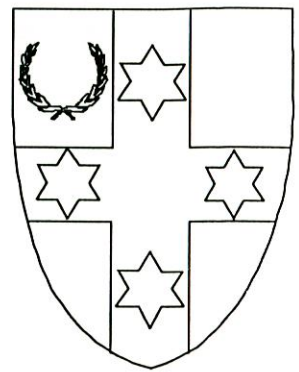


Camel

Crux Australis Monthly Letter

June AS XXVI



Meeting Date: 17 June AS XXVI (1991)

Posting Date: 8 July AS XXVI (1991)

Transactions Considered: 2 Names, 1 Device, 1 Release

Forwarded to Vesper: 2 Names, 1 Device, 1 Release

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Unto the College of Heraldry of the Kingdom of the West in the Principality of Lochac,
and unto all others who may read this,

Greetings from Lord Decion ap Dyfrwr Trefriw, Crux Australis Herald!

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Roster Changes

Things seem surprisingly quiet this month. The College of St. Aldhelm is still without a herald, although I expect this problem to be resolved *very* shortly; the rostering of a herald for St. Ursula is in progress. The status of Mordenvale is also questionable at this point, as their rostered herald apparently no longer lives there . . . I'm also hoping for a speedy resolution here, as well.

Lord Frae Fitzalloyne, the P.E. for Dismal Fogs, has moved. His new address is c/- Mark Calderwood, 10 Essex Street, Bullaburra, NSW 2784. Telephone (047) 59 2795.

Missing May Reports

The following groups have *still* failed to submit a report for May AS XXVI: Aneala; Arx Draconis; Mordenvale; St. Aldhelm; St. Gildas; Ynys Fawr. Local heralds, pull your socks up!

Laurel Precedents

The following are gathered from the Laurel LoARs of March and April 1991. It is important to remember that our heraldic rules are more than just the R/S; by examining decisions such as these, we gain a greater understanding of how the rules actually work in practice.

- * *(Justifying the blazoning of a "bat" as a "reremouse")* . . . the Fool of Arms said it best, in Motley Heraldry:

You may say to bats in a belfry
"You're bats." They won't mind, 'cause they are;
But you mustn't say "Bats" to the one in shields -
You'd better be silent by far;
For the bat in a shield is a reremouse
(You may call him a flittermouse, too)
And if you say "Bats" to the reremice proud
They'll answer, "And bats to you!"

(Well, OK, it doesn't have much to do with the rules, but this is Laurel's way of saying, use the period heraldic terms!)

- * *(On registering the surname "Levesque")* Although Levesque means "bishop", which is a restricted title in the S.C.A., it is also a documentable period surname. It is Laurel's opinion that Levesque should be registrable under the same general restrictions as Regina; that is, so long as it is not used in such a way as to appear like a title.
- * The principal difference between a mantyger and a manticore . . . is the manticore has a scorpion's sting for a tail. It is doubtful that there is a CVD for the difference, but it is a blazonable distinction.
- * Lord Laurel seems to be in a definite minority in believing that a roundel engrailed is visually similar to a sun. Thus this is clear
- * *(On registering the surname "Gandalfsson")* Given that Gandalf is cited in Geirr Bassi as a name clearly given to a human in period, and that there are no other references to Gandalf the Gray, I can see no real bar to registering the name. It seems to me to be in the same class as the name Conan, which may have very strong associations for many people with one specific character, but which is none the less an acceptable Society name. If the submitter doesn't mind putting up with the inevitable references people will make, who are we to say him nay?
- * The weight of the commentary was clearly in favour of granting a CVD between an heraldic panther's head and a lion's head. *(The flames make all the difference, apparently.)*
- * It was felt that we could not in good conscience grant a CVD for the difference between a generic bird and an eagle.
- * *(On returning the household name "Rolling Thunder")* That the natural phenomenon of a "long drawn-out thunderclap" existed in period has never been an issue . . . the modern connotations of the name have been. The OED does not cite instances of "roll" with either drums or thunder until well after period (1688 and 1700, respectively).
- * *(On returning a device with a "bordure triple-parted and fretted")* Bordures cannot be parted and fretted in this manner.
- * *(Several coined epithets ("the Fretted Mind", "Strongfire", "Longeye") were returned because they did not make sense. Just because it "sounds good" doesn't make it compatible with the aims of the Society.)*
- * *(This is a long one, but it addresses several important issues, so I will reprint it essentially in full.)* (return) Device. Gules, a saltire vair between three badgers' heads affronty argent, marked sable, one and two, in base two morningstars in saltire surmounted by a sword, all argent.

Two arguments were presented in this appeal of a prior return. The first, that the badgers' heads and the weapons form two groups of secondaries, and should thus count for two CVDs, is based on an incorrect assumption. Groups are defined by placement on the field, not by type. Four identical charges around a saltire are a single group. Three identical charges and a different charge placed around a saltire are still a single group. With only one CVD for the addition of the group of (non-identical) secondaries, this still conflicts with Bayleur (Papworth, p.1059), Gules, a saltire vair.

The second argument, that there are only four types of charge (saltire, badgers' heads, morningstars and sword) and four tinctures (gules, vair, proper and Or) [*sic*]. In fact, "proper" is not a tincture - it is heraldic shorthand. The badgers' heads are argent, marked sable. That's two tinctures. While vair may be listed in glossary under tinctures, the fact that it is a neutral fur is because it consists of both a metal and a colour. It's visual complexity is such that it looks like two tinctures. Thus we really have four types of charge and five tinctures (gules, argent, azure, sable, and Or), for a complexity "count" (by the rule of thumb) of nine.

As far as the statement in the LoI that 'As this gentle has been using this device for close to five years (and been trying to register it for the same amount of time), and has every intention of continuing to display the device no matter what the decision of the College is, I ask that this device be registered under the Rule of Toyota', I can do no better than to quote Lady Dolphin. She said, "I find this statement exactly analogous to asking the Marshallate 'As this gentle has been only taking very hard blows for close to five years (and has been trying to make the marshallate accept this very hard blow standard for the same amount of time), and has every intention of only taking very hard blows no matter what the decision of the Earl Marshal is, I ask that this fighter be allowed by the Marshallate to only take very hard blows.' A fighter who rhinohides because he disagrees with the blow standards as set forth by the marshallate is considered unchivalrous and given no sympathy. A submitter who uses an illegal device because he disagrees with the armory standards as set forth by the heralds should be considered just as unchivalrous, and I certainly don't think we should do him any favours. Maybe if this analogy were pointed out to the submitter he might change his mind about displaying a returned device."

Finally, in the March *Camel*, I reprinted a "precedent" that seemed to contradict the Legal Name allowance in the *RfS*. Lord Laurel has clarified the situation to me: *Lynne* was the submitter's middle name; there had been evidence to show that *Lyn* was used in period as a diminutive of *Llewellyn*; hence Laurel registered the given name *Lynne* even though it was used as a surname in period. (It makes sense when you think about it.)

Subscriptions, Publications, etc.

The *Camel* is available from the Crux Australis Herald at an annual rate of \$20. Make cheques payable to "S.C.A. College of Heraldry."

For those interested, subscriptions to the West Kingdom College of Heraldry Minutes are available for US\$15. Send a foreign draft to **West Kingdom College of Heraldry, PO Box 1735, West Sacramento, CA 95691, U.S.A.**, made payable to "S.C.A. College of Heraldry." These are sent airmail. Note, however, that everything of relevance to Lochac is reprinted in the *Camel*.

And for those *really* keen, subscriptions to the *Laurel Letter of Acceptance and Return* are also available through the Crux Australis Herald. This costs \$20 per annum. Again, everything that is of relevance to Lochac is reprinted in the *Camel* anyway.

The following publications are all available through Master Thorfinn Hrolfsson: the *West Kingdom Heraldry Handbook*, the *S.C.A. Ordinary and Armorial* (plus *Updates* to same) and the *Pictorial Dictionary of Heraldry as used in the S.C.A.* Please contact Master Thorfinn for current prices of these well-nigh essential books. His address is: Stephen Roynance, 1592 Malvern Road, Glen Iris VIC 3146. Phone (03) 885 6348.

The Lochac Illustrated Armorial

Yes, it's ready - the updated Illustrated Armorial (or "Lochac Colouring-in Book"), first designed by Mistress Rowan Perigryne for the inaugural Principality Investiture some years ago. The acting Cinquefoil Pursuivant, Master Sir Richard de la Croix, has been labouring to bring this up to date and has done a mighty fine job. It will be distributed to local heralds, who will be expected to make additional copies available for anyone else who desires a copy.

Meeting Schedule

Every month, the Crux Australis Herald holds a meeting to consider the heraldic submissions from around the Principality. These meetings are usually held at 11/58 Edgar Street, Glen Iris, VIC 3146, on Saturday afternoons, beginning at 2.00pm and continuing until we're done. The next meeting will be July 20; after that the scheduled dates are August 17, September 14, October 19 and November 16.

The Hund Herald, Master Thorfinn Hrolfsson, holds weekly meetings to comment on submissions from around the Known World. These meetings are almost invariably held Monday nights beginning at 8.00pm at the home of Lord Thrainn Járngímsson [Stefan Akerblom], 'Fjordhalla', 7 Glenlea Close, Rowville VIC 3178 (phone (03) 752 8458). Regular commentary is also taking place in Innilgard [Adelaide], Llyn Arian [Lake Macquarie, NSW], River Haven [Brisbane], Ynys Fawr [Hobart], and Arx Draconis [Swan Valley WA]. Contact the relevant local herald for details.

This Month's Submissions

The June meeting of the College of Heraldry in the Kingdom of the West in the Principality of Lochac was held on the evening of 17 June at the home of the Crux Australis Herald. Present were: Lord Decion ap Dyfrwr Trefriw, Crux Australis Herald; Master Thorfinn Hrolfsson, Hund Herald; Viscount Sir Steven Longshanks, Pursuivant at Large; Lord Selwyn Searobyrig, acting Goutte d'Eau Pursuivant; Pedair na Cluaine Bige, P.E. for Dubh-Thrian; Thomas the Troubadour, acting P.E. for St. Monica; Lord Telsor du Bois, Cornet.

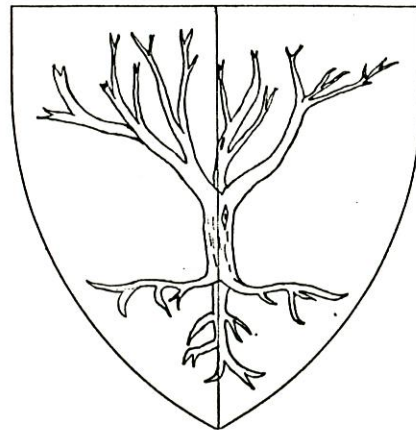
The following conventions are used: CVD means a "Clear Visual Difference", as defined in the *Rules for Submissions*, or RfS; books cited without further details are in the Bibliography (see p.5).

Due to an almost total lack of submissions this month, the regular Saturday meeting was rescheduled and (very briefly) held on the Monday night at the Stormhold Hund meeting - which had been temporarily moved to my address anyway

1. Caitlin de Fernon (New Name and Device; both SUBMITTED) [Stormhold]

Per pale argent and azure, a tree blasted and eradicated counterchanged.

The name is Gaelic and French. *Caitlin* is apparently found on p.39 of Hanks' & Hodges' *Oxford Dictionary of First Names*, according to the submitter, but no photocopies were provided (have I discussed this point before?) . . . but it is in O'C&M on p.45; it is an Irish form of *Catherine*, "the name of a virgin-martyr of Alexandria whose legend was brought into the west by the crusaders. The name became popular in Ireland through Norman and English influence and was well-established among the Irish aristocracy by the fifteenth century." The submitter claims that *Fernon* is a French forest near Burgundy. We could not find it on any map, but we did find the town of *Vernon*, and Reaney's *DoBS*, p.363, dates the surname *de Vernon* to the Domesday Boke. Ordinarily we would have just changed the name, but the submitter has indicated that she considers the spelling important (*Fernon* is her mundane surname). So we decided to leave the name intact; it may be a reasonable variant, or someone else in the CoA may be able to document it. And if not, Lord Laurel can always just drop the *de* and invoke the mundane name allowance.



The device seems free of problems. If you hear rumours that simple devices are impossible to register anymore, feel free to dispel them

Consulting Herald: Pedair na Cluaine Bige.

2. Little Brúsi of Dragon Vale (New Name; SUBMITTED) [Stormhold]

The name is a combination of Norse and English. *Brúsi* is in Bassi, p.9; the rest is TSCA.

Consulting Herald: Decion ap Dyfrwr Trefriw.

[Trivia Note: Although "Brúsi" is a perfectly period name, and a logical alternative to the out-of-period "Bruce" (which is sometimes registered under the mundane name allowance), there are currently only two registered in the S.C.A. - and both are from Lochac. 'Streuth!]

3. Sven the Stormdriven (Release of Badge; SUBMITTED) [Stormhold]

Sable, a quill bendwise sinister within a bordure invected argent.

Lord Sven's badge was registered in August 1985. As he finds that he no longer uses it, he wishes to release it. He gets no opposition from us!

Consulting Herald: the releasor.

Bibliography

- | | |
|----------------------|---|
| Bassi | <i>The Old Norse Name</i> - Geirr Bassi Haraldsson [Gere Fleck] (Studia Marklandica, Markland 1977) |
| O'C&M | <i>Gaelic Personal Names</i> - O'Corrain, Donnchadh, & Fidelma Maguire (The Academy Press, Dublin 1981) |
| Reaney's DoBS | <i>A Dictionary of British Surnames</i> (2nd Ed.), P.H. Reaney (Routledge & Kegan Paul, London 1987) |

Got Any Quips?

The acting P.E. for Agaricus, Lord David of Lockerbie, has requested an announcement on his behalf: he is gathering "humorous anecdotes about the S.C.A. in Lochac". If you have any such anecdotes, could you please send them to him c/- Peter Anderson, 190 Reilly Street, Lurnea, NSW 2170.

Help With Names, Again

Further to the list of foreign language experts, Lord Timo Auliksenpoika, the acting P.E. for St. Lucia, has indicated that he is conversant with Finnish. Lord Timo can be contacted c/- Timo Nieminen, Cromwell College, Walcott Street, St. Lucia, QLD 4067.

A Call For Comments

Following our recent discussions on heraldic pageantry, I'd like to see discussion on a wider issue: that of court pageantry as a whole. What is it, exactly, that makes a court entertainment as opposed to a necessary evil? What can the heralds do to improve things? What can the Royalty do? What can the populace do? For example, should the Royalty have standard-bearers, trumpet-blowers and a retinue of several hundred, all standing behind the thrones? Or is minimalism the best approach?

Basically, what I'm after is some idea of what people want to see at our Courts. I'm not talking about the mechanics of court, *per se*, although obviously that's a related issue. I'm more interested in the atmosphere of the event, and how to enhance it.

Similarly, what about ceremonies? There is a current drive on for rewriting of the "standard" ceremonies, in particular the Peerages. If you were getting Knighted, what would you like to see happen? If you just like watching, what are the bits you enjoy? What do you hate seeing?

The floor is open. Please flood me with mail!

Well, that's it for this month. A tiny issue to offset last month's huge one . . . and I suspect that next month's will be quite large as well. Oh, well.

Yours in Service

SECTION

Thanks, as always, to Gareth and Cassandra, for production and distribution assistance

