



2. Ni ghaiff gelyn lad
 Harlech, Harlech
 Y mae Rhoddwr M
 Yn rhoi nerth i ni
 Wele Gymru a'i byc
 Yn ymdywallt o'r m
 Rhuthrant fel rhaec
 Llamant fel y lli,
 Llwyddiant i'n Llyn
 Rwystro bâr yr est
 Gwybod yn ei galon
 Fel bratha cleddyf
 Cledd yn erbyn cledd
 Dur yn erbyn dur
 Wele faner Gwalia

Mills do virtually everything but shear the sheep. They blend together the raw wool, card it, spin it, double it, dye it, warp it, and finally weave it into richly textured and colored fabrics.

Prominently displayed in the room are Welsh love spoons, as they are often called. Hand carved of wood with great care and detail, they represent an old courtship tradition in Wales. Once upon a time, a young man carved just such a spoon for the girl of his dreams. He knew that the more intricate and beautiful the design, the better his chances were to win the heart of his ladylove.

Nervous and hopeful, the suitor offered his spoon to the young woman. If she returned it, the young man's heart was broken — at least for a while. But if she chose to keep the spoon, her willingness to accept it promised the pair a happy future.

Love spoons continue to be symbols of Welsh culture today and are cherished treasures for souvenir collectors in Wales.

Alongside these memorabilia of Welsh heritage, perhaps the most representative feature of the Welsh Room is the custom calligraphy of two Welsh songs in the room's entryway. They were fashioned by Darren Evans, presently of Des Moines, who was born in Tenby, Wales, a small town on the southwest coast in the county of Pembrokeshire. He calls his art company "Wilddoodle," and his work appears in several other Hotel Pattee guest rooms.

Of the Welsh Room paintings Evans says, "Having grown up in Wales and with a rich musical background, I was very enthusiastic about creating these

aged musical scripts. The famous march, 'The Men of Harlech,' celebrates the defiance of the Welsh forces in defending Harlech Castle against the English in 1468. I imagined these guys singing their hearts out, as Welsh folk do, as they kept watch from the castle walls."

*O'er the hills though night lies sleeping,
 Tongues of flame through mists
 are leaping,
 As the brave, their vigil keeping,
 Front the deadly fray.
 Then the battle thunder,
 tears the rocks asunder,
 As the light falls on the flight of foes
 without their plunder;
 There the vanquished horde is routed,
 There the valiant never doubted,
 There they died but dying shouted
 "Freedom wins the day."*

The other song painted on the Welsh Room walls by Wilddoodle is "Hen Wlad Fy Nhadau," the Welsh National Anthem. Evans says, "I've known it in my pidgin Welsh for as long as I can remember. I incorporated this song into a setting that represents everything of Wales to me — the Pembrokeshire coastline — the perfect backdrop for a song. If you ever have the opportunity to sing with a large crowd of Welsh folk, then you'll probably declare yourself Welsh. And if you can sing with an ounce of passion, then you probably are!"

Left: Detail of The Men of Harlech by Darren Evans. Next page: Detail of Hotel Pattee spa, lower level.

Darren Evans
 Des Moines



Wilddoodle's Darren Evans has a biography and artistic history as colorful and varied as his artwork. He attended art college for five years in Carmarthen, Wales, as well as in Falmouth and Plymouth, England, and in Des Moines, Iowa. He has supported himself through many art mediums — he has installed wood floors, worked in graphic design, created computer graphics, animated films, (Walt Disney's Who Framed Roger Rabbit), and has designed everything from books to signs to tattoos. Darren has "...painted signs on the Greek island of Rhodes and worked as a portrait artist on the streets of London and Minneapolis." He contributed to the Living History Farms in Iowa by producing for them both illustrations and maps. He has gained invaluable experience in restoration by working for three years with EverGreene Painting Studios of New York. Another restoration project of his was to help strip and regild the Iowa State Capitol dome.