

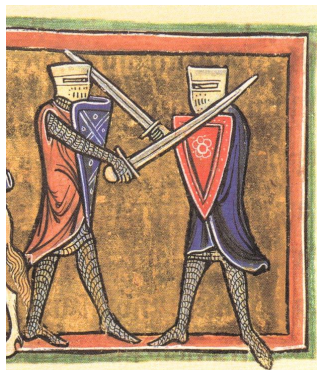
# Calligraphy and Illumination

My persona is a Viking Woman from the year 1204. I live in the seaport of Brattahildon the Eastern coast of Greenland. A sea going route had been established in 1005 with the sailing of Thorfinn Karlsefni past all of the towns that items in my display have been found. As a woman of means with a family, I have included a toy for my son, a scroll to describe the great deeds of my kinsmen and a hood to keep me warm. I have learned a lot while researching my projects, mostly that the preconceived notions I had about late period Viking were incorrect.



Creating the scrolls was a very interesting project. I had expected to find scrolls that were written with runes. AM 28 8vo, known as Codex runicus, is a single scroll which has survived and is written in runes. It is an anachronism. The scrolls were done 300 years past the time when the Vikings were using runes. With the introduction of Christianity a Latin Alphabet took the place of runes. It is thought that “this late use of runes can only have been prompted by antiquarian interest.”

I have used an acid free paper instead of calfskin vellum. A scribe would have used ground pigments, egg white or gum arabic to make paint. I have used luma dyes and a natural sponge to dye the paper the warm, mottled background color. After that I used gouache and a paintbrush to do the lettering. The Codex runicus did not have any pictures. I have included a boat for decoration, because this scroll will be used as a Baronial Champions scroll and it was a little plain.



The second scroll is more correct for a Viking scroll after the introduction of Christianity, as it is written with a Gothic hand. The capital letter is loosely based on a letter from a Psalter and Book of Hours. I have used artistic license and turned a K into an R. I have also included spaces between the words on the scroll for legibility. Otherwise the letters and pictures are Gothic and in a style that was consistent with the time period. I did not chose illuminations which were only from Viking Manuscripts because they appear to be mostly about boats and gutting fish. Subjects which are not very helpful in a Baronial Champions scroll.

