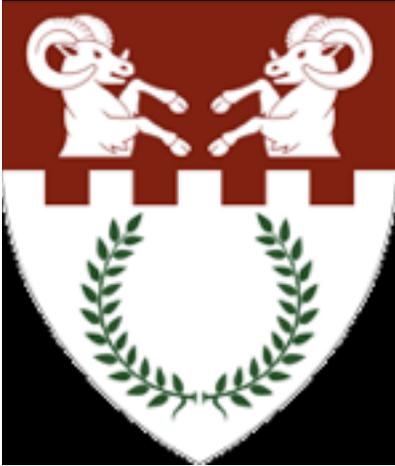


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# Ramshaven Herald

A.S. XLVIII January/February 2014

## I Considered Putting on a Sweater (Did You?)

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.bryniau.ca">www.bryniau.ca</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...



January is a time for the arts

Winter. It's cold. Ever-changing landscapes and roadway conditions tend to steer the majority of us indoors. Cabin fever starts to gnaw at our patience. That is, unless you have a LIST!

What will you do with your winter? Last year we made a few SCA-based resolutions. Our good Baron was considering making a few pairs of new shoes, learning naalbinding, and getting back to his chainmail. I vowed that 2013 would be the year I was going to learn naalbinding, tablet weaving, and finally authorize for heavy fighting. Even though the naalbinding happened right at the tail end of 2013, it did happen just in time for this year's 'dreaded' winter. Thank you to everyone who desperately tried to teach me how - it was indeed a struggle. Now, instead of feeling trapped and bored, I look forward to being 'stuck inside' with my newly learned skills in the fibre arts. Having fun is an important thing, even if you get a little side-tracked and make something not entirely medieval, at least the skill is being learned.

This year's list is simply to improve more on the skills I have been learning over the years. It seems silk banners are back on the list, or at least banners of some description. I am looking forward to doing some experimental work. We are looking forward to seeing how Bryniau

Tywynogg's new banners turn out. Oh yes, and taxes! We are very much looking forward to seeing the new Ramshaven banners.

Winter is also a good time to do a bit of research when you aren't creating your experimental masterpiece. Research; believe it or not, can be very inspirational. With today's technology, it is very easy to discuss projects on various chats and forums with people also learning new skills. It is also easy to seek advice from masters in the medium you have chosen to learn.

We suggest you also take the opportunity to share what you create with others. Post a picture on your favorite social group. Even this newsletter could use a few more pictures. Chats and inquiries encourage people to think. Maybe he or she would like to try that skill, or it might be a reminder to pick up a project that sat idle for too long.

So enjoy the winter. We look forward to seeing your projects and sharing information and stories.

May this be a banner year for everyone!

Your "far but near" Baron and Baroness



Want to do something fulfilling and rewarding? Consider a position at the honoured table of the Barony. Positions are coming available. Please check out our newly revamped website [www.ramshaven.com](http://www.ramshaven.com) for all of the information or please feel free to contact our Seneschal, Dubhessa ni Uilliam or speak with us, your Baron and Baroness. We would love to know what your interests are and which officer position(s) you are interested in running for.

Chronicler (currently up for election)  
Exchequer (April 2014)  
Herald (April 2014)  
Webminister (April 2014)  
Chatelaine (currently up for election)  
Rapier Marshal (currently up for election)

## What in the Known World is a Furlong? or Distances and Area in 14th century Scotland

In the previous issue, we learned about wet measurements in medieval Scotland. The pint was entrusted to Stirling. For measuring length and area, they are all based on the ell (37 inches), and it was monitored by Edinburgh.

There are seven units used to measure distance:  
Inch  
Foot = 12 inches  
Ell = 3 feet, 1 inch  
Fall = 6 ells  
Chain = 4 falls  
Furlong = 10 chains  
Mile = 8 furlongs

The word inch comes from the Latin *uncia*, meaning a twelfth part (just like the word ounce). It is one twelfth of a foot. Need I explain foot? It is that thing inside of your sock (if you have one)! The ell is named after the Latin word for forearm, *ulna*. It is the bone that goes from your elbow to

the side of your hand that you would use for a karate chop. The distance of an ell is more like the length from shoulder to finger tip. The word fall came from the Old Norse word *fale*, meaning pole. This would be a post stuck into the ground to mark boundaries, every six paces, or so. The distance that an ox could pull a plough before needing a rest is called a furlough (or furrow long). Lastly, the mile was from the Latin *mille passus*, or a thousand paces. This is slightly less than two kilometres.

There are five units used to measure area:  
Square inch  
Square ell  
Square fall = 36 square ells  
Rood (rod) = 40 square falls  
Acre = 4 roods

The word acre comes from the Anglo-Saxon word meaning field. The medieval acre was about a quarter acre bigger than the current acre (about half a hectare for the younger ones).

This concludes our look at 14th century Scottish weights and measures. We've seen the pound or poon for weight, the firloft, peck, and boll for dry goods, the mutchkin and pint for wet goods, and ells and acres for distance and area.

Slainte mhath! (Good health!)

Lord Beathán MacFinnon,  
mka Ryan Thorpe.

## A Time of Renewal

Around three years ago, I took up the position of Baronial Chronicler. This time has flown by! When I picked up the creation of the newsletter, I did not realize at the time its importance to the Barony - Corpora (Society Law) requires a baronial publication a minimum of 4 times a year. Easily done, right? Right! With my current term at a close, I need to ask, is there anybody interested in taking over? No experience is required, though a grasp on layout and editing is helpful. I am willing and able to continue for

another term, but it is also important to have fresh eyes and ideas come to the table.

I must give a heart-felt Thank You to all the support, articles, and pictures given for the newsletter these past few years. It is your contributions that have made it a success story - we have had Black Fox nominations (Society level nominations) for three years running now!

Yours,  
Adnar Dionadair

## Banner Days



The successes of Bryniau Tywynnog's events are bringing about further opportunities to add to our events! Soon, banners such as the ones pictured above will adorn the halls we use for our events. With the Baronial tax being more banners as well, we can look forward to events filled with the colour and excitement we so enjoy!

## Baron's Brouhaha!

The Baron's Brouhaha is a fun-filled weekend of camping, combat, and celebrating. The site opens Friday @ 4pm, July 11, 2014, and runs until Sunday afternoon, July 13. There will be lots of armoured combat on Saturday (and maybe Friday night), along with rapier, thrown weapons and archery. For those wishing to participate, there will be a pot-luck feast on Saturday night and a brewing competition. Bardic circles will happen on both nights. During the weekend there will be an ongoing game loosely based on Settlers of Catan that will be easy to participate in. Prizes will be drawn on Saturday night.

The site is located on a 5 acre farm that is owned by Baron Penda and Baroness Sibylla of Ramshaven. Most of the camping activities will be centralized around a large barn. The barn will serve as a shelter from the elements in the event of rain. It will also be a place for crafts, and feasting. A part of it might also be used for rapier if the weather is poor.

The site has lots of space for camping, a large scale melee, thrown weapons and archery. There is potable water at the site. Limited electricity in the barn is available for those who need it.

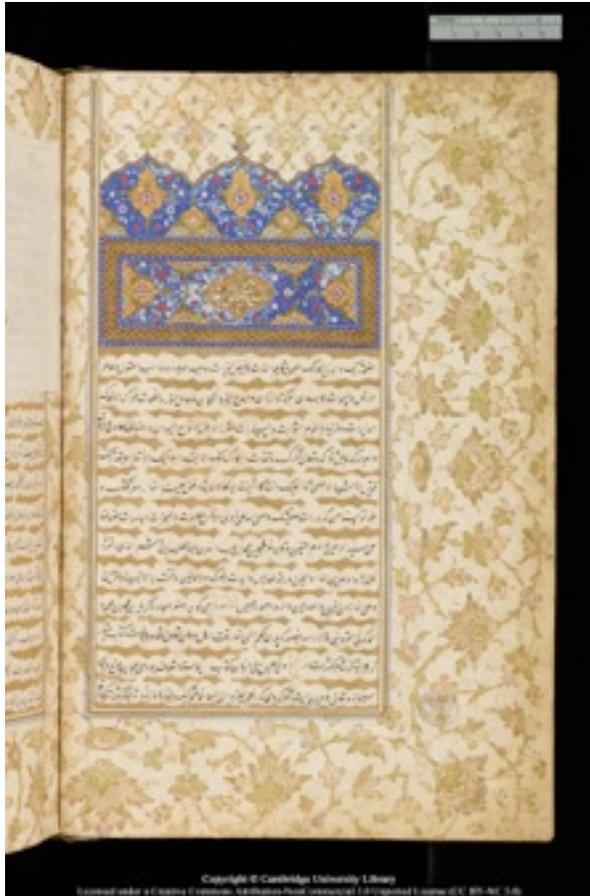
Fees, Directions, and other details can be found on [www.ramshaven.com](http://www.ramshaven.com) as well as on [www.ealdormere.ca](http://www.ealdormere.ca) !

## While we've been hibernating...

Of late, there have been a number of exciting developments highlighted by blogs, newsrooms, and other online resources. These items of interest seem to pass so quickly as we scroll through the web and its inherent information overload! Below are a few highlights I found not only interesting, but also not necessarily in the forefront.

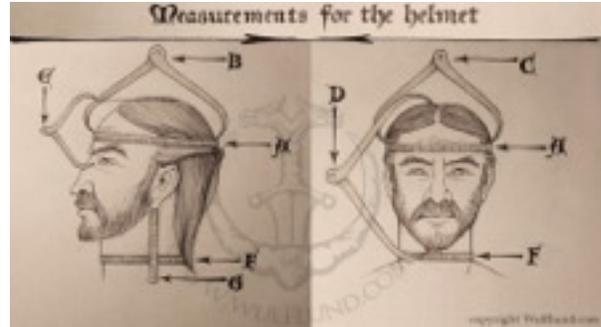
Here is some “book porn”: a beautiful resource to digitized manuscripts from the Cambridge Digital Library, starting with the 16th century “‘Ajā’ib al-makhlūqāt” by Qazwini

<http://cudl.lib.cam.ac.uk/view/MS-NN-00003-00074/10>

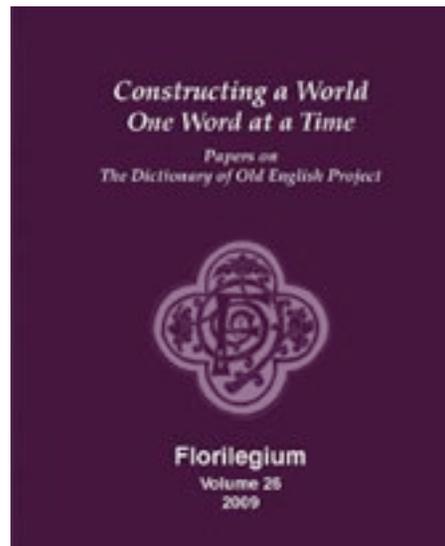


Another interesting site to investigate hails from the Czech Republic, <http://www.wulflund.com>, with not only a range of period and fantasy products for sale, but also interesting diagrams such as the one I’ve included (next column).

Now I realize many of us found some amusement, or shared frustration, at the news of 15th century troubles with cats and manuscripts, <http://www.openculture.com/2014/01/medieval-cats-behaving-badly.html>, little has been said of the Canadian Society of Medievalists, <http://>



[www.canadianmedievalists.ca](http://www.canadianmedievalists.ca), who will again be presenting research papers at the Humanities Congress, held this year at Brock University, merely a week after Bryniau’s Fruits of Our Labours. As well, their journal is a nice addition to any library!



I’m glad to have these and other highlights to tide me over while hibernating!

*This is the January/February 2014 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!*