


WHEREAS, The Honourable Guild of Bookbinders obtained permission in 1690 anno domini by royal decree of Stefan III, King by Handfastening, to make and publish texts for the benefit of the public independent University of Kongens Lyngby; and WHEREAS, the Government of the Republic of Havland, in accordance with tradition and right, has extended the permission for the year of 1922 anno domini; and WHEREAS, The Honourable Guild of Bookbinders has since then been permitted to publish an annual collection, guide, and calendar for the good of the public, in service of the aforementioned purpose; and The aforementioned book is commonly known as the "Bookbinders' Privilege" (Bokbinderens Privilegier); HENCE AND THEREFORE, The Honourable Guild of Bookbinders presents the Bookbinder's Privilege for the year 2023 A.D. 

GAN

A Typographic Element of
Havlandic Culture




Det Havske Statinstitut

Historic interpretations of the “Gan”
symbol/ligature.

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THE ORIGINS OF THE “GAN” SYMBOL can be traced to the late 17th century, when a visitor from Europe was welcomed by King Stefan III in his court and installed as an advisor. Unusually for that time, the visitor came from the Far East, and was a polymath who placed himself in exile to travel the world. **Koyu Mori**, who took the name **Luke Morissen**, astounded the court through his understanding of Japanese mathematics (“**Wa-san**”, romanised to “**Rasan**”) as well as his mastery of Danish and German. He was permitted to serve as the **Royal Rasaner** (a mathematical advisor) and establish a school to teach mathematics in Auldhabn, then known as Kongenshabn. Eventually, however, he was arrested on charges of subverting the young King and killed shortly before the noble coup that established the Absolutist era in Havland. 


毛利光由

The Japanese name of Koyu Mori, as taken from documents he wrote during his lifetime. He also designed an initial for use in seals.

“完了”

KAN RYO


Finished, Færdig

The name “**Gan**” comes from the Havlandic pronunciation of Japanese “**Kan-Ryo**”, meaning “complete” or “finished”. It was used to mark the end of Luke’s manuscripts, and adopted into use as an **End Mark** for books and papers—A practice that continued even after Luke himself was executed by the scribes he had trained as an act of protest against the coup. When **Frederick I** posthumously pardoned Luke in **1889**, the practice was also restored for official documents. 

USAGE

Traditionally, “**Gan**” is inserted after the end of a section or paragraph in middle of a standalone line, or in the bottom right corner of the page. Thus, it also acts like a **divider** between chapters or sections.



More recently, the symbol has been used like a traditional western **end mark**, at the end of a paragraph. The design is usually inverted and surrounded by a small block of colour (a “**seal-style**” design). 

The design of the symbol itself is a **ligature** of the two kanji characters that form the Japanese word. Originally, they were only joined by a stroke, but more modern designs have adapted the characters into a rounder, more connected design style.

The current symbol used for official documents (as a stamp of completion and end mark) was designed in the 21st century by **Andrew White**.





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