

# Fences and Gardens: An Ayeri Translation of a Medieval Neighborhood Dispute

## 1 Friedrich Wilhelm and His Diplomatic Dream

Part of the data basis for my upcoming master's thesis is formed by Wilhelm et al.'s *Corpus der altdutschen Originalurkunden bis zum Jahr 1300* ('Corpus of Old German Original Deeds up to the Year 1300', henceforth *CAO*). This collection comprises over 4,000 legal documents in German language from the 13th century and was compiled by several generations of researchers over the course of over 70 years. Most of the deeds come from the southwestern corner of the German-speaking area, with centers in Strasbourg, Basel, Zurich and Constance. An exponential increase in activity over the last quarter of the 13th century can generally be observed, however.

In his foreword to the first volume of the *CAO*, Wilhelm made a strong argument for rendering the modern transcriptions of the handwritten documents as closely as possible to the medieval originals in a time when most scholars in the field preferred normalized editions of medieval texts for literary criticism – he harshly derided the notion of normalized texts as “Esperanto-Mittelhochdeutsch” (see *CAO* I: VIII–IX). Wilhelm's intended target audience was what we call linguists today, rather than literary critics. He explains in his own words:

Es ergibt sich daher die weitere Notwendigkeit, diese urkundlichen Quellen in einer Ausgabe vor sich zu haben, die diese Orthographien nicht durch Normalisieren nach Lachmanns und seiner Nachfolger Art verwischt. Denn dieses Normalisieren macht zum guten Teil die modernen Urkundenveröffentlichungen, welche Urkunden in deutscher Sprache enthalten, [...] für den Sprachforscher unbrauchbar [...]. Gerade das “Normalisieren” also mußte bei diesem Corpus, das in erster Linie dem Sprachforscher dienen soll, vermieden werden. Ein möglichst genauer Abdruck, soweit ein solcher überhaupt das Original einer Urkunde ersetzen kann, war das erste Erfordernis, das erfüllt werden mußte. (*CAO* I: LX)

*Thus, the additional necessity arises to have these diplomatic sources be laid out in an edition that does not smudge these orthographies by means of normalization after the fashion of Lachmann and his followers. For this normalizing renders the better part of modern publications of deeds which contain deeds in German language [...] useless to the language scholar [...]. Especially this “normalizing” thus had to be avoided in this corpus, which is first and foremost catering to language scholars. The first requirement that had to be met was a rendition of the text as close as possible to the original, if such a rendition in print can ever be a replacement for the original document at all.*

The bulk of the texts contained in the *CAO* is formed by such mundane things as sales and lease contracts, wills, legal settlements, and regulations concerning trade and construction. Moreover, the texts are usually not too long and not too complex either, which makes some of them suitable for translation challenges, I suppose.

Due to the nature of the deeds, there is a fair amount of legal formulas in these documents, however, these use very transparent native terms, which ought to make finding equivalents reasonably straightforward. An English translation based on the annotations by the editors of the *CAO* will be provided (see Gärtner et al. 2007).

## 2 “Alle die, die disen brief lesent, horent oder sehent ...”

In the following, I will present the text of the deed number N 163 (381 a) – effectively dated Augsburg, March 19, 1279 – in Middle High German language as given in de Boor et al. (2004), Gärtner et al. (2007). In spite of Wilhelm’s self-professed firm belief in diplomatic editions, the version of this document as it is presented in the *CAO* shows signs of modern editing, that is, abbreviations are resolved, non-names are changed to consistent lower case, and punctuation is adjusted to modern standards.

*Jnnomine domini amen!*<sup>1</sup> Alle die, die disen brief lefent, horent oder sehent, die fuln daz wizen, daz her Vlrich frovn Engeln tohterman verkaufte herm Chvnrat dem Hafener einen halben garten mit fogtaner bescheidenheit, daz der her Chvnrat der Hafener vf den selben halben garten weder zvn noch hvf bwen folte noch de cheinen bv dar vf tvn folte, der im ze schaden chomen mohte. Daz stvnt alf lange, vnz der her Chvnrat der Hafener dar fvr vnde wolte gezvnet haben den selben garten. Do def her Vlrich innan wart, do fvr er fvr gerihte vnde clagte hinze dem Hafener, daz er da zvnen wolte, da erf niht tvn folte, wande er ez mit gedingede im alfo geben hete, daz er weder zvn noh hvf da bwen folte noh nihtef def, daz im ze schaden chomen mohte. Def laugent im der Hafener, daz er mit im alfo iht kauft hete. Dar vber wart erteilt, daz der Hafener bereite, daz er mit im alfo iht kauft hete, in bezivgte danne her Vlrich, daz ez alfo wære. Da wolte her Vlrich fmf rehtef niht vmbe vnde gerte einf tagef vmbe finen gezivk. Do der tak chom, do gie her Vlrich fvr vnde erzivgte selbe dritte, alf reht waf, daz er vf den selben garten chein den bv tvn folte, der im ze schaden chomen mohte, alf da vor gefchriben stat. Vnde do er daz erzivgte, do gert er vrteil, wande die lyte tötlich wæren vnde auh vergæzzen, man folte im wol der stet<sup>2</sup> brief dar vber geben. Daz wart im erteilt mit gefamenter vrteil. Vnde da von, daz zwifchen in chein krieche mer gewahfen myge vmbe die sache, dar vmbe wart geben dirre brief verfigelt mit der stet<sup>2</sup> jnfigel<sup>2</sup> ze Aufpurk, daz dar an hanget. Vnde fint def geziuge her Volkwin, her Sibot der Stolzhirz, her Vlrich Fundan, her Livpolt der Schroter, her Livpolt der Stolzhirz, her Chvnrat Reinbot, meifter Chvnrat von Schoenegge, her Chvnrat Notkauf, her Chvnrat der Bart vnde ander genyge. Do daz gefchach vnde auh dirre brief geben wart, do waf von gotef<sup>2</sup> geburte tufent<sup>2</sup> iar zwej hvndert iar in dem nivn<sup>2</sup> vnde sibenzigften iare an dem fvnnetage vor dem balm tage.

S[iegel]

The text goes about like this in English:

*In nomine domini amen!* All those who read this writ, by hearing or seeing it, they shall know that Mr. Ulrich, Mrs. Engel’s son-in-law, sold Mr. Chunrat der Hafener half of a garden under the provision that Mr. Chunrat der Hafener build neither fence nor house in this same half garden, nor put any other building in it which would cause damage to the other. This was set, up until Mr. Chunrat der Hafener

<sup>1</sup> “Original *Jnnōie dñj am̃*”.

<sup>2</sup> “Erster Buchstabe dieses Wortes im Original Majuskel” (First letter of this word originally majuscule).

went there and wanted to fence the garden. As Mr. Ulrich became aware of this, he went to court and sued Hafener since he wanted to set up a fence there even though he was not supposed to, since he had pledged by contract that he would neither build a fence nor a house in it, nor anything else that would cause damage to the other. Hafener denied this: he had not contracted with Ulrich this way. The court assessed that Hafener refuted that he had contracted with Ulrich this way, unless Mr. Ulrich could prove that he had. Mr. Ulrich did not want to forfeit his rights, then, and asked for a day to testify. When the day came, Mr. Ulrich came up and testified together with two other witnesses, as was the law, that Hafener was not supposed to build anything in this same garden that would cause damage to him, as written above. And after giving his testimony, he demanded judgement and a municipal writ, since people are mortal and forgetful. This was awarded to him unanimously. And so that there may not spring any more disputes between them from this issue, this writ was issued, sealed with the city of Augsburg's seal which is attached. To this are witness Mr. Volkwin, Mr. Sibot der Stolzhirz, Mr. Ulrich Fundan, Mr. Liupolt der Schroter, Mr. Liupolt der Stolzhirz, Mr. Chunrat Reinbot, Master Chunrat von Schoenegge, Mr. Chunrat Notkauf, Mr. Chunrat der Bart and others enough. When this took place and also this writ was issued, the count from God's birth was one thousand years, two hundred years, in the seventy-ninth year on the Sunday before Palm Sunday.

Seal

### 3 Inching the Way to an Ayeri Translation

#### In nomine domini ...

- (i) Garāneri na Nahang, āmen!

*garān-eri na Nahang, āmen!*  
name-INS GEN Lord, amen!

“In the name of the Lord, amen!”

I really wish I had something besides Ayeri ready to draw from, but since I don't, I decided to also translate this Latin phrase into Ayeri. Since I have come up with at least a sketch for another language a while ago (the Ayeri exonym for it being <sup>ᠰᠢᠨᠠᠨᠠ</sup> *Turayi* ‘Hillandic’), however, I couldn't help also thinking about this:

- (i') Āsti-n na Pāg ko saṭ, āmen!

[*Turayi, tentatively*]

*āsti -n na Pāg ko saṭ, āmen!*  
name-DEF DEF Lord of with, amen!

“In the name of the Lord, amen!”

Turayi in its modern version is supposed to be some kind of anti-Ayeri in being fairly isolating with modifier-head word order, which is why there are postpositions in the translation above. In a

little twist on modifier-head word order, however, determiners go into the so-called *Wackernagel position*, that is, they go into the second position of the NP if nothing else occupies this slot. In Turayi, you would thus get N DET if no adjectives are involved, but ADJ DET N if there are. There would, however, be an exception for possessive phrases, in which the (more basic?) word order DET N *of* would be preferred instead of N DET *of* as one would otherwise expect. I will have to think about whether postpositions in general block movement of determiners into the Wackernagel position in spite of different levels of dependency.

## Alle die, die ...

- (2) Ang mya koronyan keynam-hen si ang layayan eda-tahang nivayēri soyang tangyēri tan, sa lataya mondo mesam yam Sikontendo Biratayati tiga ang Hasanjan tiga si samyanang na Nina-vay tiga, dilengeri, ya mya vehoyya ang Sikontendo Biratayati tiga kong eda-mondo mesam lahanley soyang nangās soyang vehanley palung siley eng ming nupisongara yās.

- a. *ang mya koron-yan keynam=ben si ang laya-yan eda= tabang-ley*  
 AT shall know-3PL.M people =all REL AT read-3PL.M.TOP this=writ -P.INAN  
*niva-ye-eri soyang tang-ye-eri tan, ...*  
 eye -PL-INS or ear -PL-INS 3PL.GEN, ...

“All people who read this writ with their eyes or their ears shall know that ...”

- b. *sa lata-ya mondo mesam yam=Sikontendo Biratayati tiga ang=Hasanjan*  
 PT sell -3SG garden.TOP half DAT= Chunrat der Hafener honorable A= Ulrich  
*tiga si samyan -ang na= Ninavay tiga, dileng-eri, ...*  
 honorable REL son.in.law-A GEN=Engel honorable, rule -INS, ...

“the honorable Ulrich, son-in-law of the honorable Engel, sold half a garden to the honorable Chunrat der Hafener, under the condition that ...”

- c. *ya mya veb -oy -ya ang=Sikontendo Biratayati tiga kong*  
 LOCT shall build-NEG-3SG.M A= Chunrat der Hafener honorable inside  
*eda= mondo mesam lahan-ley soyang nanga-as soyang vehan -ley*  
 this=garden.TOP half fence-P.INAN or house-P or building-P.INAN  
*palung si -ley eng ming nupa-isa -ong-ara yās.*  
 other REL-P.INAN AT.INAN can hurt -CAUS-IRR-3SG.INAN.TOP 3SG.M.P.

“Chunrat der Hafener is not supposed to build into the garden either fence or house or another building that could cause him harm.”

This is one hell of a long sentence, which I nonetheless didn't split up into several ones in order to keep the legalese spirit of the original. However, for convenience, I split the one long sentence

	German		Ayeri
Chunrat	OHG <i>kuoni</i> ‘brave, strong’, OHG <i>rāt</i> ‘counsel’	ꨀꨣꨳꨱꨣꨳꨱ <i>Sikontendo</i>	ꨀꨣꨳꨱꨣꨳꨱ <i>sikong</i> ‘advice’, ꨀꨣꨳꨱꨣꨳꨱ <i>tendo</i> ‘courageous’
Engel	GK <i>ἄγγελος</i> <i>ángelos</i> ‘messenger’	ꨀꨣꨳꨱꨣꨳꨱ <i>Ninavay</i>	ꨀꨣꨳꨱꨣꨳꨱ <i>ninaya</i> ‘messenger’, ꨀꨣꨳꨱꨣꨳꨱ <i>-vaya</i> ‘fem. occupation’
Hafener	MHG <i>‘havenære’</i> ‘potter’ <sup>3</sup>	ꨀꨣꨳꨱꨣꨳꨱ <i>Biratayati</i>	ꨀꨣꨳꨱꨣꨳꨱ <i>biratay</i> ‘pot’, ꨀꨣꨳꨱꨣꨳꨱ <i>-ati</i> ‘-maker’
Ulrich	OHG <i>uodal</i> ‘heritage, home’, OHG <i>rihhi</i> ‘noble, rich, powerful’	ꨀꨣꨳꨱꨣꨳꨱ <i>Hasanjan</i>	ꨀꨣꨳꨱꨣꨳꨱ <i>hasang</i> ‘origin’, ꨀꨣꨳꨱꨣꨳꨱ <i>ijan</i> ‘rich’

Table 1: The negotiating parties’ names calqued into Ayeri

into its constituent parts for glossing. The initial passage, *Alle die, die disen brief lefent, borent oder sehent* ‘All those who read this writ, by hearing or seeing it’ is a rhetorical topos of the genre and the way basically all deeds in the *CAO* begin, with some variations.

Since it’s always fun to look up the etymologies of names and trying to calque them into Ayeri, I permitted myself to do that here as well and came up with the translations you can see in Table 1.

Another choice I made is translating the titles *‘herre’* ‘lord’ and *‘vrouwe’* ‘lady’ equally as ꨀꨣꨳꨱ *tiga* ‘honorable’. In the case of this deed, I *assume* that the participants in the sale and their families are not noble as the titles would suggest, but more or less wealthy townspeople. Thus, *‘herre’* and *‘vrouwe’*, respectively, have probably already assumed their modern meanings as generic respectful terms of address comparable to English *Mr.* and *Mrs.* in this context, which I used in the English translation of the deed above as well for the same reason. The dictionary still has entries for ꨀꨣꨳꨱ *Tayon* ‘Mr.’ and ꨀꨣꨳꨱ *Tenvan* ‘Mrs.’ at the time of writing this, but I’ve never actually used these since I dropped the modifier ꨀꨣꨳꨱ *tay* that these are supposed to be based on.

## Daz stunt als lange ...

- (3) Adareng tono, ang no vehya Sikontendo Biratayati tiga lahanley miday eda-mondoya pesan.

*Ada-reng tono, ang sara-ya Ø= Sikontendo Biratayati tiga adaya pesan*  
 that-A.INAN certain, AT go -3SG.M TOP=Chunrat der Hafener honorable there until  
*nay ang no veh -ya lahan-ley miday eda= mondo-ya.*  
 and AT want build-3SG.M.TOP fence-P.INAN around this=garden-LOC.

“This was certain until the honorable Chunrat der Hafener went there and wanted to build a fence around this garden.”

<sup>3</sup> Compare MHG *‘haven’* ‘pot’; normalized spellings follow the headwords in Lexer (1998–2015) and are indicated by ‘...’ brackets when referring to the text using retrofitted spellings.

Literally, *Daz stvnt alflange* means ‘this stood so long’, which is quite idiomatic, so I didn’t want to translate it literally and decided to go with *သေချာသိ* *adareng tono* ‘this was certain’. What is expressed here is that the deal between Chunrat and Ulrich was good until Chunrat wanted to build a fence, which of course runs counter their agreement.

## Do des her Ulrich innan wart ...

- (4) a. *taday-ya si keng -ya ang= Hasanjan tiga, ...*  
 time -LOC REL notice-3SG.M A= Ulrich honorable, ...  
 “When the honorable Ulrich noticed that, ...”
- b. *ang saba -ya tagāti-ya nay sa tiray -yāng Ø= Biratayati, ...*  
 AT come-3SG.M.TOP judge-LOC and PT complain.about-3SG.M.A TOP=der Hafener, ...  
 “he came to a judge and complained about der Hafener that ...”
- c. *ang no veh -ya laban-ley nārya mya da= veh -oy -yāng ...*  
 AT want build-3SG.M.TOP fence-P.INAN although shall such=build-NEG-3SG.M.A ...  
 “he wants to build a fence although he was not supposed to do so ...”
- d. *yanoyam ang tonisa -ya narān-eri ban yana, ...*  
 because AT assure-3SG.M.TOP word -INS good 3SG.M.GEN, ...  
 “because he had assured with his good word that ...”
- e. *ang veh -oy -ong-ya adaya laban-ley soyang nanga-as soyang*  
 AT build-NEG-IRR-3SG.M.TOP there fence-P.INAN or house-P or  
*vehan -ley palung si -ley eng ming nupa-isa -ong-ara*  
 building-P.INAN other REL-P.INAN AT.INAN can hurt -CAUS-IRR-3SG.INAN.TOP  
*yās.*  
 3SG.M.P.  
 “he would not build there either fence or house or another building that could cause him harm.”

I was a little stumped at first about how to translate the original *do* ‘when’ in (4a), since Ayeri uses its equivalent question word *သိ* *sitaday* ‘when’ only in questions but usually not as a relative pronoun. And a headless relative clause is what we have here in both German and English. What is left out is something like *ze der zît* or ‘at the time’, respectively. This realization made me remember that I could just translate it as that, which is how we get *သေချာသိ* *tadayya si* here.

I translated ‘*klagen*’ ‘sue’ as *သိ* *tiray-* ‘complain, bemoan’ here since I thought that this fits the general situation and action – maybe also not uninfluenced by the German word NHG *klagen*,

which covers both meanings, ‘complain’ and ‘sue’. What is interesting here, though, is that the verb  $\text{တိရ်}$ : *tiray-* takes a direct object/patient NP as an argument, not a PP, which is why I gave the translation in the gloss as ‘complain about’.

## Des laugent im der Hafener ...

- (5) Le garica ang Biratayati adanya, narayāng, rī intoyyāng da-dileng.

*le garik-ya ang= Biratayati adanya, nara-yāng, rī int -oy -yāng*  
 PT deny-3SG.M A= der Hafener that.TOP, say -3SG.M.A, INST buy-NEG-3SG.M.A  
*eda= dileng.*  
 such=rule.TOP

“This der Hafener denied, he said he did not buy under such a condition.”

The Ayeri sentence is fairly vanilla here. I purposefully used references to the purchase and its conditions as the topic in both cases and introduced the reportative  $\text{နာရ်}$  *narayāng* ‘he said’ for more clarity. What is a little more interesting, though, is the second half of the MHG sentence, *daz er mit im also iht kauft hete* ‘that he had not bought with him this way’. “Buy with someone” as an idiomatic expression for ‘conclude a sale with someone’ I haven’t heard in either modern German or in English so far.

## Dar uber wart erteilt ...

- (6) Maritapya tagātiang, ranya ang Biratayati, rī incāng da-dileng, nārya ang ming pukatongya Hasanjan tiga puluyley yayam.

*maritap -ya tagāti-ang, ran -ya ang=Biratayati, rī int -yāng*  
 determine-3SG.M judge-A, contest-3SG.M A= der Hafener, INST buy-3SG.M.A  
*eda= dileng, nārya bata ang ming pukat-ong-ya Ø= Hasanjan tiga*  
 such=rule.TOP, except if AT can prove-IRR-3SG.M TOP Ulrich honorable  
*puluy -ley yayam.*  
 opposite-P.INAN 3SG.M.DAT.

“The judge determined that der Hafener contested that he had bought under such a condition, except if the honorable Ulrich could prove the opposite to him.”

So far, I had  $\text{ပုလှ်}$  *puluy* only mean ‘mirror’, but I don’t see why this shouldn’t be itself derived from the meaning ‘opposite’. After all, that is what a mirror image is.

## Da wolte her Ulrich ...

- (7) Le no da-subroyya ang Hasanjan tiga kaytan yana nay ang da-pinyaya bahisyam siyā ming hakongyāng.

*le no da= subr -oy -ya ang=Hasanjan tiga kaytan yana nay ang*  
 PT want thus=give.up-NEG-3SG.M A= Ulrich honorable right.TOP 3SG.GEN and AT  
*da= pinya-ya bahis-yam si -Ø -yā ming haka -ong-yāng.*  
 thus=ask -3SG.M.TOP day -DAT REL-DAT-LOC can testify-IRR-3SG.M.A.

“The honorable Ulrich did not want to give up his right there and he thus asked for a day on which he could testify.”

Another remark on interesting idioms here. The MHG sentence contains the phrase *wolte ... sinf rehtef niht vmbe*, literally ‘did not want of his right about’, meaning that he did not want to forfeit his rights according to the annotation in Gärtner et al. (2007).

## Do der tak chom ...

- (8) Girendara ada-bahisreng nay nimya ang Hasanjan tiga nay ang hakaya kayvo ayonya palung sam, dilengya nasyam, ya mya vehoyongya ang Biratayati eda-mondo vehanley si eng ming nupisongara yās, ku-tahanrey marin edaya.

a. *girend-ara ada= bahis-reng and nim -ya ang=Hasanjan tiga nay*  
 arrive-3SG.INAN that=day -A.INAN and appear-3SG.M A= Ulrich honorable and  
*ang haka -ya kayvo ayon-ya sam palung, dileng-ya nasyam, ...*  
 AT testify-3SG.M along.with man-LOC other two, law -LOC according.to, ...

“That day came and the honorable Ulrich appeared and testified together with two other men, according to law, ...”

b. *ya mya veh -oy -ong-ya ang= Biratayati eda= mondo vehan -ley*  
 LOCT shall build-NEG-IRR-3SG.M A= der Hafener this=garden.TOP building-P.INAN  
*si eng ming nupa-isa -ong-ara yās, ku= taban-rey*  
 REL AT.INAN can hurt -CAUS-IRR-3SG.INAN.TOP 3SG.M.P, like=write -3SG.INAN.P  
*marin edaya.*  
 before here.

“that der Hafener was not supposed to build into this garden a building that could cause him harm, as is written before.”



Again a sentence starting with *do* ‘when’.<sup>4</sup> I was really tempted here to break with the rule of not using relativizers without syntactic antecedents since it’s just so convenient to recount the succession of events. However, I think the solution I came up with here may work as well.

The MHG original does not give the name of der Hafener here again, but I still included it for greater clarity. The original also just says that there were two others testifying along with Ulrich, but due to how Ayeri works – *palung* ‘other’ is not typically a pronoun but rather an adjective – I specified that it would be men; women were not usually legal subjects at the time. The construction used in MHG is interesting in this case, too, since it says *felbe dritte*, literally ‘self third’. Looking up ‘*selp*’ in Lexer (1998–2015), we find that ‘*selp*’ together with an ordinal refers to the given number of people including the person who is acting themselves.

### Unde do er daz erziugte ...

- (9) ...  
 ...  
 ...  
 “...”

This part contains my favorite line in this text, *wande die lve tötlich wæren unde auh vergæzzen*. I think it seems almost a little sarcastic to state that people are mortal and forgetful in this case, as though Ulrich would not trust his neighbor to not offend against their agreement again. Interpretations aside, such justifications for documenting the proceedings or the outcome of oral negotiations in writing are very common. The usual reason stated is that the parties wish to keep written proof to reinforce their contracts, deals and agreements. In the late 13th century, even common people seem to increasingly become aware of the use of writing things down as a practical means to increase legal certainty, but also to commemorate, since the written word is more enduring and reliable than witnesses’ memory.

### Daz wart im erteilt ...

- (10) Le kilisara adanya yayam beratāneri kadisu.

*le kilis -ara adanya yayam beratān -eri kadisu.*

PT.INAN grant-3SG.INAN that.TOP 3SG.M.DAT decision-INS unanimous.

“This was granted to him by unanimous decision.”

<sup>4</sup> See page 6, example (4a).

နိဉ်နီ *kadisu* ‘united’ acquired a new shade of meaning here, namely, ‘unanimous’. Furthermore, နိဉ်နီ *kilis-* ‘allow, permit’ can also mean ‘grant’ now.

## Unde da von ...

(11) ...

...

...

“...”

NHG *Augsburg* ← MHG *Aufpurk* ← LAT *Augusta (Vindelicum)* + MHG ‘*burc*’, OHG *burg* ‘castle, city’  
→ AYR ၵိၵ်း *vamuay* ‘praiseworthy’ + ၵိၵ်း *-areng* ‘fort, city’ → ၵိၵ်း *Vamareng*.

## Unde sint des geziuge ...

(12) Nay ang bengyan eda-mandanya ayonye tiga Ledayyan, Baysikān Ikandesay, Hasanjan Pundand, Keynantendo Vehimati, Keynantendo Ikandesay, Sikontendo Baysāruan, Sikontendo na Hinyanveno baykan, Sikontendo Intamarkan, Sikontendo Piku nay keynam-ma palung.

- a. *Nay ang beng -yan eda= mandan-ya ayon-ye tiga ...*  
and AT attend-3PL.M this=hearing -LOC man-PL.TOP honorable ...

“And this hearing was attended by the honorable men ...”

- b. *Ledayyan, Baysikān Ikandesay, Hasanjan Pundand, Keynantendo Vehimati,*  
*Volkwin, Sibot der Stolzshirz, Ulrich Fundan, Liupolt der Schroter,*  
*Keynantendo Ikandesay, Sikontendo Baysāruan, Sikontendo na Hinyanveno*  
*Liupolt der Stolzshirz, Chunrat Reinbot, Chunrat GEN Schoenegge*  
*baykan, Sikontendo Intamarkan, Sikontendo Piku ...*  
master, Chunrat Notkauf, Chunrat der Bart ...

“Volkwin, Sibot der Stolzshirz, Ulrich Fundan, Liupolt der Schroter, Liupolt der Stolzshirz, Chunrat Reinbot, master Chunrat von Schoenegge, Chunrat Notkauf, Chunrat der Bart”

- c. *nay keynam =ma palung.*  
and people.TOP=enough other.

“and enough other people.”

At this point, I wonder if I better shouldn’t have calqued the names. The problem is that the names *Reinbot*, *Sibot* and *Volkwin* aren’t common German names anymore. Also, I have no clue

	German		Ayeri
Bart	MHG <i>bart</i> ‘beard’	ပိန့် <i>Piku</i>	ပိန့် <i>piku</i> ‘beard’
Liupolt	OHG <i>liut</i> ‘people’, OHG <i>bald</i> ‘bold’	လိယိုလ် <i>Keynantendo</i>	လိယိုလ် <i>keynam</i> ‘people’, လိယို <i>tendo</i> ‘courageous’
Notkauf	MHG ‘ <i>nôt</i> ’ ‘hardship, trouble’, MHG ‘ <i>kouf</i> ’ ‘trade, bargain’	နိယာမာန် <i>Intamarkan</i>	နိယာ <i>intan</i> ‘purchase’, မာန် <i>markan</i> ‘trouble’
Reinbot	GMC * <i>ragina</i> ‘counsel, fate’; OS <i>bodo</i> ‘master, ruler’ or OHG <i>boto</i> ‘messenger’	ရိယို <i>Baysāruan</i>	ရိယို <i>baybi</i> ‘ruler’, ဆာယို <i>sabaruan</i> ‘fate, destiny’
von Schoenegge	MHG ‘ <i>schöne</i> ’ ‘beautiful’, MHG ‘ <i>ecke</i> ’ ‘corner’	ဆီယို <i>Hinyanveno</i>	ဆီယို <i>hinyan</i> ‘corner’, ဆီယို <i>veno</i> ‘beautiful’
Schroter	MHG ‘ <i>schrôtäre</i> ’ ‘taylor’	ဗီယို <i>Vehimati</i>	ဗီယို <i>vehim</i> ‘dress’, ဆီယို <i>-ati</i> ‘-maker’
Sibot	OHG <i>sigu</i> ‘victory’; OS <i>bodo</i> ‘master, ruler’ or OHG <i>boto</i> ‘messenger’	ရိယို <i>Baysikān</i>	ရိယို <i>baybi</i> ‘ruler’, နိယို <i>sikatu</i> ‘victorious’
Stolzhirz	MHG <i>stolz</i> ‘foolish, superb’, MHG <i>hirz</i> ‘deer’	နိယို <i>Ikandesay</i>	နိယို <i>ikam</i> ‘deer’, နိယို <i>desay</i> ‘noble, distinguished’
Volkwin	OHG <i>folc</i> ‘people, folk’, OHG <i>wini</i> ‘friend’	လီယို <i>Ledayyan</i>	လီယို <i>ledan</i> ‘friend’, အိယို <i>ayye</i> ‘people’

Table 2: The witnesses’ names calqued into Ayeri

about *Fundan*. The rest of the names – especially the surnames – are transparent enough to venture a reasonable guess. For *Chunrat* and *Ulrich*, see Table 1 above.

While *Chunrat*, *Ulrich*, *Liupolt* and *Volkwin* can simply be looked up in a dictionary,<sup>5</sup> *Reinbot* and *Sibot* I could only guess at indirectly by looking up similar modern names. Both of these names contain the element *-bot*, which may be related to the modern name *Bodo*, which derives from OS *bodo* ‘master, ruler’ or OHG *boto* ‘messenger’. *Rein-* is probably related to the *Rein-* in similar surviving names like *Reinfried*, *Reinhard*, *Reinhold*, where it derives from GMC \**ragina* ‘counsel, decision (of the spirits), fate’. For the *Si-* in *Sibot* I assumed a contraction from *Sige-* (cf. MHG *sige* ‘victory’), and thus a relation to *Siegfried* (in other deeds sometimes abbreviated to *Sifrit* or similar), *Si(e)gmar*, *Siegmund*, where the *Sieg-* part is from OHG *sigu* ‘victory’.

Table 2 gives a summary of the names in the list of witnesses, as far as they haven’t already occurred, and their respective calques. A general problem with two-part Germanic given names is that when calquing them, they often become at least twice as long since nouns in Ayeri are very commonly disyllabic already.

<sup>5</sup> Such as R. Kohlheim & V. Kohlheim (2013), for example, though Wiktionary said the same things in all cases.





And for completeness' sake, this is the whole text again in Roman transcription:

*Āsti-n na Pāg ko saṭ, āmen!*<sup>6</sup> Ang mya koronyan keynam-hen si ang layayan eda-tahang nivayēri soyang tangyēri tan, sa lataya mondo mesam yam Sikontendo Biratayati tiga ang Hasanjan tiga si samyanang na Ninavay tiga, dilengeri, ya mya vehoyya ang Sikontendo Biratayati tiga kong eda-mondo mesam lahanley soyang nangās soyang vehanley palung siley eng ming nupisongara yās. Adareng tono, ang no vehya Sikontendo Biratayati tiga lahanley miday eda-mondoya pesan. Tadayya si kengya ang Hasanjan tiga, ang sahaya tagātiya nay sa tirayyāng Biratayati, ang no vehya lahanley nārya mya da-vehoyyāng yanoyam ang tonisaya narāneri ban yana, ang vehoyongya adaya lahanley soyang nangās soyang vehanley palung siley eng ming nupisongara yās. Le garica ang Biratayati adanya, narayāng, rī intoyyāng da-dileng. Maritapyā tagātiang, ranya ang Biratayati, rī incāng da-dileng, nārya ang ming pukatongya Hasanjan tiga puluyley yayam. Le no da-subroyya ang Hasanjan tiga kaytan yana nay ang da-pinyaya bahisyam siyā ming hakongyāng. Girendara ada-bahisreng nay nimya ang Hasanjan tiga nay ang hakaya kayvo ayonya palung sam, dilengya nasyam, ya mya vehoyongya ang Biratayati eda-mondo vehanley si eng ming nupisongara yās, ku-tahanrey marin edaya. ... Le kilisara adanya yayam beratāneri kadisu. ... Nay ang bengyan eda-mandanya ayonye tiga Ledayyan, Baysikān Ikandesay, Hasanjan Pundan, Keynantendo Vehimati, Keynantendo Ikandesay, Sikontendo Baysāruan, Sikontendo na Hinyanveno baykan, Sikontendo Intamarkan, Sikontendo Piku nay keynam-ma palung. Tadayya si da-sahareng nay ilisāra eda-tahangley, kuranreng vesangya na Pangal masahatay pericanley menang hen, kong mallan-itanya pericanena, bahisya perin marin bahisya adang.

Melakam

## 5 A Few Final Words

At 365 words, the text of N 163 (381 a) is rather mid-length. It took me over a week in total to translate it, in every sitting doing a sentence or two, in spite of it not being especially difficult structurally. Since I've been working on Ayeri for so long and since this deed uses a lot of basic vocabulary, I didn't have to coin a lot of new words either. In fact, the devil was rather in the details of L<sup>A</sup>T<sub>E</sub>X formatting than coming up with idiomatic translations of the sentences.

What was fun, was trying to come to terms with that initial sentence, *Jnnomine domini amen!* So far, I have only dealt with monolingual texts to translate from, usually in either English or German. 'Vaporlang' (alias Turayi) is still only a bullet list of ideas and a word list at this point, but it was an interesting experiment trying to tease out something concrete from those vague ideas at long last. Maybe something to expand on.

<sup>6</sup> Alternatively:  $\text{ᱠᱤᱨᱤᱰᱤᱨᱤ ᱠᱤᱨᱤᱰᱤᱨᱤ}$  *Garāneri na Nabang, āmen!* See page 3 for details.

## Abbreviations

3	Third person	INAN	Inanimate	NP	Noun phrase
A	Agent	INS	Instrumental	OHG	Old High German
ADJ	Adjective	INST	Instrumental topic	OS	Old Saxon
AT	Agent topic	IRR	Irrealis	P	Patient
AYR	Ayeri	LAT	Latin	PL	Plural
CAUS	Causative	LOC	Locative	PP	Prepositional phrase
DAT	Dative	LOCT	Locative topic	PT	Patient topic
DEF	Definite	M	Masculine	REL	Relative
DET	Determiner	MHG	Middle High German	SG	Singular
GEN	Genitive	N	Noun	TOP	Topic
GK	Greek	NEG	Negative		
GMC	Germanic	NHG	New High German		

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