

The Ramshaven

Herald

Anno Societatis LV

Barony of Ramshaven

Winter 2021-2022

Storytelling In Japan

~By THL Nagayori



Storytelling and oral tradition can be found the world over and Japan is no exception. As many stories as there were to tell, there were also many ways to tell them. Two such methods survive to this day, yet have their roots hundreds of **years in the past. The first I'll talk about is** Kodan. This would be the closest thing the Japanese had to a Bard in the traditional Celtic sense. They were entertainers as well as teachers of history. Modern performers sit at a type of lectern (shakudai) and use a paper fan or wooden clapper sometimes as a prop but also to slap the lectern to emphasise parts of the story. This method can trace its roots all the way to the early 1600s. Previous to that, there were the Otogishu. Scholars that would attend to warlords (Daimyo) and teach history through entertaining lectures. These

stories and performances made their way first to the Samurai, then to the commoners (**tsuji koshaku, "storytelling in the streets"**) and eventually developed into its modern form. Similar to Kodan is Rakugo. Like Kodan, the performer sits and uses a fan as a prop. The performer also uses a small cloth for the same purpose. However, where Kodan is a retelling of history, Rakugo is humorous and more theatrical. The performer makes extensive use of the props and changes their voice and posture to depict the various characters in the story. Often the stories are complex and filled with puns and wordplay. Rakugo as an art has its origins in Buddhist Monks making their sermons more interesting. Comedic performances that gave rise to modern Rakugo featured other participants as well as music from the 9th century onward. Again, they were initially for entertainment of the aristocracy and eventually filtered down to the streets of cities and villages for the commoners. Even today, there are different styles that feature other props or music in addition to the single performer. In addition to historical and funny stories, Japan also had ghost stories.

Continued, p.2...

Upcoming Events

Ealdormere Eats: Favourite Cookbooks

Tuesday, December 14, 7pm

Join Zoom Meeting

[https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87425123586?](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87425123586?pwd=SF1kKyt6VUk4SWlrQnI2V2QxREg1UT09)
pwd=SF1kKyt6VUk4SWlrQnI2V2QxREg1UT09

Meeting ID: 874 2512 3586

Passcode: 667088

Greyfells Dessert Revel Zoom Meeting

Wednesday, December 22, 7pm

Join Zoom Meeting

[https://us04web.zoom.us/j/72871137469?](https://us04web.zoom.us/j/72871137469?pwd=bzF4bkJpTl1K0wxr1NsOEFGRXVWdz09)
pwd=bzF4bkJpTl1K0wxr1NsOEFGRXVWdz09

Meeting ID: 728 7113 7469

Passcode: 11tnSQ

Plus other events as may be found on the online calendar -

<https://www.ealdormere.ca/event-calendar.html>

Although the SCA complies with all applicable laws to ensure the health and safety of our event participants, we cannot eliminate the risk of exposure to infectious diseases during in-person events. By participating in the in-person events of the SCA, you acknowledge and accept the potential risks. You agree to take any additional steps to protect your own health and safety and those under your control as you believe to be necessary.

Queen's Prize Tourney Entry— Flags

~by THL Beathán MacFinnon

For Queen's Prize Tournament, I decided to make flags. I wanted to make modern gutta and silk paint flags, and one historically accurate (to the best of my means) flag. So, I had obtained silk and media to decorate it. I projected images onto the silk and traced with a pencil, and then stretched the silk in a PVC frame.



Using the modern method, I applied gutta (a resist that stops the paint from spreading) to draw my design, and then filled in the shapes with the silk paint. I made two standards (the long, wavy ones) – one for my family and one for myself. I also made four pennons (the smaller triangles), one for each member of the family.



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Using the historical method, I made an egg white and gum Arabic size and applied it to the silk. Once dry, this became a paintable surface where the paints (that I made from zinc, green earth, gum Arabic, and water) wouldn't spread. I created diapering using fine lines of white and darker green on the green field, and grey on the white field. It was really satisfying.



Storytelling Contd.

Today, they're known as Kaidan, but that term is fairly modern, though its concept and stories date to the 10th century at least. These narratives of the strange often feature elements of karma, retribution and vengeance from beyond the grave. As well, they can tell tales of strange and mysterious happenings. In the early part of the 17th century, the Samurai class enjoyed a popular parlour game called



Hyakumonogatari Kaidankai. (A gathering of 100 supernatural tales) To play, participants would set up 3 rooms. The first room would be where the tales were told, the second room left tidy and empty and the third room filled with 100 lanterns (Andon) and a mirror set on a table. After each tale was told, the teller would go to the third room to extinguish one of the lanterns, look in the mirror, then return to the other party goers. As well as being a fun thrill, the game was also a test of courage because it was thought that as more tales were told, it not only got darker, but more spirits were invoked as the night went on. More often than not, only 99 tales were told!

Gyngerbrede - A Tasty Mistake

~ By Lady Dorothea af Holm

Following medieval recipes is never easy. Even when it's already redacted for you, **there are gaps. The ingredients won't be the same, for one. Quantities are merely**



guessed at. And following another person's redaction means you are going off of their educated guesses, which may not fit what you have access to. Most of the time, it works out, and it works splendidly. For Wassail this year, I decided to make Gyngerbrede, following an already modernized recipe that Elyn Wodeloc had successfully made at the last Wassail we held, in the before times. It seemed easy enough, too - just a loaf of bread, turned into bread-

crumbs, honey, and some spices. I had the spices on hand, and I could easily get a nice loaf of bread and some honey to bring it all together.

Well, it failed. Not completely. The mixture tasted fine (to me, at least, but I like my spices punchy). No, what failed was the consistency. The darn thing just would not hold together! I knew the recipe was possible, so what did I do wrong?

There are many possibilities. The first is that I didn't have enough honey. I had a 750 ml bottle, which should have been enough, but after heating it and skimming, as per the recipe, there may not have been enough to hold things together, and I had no more honey left to add. The second is that there was too much bread. The loaf I bought was a large loaf of round, rustic white bread. Perhaps a smaller, regular sized loaf of bread would have made a better ratio of bread to honey. The third possibility was that the bread just was not stale enough before I tried turning into crumbs. I had bought a fresh loaf of bread and let it sit bare on the counter overnight, but when I cut into it the center was still soft. I dried it out in the oven, but some pieces were still not completely dry when I processed them into breadcrumbs. Finally, the recipe said to add the breadcrumbs to the honey, and I added the honey into the bread crumbs, meaning that if the ratios were off I wasn't able to adjust in the moment. It could have been a combination of factors.

Making mistakes is part of recreating recipes. The next time I make these, and I will make them again, I will work with a smaller loaf. I will let it sit and go completely stale before turning it into breadcrumbs. And I will have more honey on hand, just in case.



To make recipes you need to be willing to make mistakes, and try again. It's always helpful to make note of what worked, and **what didn't. I liked the choice of spices I made, which was a little different than the redaction. So now I need to focus on how to get the consistency I like.**

And in the end, who knows what the original was supposed to be like? Maybe it was supposed to be a crumbly mess!

Trivia to Tempt Your Tastebuds, and More

Medieval Weather Forecasting-

<https://blogs.bl.uk/digitisedmanuscripts/2020/12/the-medieval-christmas-weather-forecast.html>

Europeans Enjoyed Blue Cheese and Beer 2,700 Years Ago-

<https://www.smithsonianmag.com/smart-news/europeans-enjoyed-blue-cheese-and-beer-2700-years-ago-study-finds-180978870/>

Frau Holle, the Teutonic Goddess of Winter-

<http://www.northernpaganism.org/shrines/holda/writing/riding-with-holda.html>

Surviving Winter, Medieval Style-

<https://blogs.bl.uk/digitisedmanuscripts/2015/01/surviving-the-winter-medieval-style.html>

Watch the Winter Solstice Livestream at Newgrange-

<https://www.gov.ie/en/organisation/office-of-public-works/>

Egg Yolk Tempera Paint-

<https://www.smithsonianmag.com/smart-news/egg-yolks-gave-tempera-paint-its-enhanced-coverage-and-spreadable-properties-180979192/>



Lady Matilda's Guide to Surviving a Medieval Christmas-

<https://www.medievalists.net/2018/12/surviving-medieval-christmas/>

Canton of Der Welfengau



In December of A.S 16, Lord Tsvetan - having seen a vision of a great silvery griffon of ruby eyes and flaming tongue - gathered together with four other

gentles to form the Canton. The device of Der Welfengau was registered in A.S 20.

Currently, A&S as well as meetings, rapier practice, and armoured combat are being held from 10-12 at Riverside Park by the fire station on Speedvale. Summer gatherings and practices are planned for June 16, July 7, July 21, August 18, and September 10. Please come join us!

For more information please consult sca-guelph@yahoo.com or see us on the gathering page (Facebook) Canton of Der Welfengau unofficial <https://www.facebook.com/groups/266085027122/>

Their Excellencies, Baron Penn and Baroness Lucia host:

Craft and Gaming Day

A monthly gathering held on the first Sunday of the month (usually)



Canton of Bryniau Tywynnog



The name "Bryniau Tywynnog" (pr: BRIN'-ee-aw Te-WIN'-og) means "Sandy Hill" in Welsh. It is a name rooted in local history.

Fight practices

take place every Thursday evening from 7 - 10 pm at Scholar's Hall in Kitchener .

Everyone is encouraged to attend the business meeting and share their thoughts. Meetings take place on the 1st and 3rd Thursday of each month, from 7:10 pm until the business is taken care of, at Scholar's Hall in Kitchener. These happen at the same time as Fight Practice.

Armouring Nights offer a chance to get access to tools, materials, and help in regard to building of armour and other projects. Armouring Nights happen "approximately" every other Wednesday from 7:00 - 9:30 pm at the home of Edward, Rylyn, & Jobjorn in Waterloo near Columbia & Fischer-Hallman. Contact Edward for directions and to confirm the schedule and meeting agendas.

News and group plans are shared on the Barony of Ramshaven gathering pages (Facebook) For more information please contact Seneschal Eyrny at: bryniau.tywynnog@gmail.com

Middle Ages on the Green

An annual event usually held on the third weekend of August,



Canton of Northgeatham



A little easier to say than most can comprehend but when written in this form, North-geat-ham, it becomes clear.

"The northern hamlet."

Gatherings are generally held every Sunday from 1pm to 5pm unless otherwise posted on the gathering notification page (Face book) which also includes plans for the day, ideas, and armouring intensions. Meetings include the arts and sciences, discussion of group activities, and socializing while taking in refreshments of tea and sometimes, cake. Did I mention cake? If you wish to be included on the Northgeatham notification page please send a request and you shall be added. Regularly anticipated events for the group include the annual Museum Demonstration held in April at the Bruce County Museum and **Archives and Barons' Brouhaha**, a bi-annual event, which is usually held in mid July unless the calendar leaves us too close to War of the Trillium and Pennsic War. In **this case, Baron's Brouhaha is pushed to a time in August.** For further information about Northgeatham please feel free to contact the Chatelaine, Wulfwynne of the Blackwoods at: northgaedhamchatelaine@gmail.com

Baron's Brouhaha

Usually an annual event held in July or August depending on the calendar





Margaret Trainor-Cook: Chatelaine
 Email: ramshavenseschal@gmail.com
 term: December 2018 - December 2020
If you need me, just contact me anytime.



Christiana du Mundegumry: Exchequer
 Email: ramshavenexchequer@gmail.com
 term: Oct 2016 - 2020
Have been in the counting house, counting out the money and dusting out the coffers. Happy to report that it is all there.



Sibylla of Glyndmere: A&S Minister
 Email: ramshavenas@gmail.com
 term: October 2019 - 2021
Arts and Sciences are strong in our barony. Please remember to share your photos and your enthusiasm on the gathering pages- <https://www.facebook.com/groups/1518968168395297/>



Aslief of Ramshaven: Chronicler
 Email: ramshavenchronicler@gmail.com
 term: February 2020~ 2022
I look forward to sharing knowledge and remembrance of times in the near and further past, and celebrating our present.



Wulfric of the Blackwoods: Armoured Combat Marshal
 Email: trweirmeir@gmail.com
 term: July 2016 - 2020
Armoured combat is alive and well. Enjoyed Family Day Fight Practice in Bryniau Tywynnog. Northgeatham has been braving the cold with some great bear pits up in the Great Hall.



Penda of Glindemere: Lord Clerk-Register (Web minister)
 Email: webminister.ramshaven@gmail.com
 term: October 2017 - 2019
Please send any suggestions you may have and please remember to check the Ramshaven website and OP to ensure information is correct. Thank you



Guoillauc filius Branch : Herald
 Email: ramshavenherald@gmail.com
 term: February 2018 - 2020
I'm extremely grateful to Their Excellencies Ramshaven for this chance to serve the Barony, and live out their "call to Adventure."

Ramshaven's Baronial Champions



Rapier
 Dawn Galbraith
Photo: Cesare de Salvase



Armoured Combat
 Sibylla of Glyndmere
Photo: Dorothea of Holm



Ranged
 Catriona inghean Ragnail



Bardic Arts
 Guoillauc filius Branch
Photo: Dorothea of Holm



Arts and Science
 who will it be?



word from Your Baron and Baroness ,



Email: pennandlucia@gmail.com
 term: May 2017 to Present



reetings unto the populace of Ramshaven,

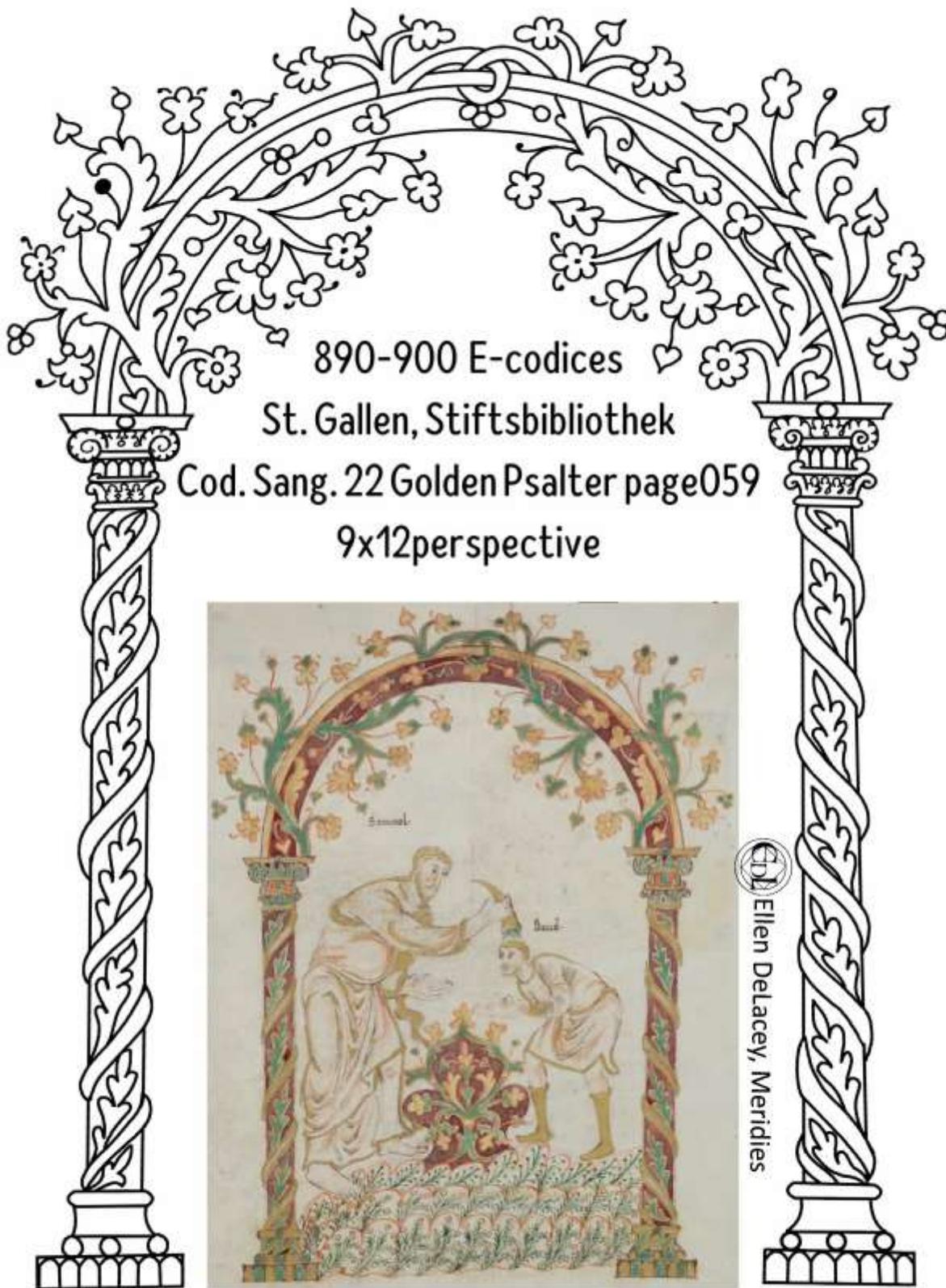
At Wassail (mere days ago as we write this) we met many in the Barony again, and some for the first time, and it made our hearts happy to see so many happy faces. We also held our first court in two full years and gave out numerous awards, but we are certain that we missed some people. We cannot be everywhere, but we do hope that if you see a gentle who deserves recognition you will bring it to our attention. As befits the heraldry theme of Wassail this year we were particularly happy to see so many people displaying their arms and devices. We do not know what the future brings, beyond winter darkness and a slow emergence into light again. In this holiday season we hope that you will find peace and joy, remember to have fun, and stay safe.

Yours in service,

Penn and Lucia,
 Baron and Baroness of Ramshaven



Colouring Page— Trace and colour a scroll



890-900 E-codices
St. Gallen, Stiftsbibliothek
Cod. Sang. 22 Golden Psalter page059
9x12perspective



Ellen Delacey, Meridies