now, one of the earliest settlements in this area

was called "Sandhill", and we wanted to name it that, but figured it would sound better in Welsh. So, we submitted the name, "Tywynneeth", but it was rejected as being too close to the name of another Canton down in the States. As a compromise, we settled for "Shining Hill", which comes out as Bryniau Tywynnog.

This was back in 1985 or 1986. We were a small group, with very little cash, and I took the office of Exchequer. I still remember how excited we were when our treasury topped \$100. I can't remember too many names of the founding group. Wendy Schiebel was our first Seneschal, I, my wife and my two daughters were there, Ragnarr, Arnora, and Konrad. I can't remember when David Martin Failsworth came into it, but I was glad he was there when we held our first event, as he championed my daughter Dale when some oaf got fresh with her. We had Bardok, and Paul Zuala, and two or three others whose names escape me.

For a small Canton, we did very well for ourselves, and when Ealdormere grew to a size when we could obtain Principality status, we were the ones who hosted the first Principality Tourney. David Martin Failsworth won that, of course. We served a Feast for 250 people--I baked every loaf of bread served, and folks liked it so much, they forbore to use it for breadball fights. A high compliment. We were totally inexperienced, made many mistakes, but the event showed a terrific profit, which was split with Kingdom.

Many years later, Bryniau Tywynnog also held the first Kingdom Tourney--David won that as well, a very nice circle of history. To mark the occasion, I and the Canton produced 84 Viking rowing benches, which were offered to each contender.

I wish now that we had simply given them to the people, but it was felt that we should recoup some of the cost of their production, and asked \$40 for each one. Many people balked, but some bought them, and they were in evidence at events for years afterwards. They were quite

simply built, sturdy enough to stand upon, and were collapsible, breaking down into a small stack of lumber. I have often thought about producing more to be offered for sale.

Soon after David became King, he asked if I could produce something to hold the Royal Feast gear, so I built the three boxes that are still in use today. If you peek inside, you'll find a small brass strip with raised lettering, reading "Garwig hat mir Gemach" (Garwig made me). And later on, I was asked to make others of the same style for the feast gear used by the Heirs."

## From Our Baronial Rapier Champion

I've been asked to write a few words about what it means to be the fencing champion for the Barony of Ramshaven. To be the fencing champion is to represent the Baron and Baroness as well as the people of Ramshaven, and to display the colours and symbols of our Barony on the fencing list. It has been both an honour and a pleasure to represent our great Barony on the fencing list, and I only hope I've acquitted myself well in the role of champion. The confidence shown me by not one but two couples sitting the High Seats of Ramshaven has been a great source of pride to me. Soon, it will be time to pass the cloak and buckler of office on to a new fencer, but I will remember my time as champion with great fondness.

Yours in Service,  
THL Albrecht Stampfer



*Last Pennsic, the ewe given at Their Excellencies' ascension to the High Seats mysteriously disappeared, with only a cheap replica lion in its place. Saddened, bewildered, but not deterred, Their Excellencies continued their search and quest for their lost sheep. And lo! at the last bardic circle of the war, beyond hope, out of the shadows, happily appeared this sheep.*

*But, look at that garb! The Ewe's been Tudored! (or, if you prefer, because of the earring, the ewe's been Shakesheared...)*

*This is the Summer 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!*