Camel

Crux Australis Monthly Letter

November AS XXVI
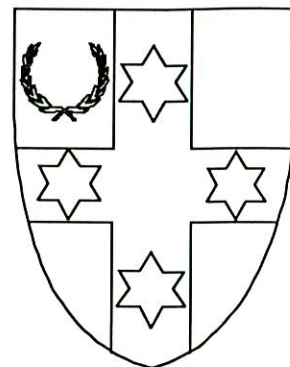
Unto the College of Heralds of the Kingdom of the West in the Principality of Lochac, and unto all others who may read this,

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

Contents

Roster Changes

Lord Giles Leabrook, in the Canton of Osthafn (River Haven), has managed to convince me that he should be rostered as a Pursuivant Extraordinary - so he is. He can be contacted c/- Braddon Giles, 102 Alison Road, Carrara, QLD 4211. Baroness Muirghein ni Ghrainne, in Aneala, has also talked me into rostering her (with help from her Baronial herald), so she is, too (Naomi Fryer, PO Box 491, Applecross, WA 6153. 'Phone (09) 370 1436).

Viscountess Rhyllian of Starfire Retreat [Ruth Lesley], Pursuivant at Large, has a new telephone number. It is (03) 509 4837. Her other contact details remain as before.

On Becoming a Pursuivant Extraordinary

I have recently received a number of requests from all over the Principality from people wanting to sit the Heralds' Exam so that they may be rostered as P.E.s. This is good; I have no objection to having more rostered heralds in Lochac.
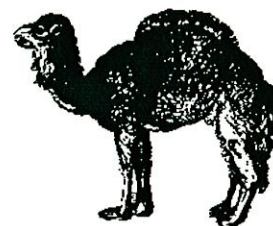
However, a number of the people asking to sit the exam seem to be under the impression that passing the exam is enough *in itself* to become a P.E., and I would like to take this opportunity to remind you all that this is *not* true. In fact, I personally consider the exam to be the least important (and most easily waived) requirement, and I don't encourage anyone to sit the exam until they have had some experience with (preferably) *all* facets of heraldry.

The summary of the requirements is as follows:

(1)   A name *and* device either registered or in active submission. I don't waive this requirement for *anybody*. A herald has to set a good example for the remainder of the populace. Anyone who is not sufficiently interested in SCA heraldry to at least do this much does not get on the Roster.

(2)   At least one of the following, and preferably more: have consulted on at least two name and device submissions; have performed field and/or court heraldry at least two events; have been a duty herald at a major event at least once; or some appropriate combination of the above.

(3)   Have a pass mark (generally about 70%) in the Heralds' Exam.

The more work done in any of the areas in number (2), the more inclined I am to be lenient on the other requirements. I have rostered people who have no absolutely interest in book heraldry, but who have shown a commitment and talent to voicework that renders it unimportant; I have also rostered people whose bookwork was so obviously excellent (and prolific) that sitting the test would be simply redundant.

So why do I apparently "belittle" the test so? Well, basically it's because it is almost completely irrelevant. The only thing it tests is a familiarity with heraldic terms. Whilst this is not unimportant, it's not really the meat and potatoes of a herald's job. Fortunately, however, this is soon to change. The West Kingdom is to be shortly completely revising the Heralds' Exam to make it more relevant. The finished product will test the knowledge of *all* the most common elements of a herald's duties - duty, field, court and bookwork, with a little bit of protocol thrown in. Someone who passes this test will have demonstrated that they know what heraldry is about, and consequently the exam will lift in importance compared to the other requirements. (Although I will always maintain that practical demonstrations of knowledge are more important than any ability to parrot the right answers.)

When does this revised wonder become available? Well, it had been one of my designated duties to provide a first draft to Vesper for consideration. Unfortunately due to a variety of reasons I am unable to fulfil that particular duty, and I have requested that I be relieved of that task. I do know that a lot of the basic groundwork has already been completed, so I don't think that a final version can be too far away.

And in the meantime, if you want to be a P.E., I'd much rather hear about (or see for myself) what you've done, than to see a completed Heralds' Exam. Since I can't be in all places, have other rostered heralds write to me and tell me about your achievements (a recommendation from a full Pursuivant goes a long way). In other words, don't be a heraldic wallflower!

News of Previous Submissions

The September *LoAR* arrived in Lochac on 1 November. The results concerning Lochac submissions are reproduced on p.8.

Laurel Precedents

The following are reproduced from the September *LoAR*. It is by examining decisions such as these that we gain a greater understanding of the *RfS* and how they are meant to work in practice.

* FALCONS AND RAVENS, PART III

Some of the commentary . . . brought up once again Laurel's decision regarding difference between birds in some cases. Having stated (and restated) my position on this issue, I will not repeat myself at length here. I will, however, quote Lady Harpy, who echoes many of my own feelings regarding this issue.

> Part of the problem with considering the distinctness of various birds is that their medieval counterparts were usually depicted in a very stylised fashion with visual "pointers" to let you know which bird it was. What percentage of period eagles were in postures other than displayed? What percentage of period owls were shown other than close guardant? We would have no problem telling a raven from a ~~writing desk~~ falcon if the former were consistently shown with his hairy feathers and the latter wore her jesses and bells. But when we hybridise the conventions and attributes things get a lot less clear, to say nothing of unnatural naturalistic emblazons. I could tell you stories of creatures blazoned as "falcons" that had broad, rounded wings and short stubby tails - and other such monstrosities. Where is the line between judging difference by what charges <u>ought</u> to look like and taking into account how the submitter obviously plans to depict them? I digress . . . . Yes, eagles and owls were distinct charges in period but part of what made that distinction possible was probably a lack of significant overlap in the ways in which they were portrayed.

[Lord Laurel then goes on to say that he does not believe it is in the interest of the College of Arms to return submissions <u>solely</u> because of poor (i.e. non-medieval, non-heraldic) artwork. He does make it plain, however, that if a charge doesn't <u>look</u> like a medieval charge, then claiming a difference against a different (but similar-appearing) charge will not wash. For example, if you have drawn a raven that looks like a falcon, Laurel will humour you and call it a raven, but it can be conflicted against falcons. On the other hand, if you draw the raven properly, then you should not have to worry about other similar-appearing but heraldically distinct creatures.]

* Rudders are a Period charge.

* The consensus of the commentary was that X.2 applies between ferrets and hedgehogs.

* The bend invected on one edge and engrailed on the other is not very good style, though it is probably within the parameters of acceptability for the SCA.

* There is a CVD (just) for the difference in type of primary charge *[a Greek lyre to a harp]*.

* While the English term "iceberg" is clearly post-Period, given the large number of cognates in so many northern European languages we feel the name is probably acceptable.

* The majority of the commenters favoured changing the blazon of these charges from delfs pierced two and two to square weaver's tablets. This then is the defining example of square weaver's tablets (with four holes, one in each corner). There are examples of weaver's tablets in other shapes and with other numbers of holes. If used, these other forms must be specifically blazoned.

* There are two problems with this device. One is that the combination of a dovetailed line on a gyronny field is pretty clearly post-Period style. Even though the SCA has long allowed the use of dovetailed as compatible with our style, and has allowed the use of saltires gyronny, the combination seems obtrusively modern. The second problem is . . . the purpure portions of the saltire, with its complex line of division, fade so badly into the sable field that the identification of the primary charge is lost.

* Because of the arrangement of the primaries *["in cross, bases to centre"]*, we cannot apply X.2 to grant sufficient difference between this arrangement of four fleurs-de-lys and the cross flory.

* A number of commenters appear to believe that if two names are derived from different roots, then they do not conflict no matter how much alike they may sound when pronounced. If I may quote Lord Batonvert: "It has absolutely nothing to do with any linguistic connections between the names; if they sound too similar, they conflict, and their etymology is irrelevant."

* Conflict with Blackmoor, name of the second supplement published by TSR games to the original Dungeons & Dragons. The Administrative Handbook Protected Items F notes that locations which play a significant role in the action of the modern literary work (of any genre) in which they appear will be protected. As a consequence, in spite of the five English Blackmoors, we are having to return this for conflict with the TSR entity.

* The grandfather clause cannot apply in cases where the submitted arms have a conflict to which the original device would not be subject. Since his father's arms do not conflict . . . , but only his own, the grandfather clause cannot be applied here.

* The sash is not a recognised heraldic charge. Additionally, the submitter's form indicates that the precise form of sash is to be a "karate belt with the white stripes". We need evidence that this belt has not only been earned by the submitter, but that it is a Period charge.

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 Heralds."

For those interested, subscriptions to the West Kingdom College of Heralds Minutes are available for US$15. Send a foreign draft to **West Kingdom College of Heralds, PO Box 1735, West Sacramento, CA 95691, U.S.A.**, made payable to "S.C.A. College of Heralds." 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

d'Eau Pursuivant; Lord Pedair na Cluaine Bige, P.E. for Dubh-Thrian; and Lord Gilchrist Morgan, 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.7).

1. Adair MacDermid (New Name and Device; Name SUBMITTED, Device RETURNED) [Adesse Draco]

Vert, two dragons, wings elevated and addorsed, grasping each other's tail in their mouths, argent and Or.

The name is Scottish. According to documentation supplied by the submitter, *Adair* is a Scottish surname used occasionally as a Christian name, supposedly derived from the English *Edgar* (Dunkling, p.9). We would have liked better evidence that the name was used in period; however, none of the Crux sources could offer anything more informative. *Mac* is the standard Scots Gaelic patronymic. *Dermid* seems a reasonable variation on the Irish *Diarmait* (O'C&M, pp.73-74); "we can attach no definite meaning to this old name which is one of the twenty or so most popular names in Ireland". (The Irish and Scots languages and naming practices are, of course, very nearly interchangeable.) *(One of these days I really must get myself a copy of Black's "Surnames of Scotland".)*
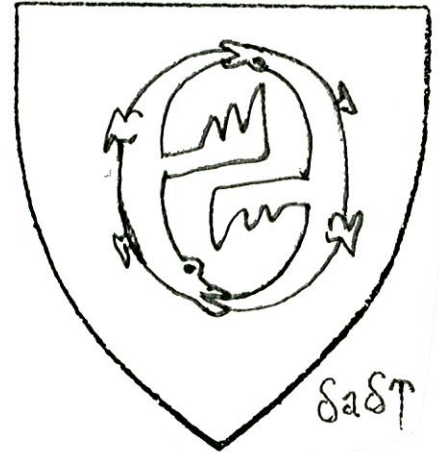
The device gave us some problems - mainly, trying to figure out what it was. Most of those present had a hard time believing that the charges were dragons - various suggestions heard were "wyverns", "lizards" and "swans". Other questions included "are those meant to be bird wings?" and "is that a funny Celtic brooch?" With such universal uncertainty I felt that the submitter's interests would best be served by requesting that the device be re-emblazoned so that the "dragons" look more like heraldic dragons and less like a Celtic scrawl. On the positive side, we found no conflicts.

Consulting Herald: the submitter.

2. Dougal Dragon Seeker (New Name and Device; both SUBMITTED) [River Haven]

Quarterly Or and vert, a dragon volant bendwise sinister, wings displayed, tail coward, sable. (with handwritten "Contourny" above "bendwise")

<*Deep Sigh.*> The submitter claims that the name is "Scottish", but actually it's perfectly straight-forward English. *Dougal* can be found in Withycombe, p.88, from the Irish *dubhgall* meaning "dark stranger", originally applied to the Norwegians. *Dragon Seeker* is TSCA English, referring, presumably, to one who seeks dragons.
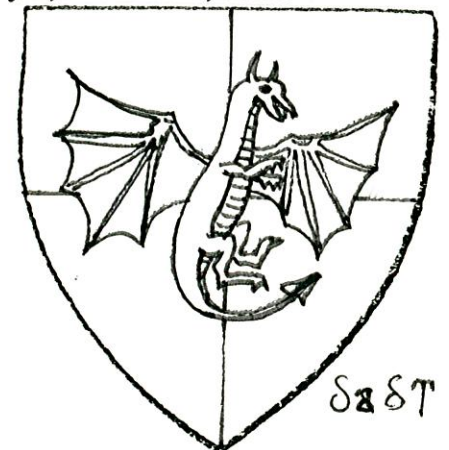
I'd just like to take a moment to discuss this name. It's awful. It's *dumb*. Real people in medieval life did not have names like this. Only pulp fantasy heroes do. Unfortunately, TSCA ("typical SCA", short-hand for "it's not medieval but there's the tiniest flimsiest chance that it could have been") names like this are still permitted, and are still being submitted (and registered) all over the Known World. So I can't return this name, much as I would like to. Consulting heralds, please note: if a submitter comes to you with a name like this, please remind them that the S.C.A. is about *historical medieval recreation*, and that if they're looking for a Sci-Fi convention, they've come to the wrong place. Then encourage them to consider *plausible* medieval names - *real* occupational epithets, patronymics or locatives.

The device appears surprisingly free of conflict. Although submitted as *segreant*, none of the rear legs are actually touching the (implied) earth, so *volant* seems more accurate. *Tail coward* refers to the position of the tail lying between the beast's rear legs.

Consulting Herald: none listed (and just as well, too!)

3.   **Isabella di Montefeltro   (New Device; SUBMITTED)**   [St. Monica]

Azure, a compass star and on a chief Or, three crescents sable.

The name was submitted to Vesper last month. This is simply lovely, and even appears free of conflict. For example, it is clear of Paul of Sunriver: *Azure a compass star Or* (Jan 1973) with separate CVDs for adding the chief and the charges *on* the chief (*RfS* **X.4.b** & **X.4.i**).

Consulting Herald: Selwyn Searobyrig.
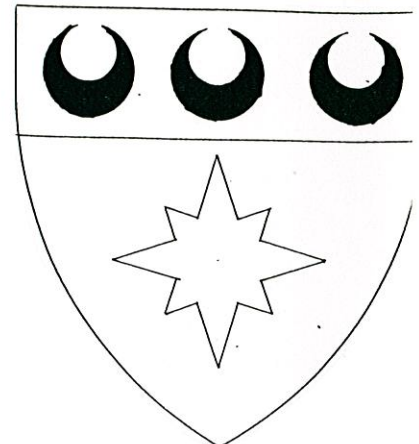
4.   **Kattrin die Wissbegierige Reisende von Tübingen
       (Device Resubmission to Kingdom; SUBMITTED)**   [Dubh-Thrian]

Azure, a lion sejant erect affronty, double-queued argent, between two cressets Or, enflamed proper.

Lady Kattrin's name was registered in June 1990. Her previous device submission, *Azure, a lion sejant erect affronty double-queued argent, maintaining in each paw a torch Or, flamant proper*, was returned by Vesper in March 1990 because the torches were deemed to be maintained charges and therefore heraldically insignificant (as per *RfS* **X.4.j**), so the device was in conflict with Hertigan, *Azure, a lion rampant argent brandishing a sword in each of the forepaws, proper* with only one CVD for changing the position of the beast. By taking the torches out of the beast's paws they become worth the other CVD needed. No other conflicts were found.

[The distinction between "double-queued" (two tails) and "queue-forchy" (split tailed) appears to be solely a modern one; Fox-Davies (p.138) states that in "ancient times" (i.e., our period) the terms were interchangeable. A cresset is a holder for lamp oil, as opposed to a simple torch; however, there would be no heraldic difference between them (PicDic, p.109).]

Consulting Herald: Pedair na Cluaine Bige.

5.   **Raoul de Chenonceaux   (New Name and Device; both SUBMITTED)**   [Rowany]

Or, on a chevron azure, three fleurs-de-lys Or, in base a pegasus rising, all within a bordure gules.

The name is French. *Raoul* can be found in Dauzat, p.509, and Withycombe, p.250, where both say essentially the same thing: it's the French form of the Norman *Radulf*, which in turn came from the Old Norse *Raðulfr*, "wolf counsel" (presumably meaning someone who was very cunning). In English it became *Ralph*. *Chenonceaux* is an ancient French city, according to the documentation supplied by the submitter (p.51, *The Insights Guide to Continental Europe* (3rd Ed.), APA Publications 1989); it states

> Chenonceaux was famous for its festivities. One of the first was the triumphal celebration of March 1, 1560 for Francois II and his young wife Mary Stuart.

The form *de Chenonceaux* is simply French for "of Chenonceaux".

The device appears free of conflicts, and is rather pleasant, although it could probably have gotten by without the bordure.

Consulting Herald: Rowan Perigrynne.
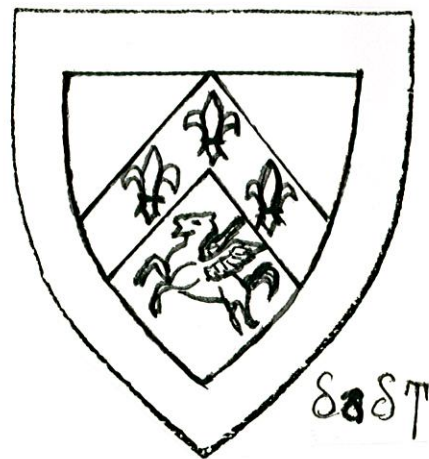
Bibliography

Dauzat	*Dictionnaire Étymologique des Noms de Famille et des Prénoms de France*, Albert Dauzat (Larousse, Paris 1989)
Dunkling	*Scottish Christian Names*, Leslie Alan Dunkling (Johnston & Bacon, London 1978)
Fox-Davies	*A Complete Guide to Heraldry* (Revised ed.), A.C. Fox-Davies (Orbis Publishing, London 1985)
O'C&M	*Gaelic Personal Names*, Donnchadh O'Corrain & Fidelma Maguire (The Academy Press, Dublin 1981)
PicDic	*A Pictorial Dictionary of Heraldry as Used in the Society for Creative Anachronism*, Bruce Draconarius of Mistholme & Akagawa Yoshio (Privately published, 1988)
Withycombe	*The Oxford Dictionary of English Christian Names* (3rd ed), E.G. Withycombe (OUP, Oxford 1977)

Trivia

The arms of the See of Aberdeen, found recently during a Hund meeting conflict search:

> *Azure, a temple argent, St. Michael standing in the porch vested and mitred proper, his dexter hand elevated to heaven praying over three children in a boiling cauldron of the first, in his sinister hand a crosier Or.* (Papworth, p.350.)
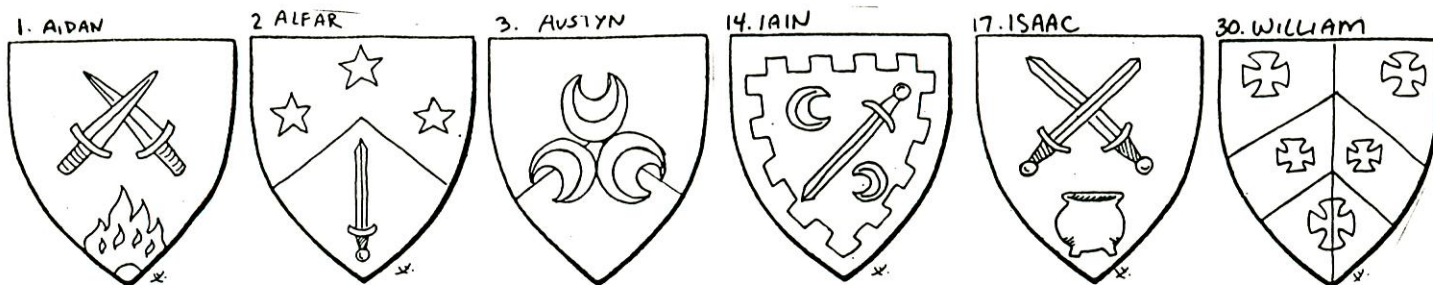
Hmm.

Until next month, I remain yours in Service,

Lord Decion ap Dyfrwr Trefriw
Crux Australis Herald

These devices were recently REGISTERED by Lord Laurel (see p.8):

1. AIDAN   2 ALFAR   3. AUSTYN   14. IAIN   17. ISAAC   30. WILLIAM

The following submissions were REGISTERED by Lord Laurel at his meeting of 21 September AS XXVI (1991):

Aidan of Sicily. Name and device. Vert, two daggers in saltire Or, a base of flame proper.

Alfar of Attica. Name and device. Per chevron sable and gules, three mullets one and two Or, and a sword proper.

Austyn of Forrestgate. Name and device. Per chevron sable and gules, three crescents conjoined in pall inverted, horns outward Or.
> Versus Maurya Etain Sableswan, (Fieldless) Three crescents conjoined in pall horns outward Or, there is one CVD for fieldlessness and a second for what amounts to in pall inverted versus in pall.

Daniel the Willing. Name.

Hadassah bat Yisrael. Name correction from Hassadah bat Yisrael.
> This was already corrected in the LoAR of June 1991.

Iain James MacLaren. Name and device. Azure, a sword inverted bendwise sinister between a decrescent and an increscent all within a bordure embattled argent.

Isaac of Damascus. Name and device. Purpure, two swords in saltire argent, in base a cauldron Or.

Martin Chaucer. Name.

Riccardo della Torre d'Avorio. Name.

Susanna of Nottingham. Name.

William of Wakefield. Name and device. Per pale Or and gules, on a chevron between three crosses formy, two crosses formy palewise, all counterchanged.

The following submission was RETURNED by Lord Laurel at his meeting of 21 September AS XXVI (1991):

Eric Alard. Device. Azure, on a bend argent, between a mullet of four points pierced Or, and three rustres argent, a sword azure.
> Conflict with U.S. 405th Infantry Regiment (Military Ordinary, No. 231), Azure, a bend argent voided. There is a CVD for the addition of the secondaries but nothing for the change to type only of the tertiaries. Revised X.4.j.2(b) only applies with identical secondaries.