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Ramshaven Herald

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Spring Preparation

Baronial site	www.ramshaven.com
Online group	Http://groups.yahoo.com/group/SCA-Ramshaven
Bryniau Tywynnog	Http://www.treheim.ca/bryniau
Der Welfengau	Https://sites.google.com/site/cantonofderwelfengau/home
Kingdom of Ealdormere	Www.ealdormere.ca
Upcoming Events	Www.ealdormere.ca/listcalendar.php

From Our Baron and Baroness...

We are freshly back from Septentrian/Skraeling Althing 12th Night and I must say we are really happy we made the drive. Everyone there had fun. The King and Queen of mis-rule were relentless with their punishments. Everyone in the room suffered (bellies splitting with laughter) for the questionable behavior of a chosen few. The feast was both tasty and entertaining. As we sat, the Vikings invaded several times between removes. We even started with dessert!

Our own Wassail was livened up a bit with a bardic challenge, an unusual and delicious Mayan lunch, and the thrill of having fighting and fencing in the same room. The cookie contest was a huge success and also a very tasty way to laugh and spend time with some enthusiastic bakers. It was difficult to choose a winner. I am looking forward to next year's Wassail in hopes that we can make a better go of the Wassail punch contest.

With each event we attend we can't help but wonder what others enjoy about events? I know what I like but what are your favourite activities? What do you feel is missing from the dream for you? What do you envision? I am curious. Really!

Please share your prides and peeves with us. Your great ideas and whims are sought after so please let us know if there is something you feel is missing from our events. Please send us an email at penda.sibylla@gmail.com. Your ideas will be kept private, so we are not asking for a discussion on the List or Facebook.

I personally love preferred parking when we attend an event. It's a small bit of recognition that goes a long way. I also love feasts and even more so when there is entertainment. So don't hold back and please contact us!

Baroness Sibylla of Ramshaven

We Have Fabric!

The fabric is here! The fabric is here!!! Let the planning and construction begin - tabards for the heavies, fancy shoulder braids for the fencers, favours for thrown weapons and archery! We are squeezing the new required herald's tabard into the mix as well. Thankfully, her Excellency Wencenedl, has offered to construct this tabard using fabric applique. Dietrich (and any future herald) will look amazing!

The tabards, including the herald tabard, will make their debut at Winter War in March of this year. The fencers' shoulder braids should be quick and will look classy on the list. We are open for some suggestions for the braids. We would like to use the red and white linen but need to be more creative with the third cord. The model braid uses a satiny, gold upholstery cord that is twisted, which looks really nice, so it would be good to see something along that line but we're not sure if gold is the way to go. Maybe we could make something? Also, the model was merely attached with a safety pin - is there another way?

This project marks the first of what we hope are many Baronial projects. We are very much looking forward to working with everyone as a team. What's next? I guess you will just have to wait and see.

Penda and Sibylla
Baron and Baroness of Ramshaven



Amusement for A Muse

Sometimes, poetry escapes on to the page on me, for better or for worse. My latest piece is actually a toast finished at Wassail 2012. It is written in Middle English, or perhaps a pseudo-variant, as I have merely dabbled compared to the academics I studied under.

'Alabastre jarres yn thee deserte sandes,
what do they hyde
Fyeree Embres of Flowres sente,
with a touche of pryde
How they lamente their own dusty
and wretched filled fate
Yet I shalle nat cant no more
on Fortunas hate
On this pathe can ich ne deren trede in fere
Her wheele creakes and grones
as poisoned bere
Nowe verilye I staunte garde in a halle
high in myrthe,
Righte dede deren I presse
in this poeme unerthed
Gretely we chere our fyne time in this place
We oughte our chalices charge
with swete nectare apace'

My challenge with this, of course, is not so much the rhyme, but the meter and themes. As so many before us, I enjoyed reading Vergil's Aeneid, with the fabulous opening

'Arma virumque cano, Troiae qui primus ab oris
Italiam, fato profugus, Laviniaque venit
litora, multum ille et terris iactatus et alto
vi superum saevae memorem Iunonis ob iram;'

"I sing of men and weapons!" are the first three words. Great way to catch an audience, isn't it? No wonder the 'Aeneid' was included in Latin education for two thousand years since it was written. Much can be learned from trying to create compact poetry with strict demands such as those of the 'dactylic hexameter' in which the 'Aeneid' was written. I went through a few pages just making sure my own poem kept to its

'dactylic pentameter'! (that is: five segments with this beat: - ' ' or - -)

Speaking of education, this little toast was also inspired in part by the great Boethius, who formulated the 'trivium' and 'quadrivium' which still affects our education system today. His 'Consolation of Philosophy' made much ado of the Wheel of Fortune, and Fortuna's cruelty, and so made an indelible mark on European consciousness ever afterward.

May this little amusement (and broad swipes at history) bring out the muse in you, then!



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