



# Pursuivant Readiness Portfolio



## *Lochac College of Heraldry*

Welcome to the Pursuivant Readiness Portfolio. If you're reading this, that means you think you're ready for the rank of Pursuivant in the Lochac College of Heraldry, and want to demonstrate it. Congratulations on getting this far, being willing to step up is a good sign for all heralds.

Please note that this portfolio is entirely open-book, because being a herald is not about knowing all the answers to all the questions - it's about knowing where to go to find the answers!

The portfolio consists of three hypothetical case studies of life as a working herald. Each of them will contain questions to demonstrate a range of the skills that may be expected of a herald in the SCA. You don't need to be an expert in everything, but a Pursuivant should understand at least the basics of each of the aspects of heraldry rather than being purely focused on a single part.

Please send your completed portfolio to [chaineshot@lochac.sca.org](mailto:chaineshot@lochac.sca.org). Please note that physically mailed submissions are not currently requested or accepted.

One part of a herald's job is the research and application of names, and the populace will come to know you by yours. What is your SCA name? What is your mundane name?

Is your SCA name registered? If so, when and through which Kingdom was it registered?

What is the blazon of your device?

Is your device registered? If so, when and through which Kingdom was it registered?

What is your Canon Lore ID\*?

What is your Lochac Roll of Arms ID\*?

*\* If available - the web address of your pages on Canon Lore and the Lochac Roll of Arms will end in 'id=xxx' where xxx is your ID number. Each will be a different number*

## *Case Study I - A New Member*

You are acting as court herald for Their Majesties. What would you do to ensure that everything goes well: before, during, and after court? During this court, a new member of your group into court received their Award of Arms. This is their first ever award, in fact their first time being called into court at all. Is there any specific information or actions required to make sure that the award is properly recorded?

Fresh from receiving their Award of Arms, the new member of your group decides that they'd quite like to register an SCA name and a device of their very own, and come to you for help. What approach would you take to guiding them through this process? What pitfalls should they be wary of? They tell you that they'd like a 14th century Welsh name, what sources would you recommend they focus on?

Under your guidance, your client has developed a name and device, but you are concerned that there may be conflicts which were missed in the design process. Where would you look for the resources required to check this, and where might you go for additional assistance with the problem?

In your conflict checking, you find two devices that might be a conflict. For the following blazons, explain why they do or don't conflict with the proposal, with references to the submissions rules as appropriate. You only need compare these to each other, assume no other conflicts.

Proposed Device: <Gules, a horse courant and a chief argent.>

Potential Conflict 1: <Per pale gules and azure, a horse statant and a chief embattled argent.>

Potential Conflict 2: <Gules, a horse courant and on a chief argent three lozenges sable.>

What is the procedure you would follow for submitting the client's name and device? If drawing this client's device for submission, what challenges might you encounter and what details would you need to be careful of? Once the name and device have been submitted, what are your duties to the client and to the College of Arms, as the consulting herald?

After the required waiting time, the client finally hears back about their submitted name and device. Their device has passed, but the name has been returned due to conflict. How would you approach this situation, both in informing the client and in assisting with their next attempt? Are there any pressing problems you might expect to encounter? How is a resubmission different from a new submission?

## *Case Study II - The Tournament*

The sun is shining on the list field as the fighters and populace prepare for today's Baronial tournament, and you've been asked to act as the Herald-In-Charge for the event. Who will you need to consult, and what information will you need, to make sure you can help everything run smoothly, both for the tournament and the rest of the event?

The tournament is about to begin, and you've gotten the list cards for the first round. Some of the names are smudged and unreadable, and some seem like they'll be rather difficult to pronounce. What is your next step? How would you handle any complaints about mispronunciations?

Between rounds of the tournament, someone running a merchant stall by the field asks if you can make some advertising announcements for them. Should you accept their request? If so, is there anything you need to do, or anything you need to be careful of, while doing this?

The sun is shining down bright and hot on combatants, populace, and herald alike. What can you do to make things more pleasant and safe for all concerned? Is there anyone whose aid you could recruit for these endeavours?

After the tournament, Their Excellencies decide to run a small court, and as the Herald-In-Charge for this event, you're Their first choice as court herald. What materials and preparations will you need before court?

The hall that evening is packed to the brim with people having a good time, but the kitchen would like you to make some announcements over the noise. What can you do to improve your chances of being heard over feasters and games? How would you adapt this plan if your voice was weak after the tournament?

### *Case Study III - The Group Herald*

You've just been selected as your local group's new herald. Congratulations! Before you take up your duties, it's important that you know what those duties actually are. What are your new duties as a local group herald?

Each local group's herald holds a title for their time in office, and you are no different. Which heraldic rank belongs to each of the types of branch in Lochac? Where would you find this information, and the names of the titles assigned to each position?

At an event in your local group, the steward has neglected to ask anyone to be Herald-In-Charge for the event. The following heralds are in attendance: yourself as group herald, the neighbouring Barony's herald, Crux Australis Principal Herald, and another rostered herald. Who is the Herald-In-Charge for this event? Who could they turn to for assistance? If that presumed Herald-In-Charge were actually absent from the event, who would it be instead?

Some members of your local group would like to use their titles in the native language of their persona. Where would you look for this information to help them? To demonstrate, please provide the following titles in the given languages (if there are multiple options, provide your favourite):

Lord in Finnish - Count in Arabic - Knight in Old English - Princess in Spanish - Lady in Welsh

Sometimes it's nice to be fancy, and someone in your group has decided to run a very formal feast, with everything specified down to the seating order. If you were consulted as to the correct Order of Precedence for the arrangement, which resources would you consult, and what information would you need to gather?

Another upcoming event in your group has been scheduled for a weekend when you'll be unavoidably absent. How would you make sure that the event was properly supplied with the heraldic services it would require, in your absence?

## *Marker's Notes*

When completing your portfolio, please leave this page blank. It is for the notes of the herald marking your portfolio to record their assessment of your work.

Case Study I - Demonstrated sufficient understanding?

Yes     No

Areas requiring improvement:

Case Study II - Demonstrated sufficient understanding?

Yes     No

Areas requiring improvement:

Case Study III - Demonstrated sufficient understanding?

Yes     No

Areas requiring improvement:

Recommended for promotion?

Yes     No

Reasons and Further Comments: