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Crux Australis Monthly Letter

September AS XXVII



19 September AS XXVII (1992)

30 September AS XXVII (1992)

Transactions Considered: 6 Names, 14 Devices

Forwarded to Vesper:

6 Names, 11 Devices

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!

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The New Crux Australis Herald

Well, I wasn't exactly swamped with offers . . . somehow, I wasn't surprised by this. Nevertheless, a successor has been found: Master Peter the Uncertain, currently Pursuivant-at-Large in the Barony of River Haven, has graciously offered to put his neek on the block assume the duties of the office and make me a free man. Master Peter's address is c/- Peter Volk, 108 Home Street, Fairfield, QLD 4103. Telephone (07) 844 8765.

Master Peter will be taking the office from Twelfth Night, in Stormhold. To give him a bit of a runup to the office, Master Peter will be making the decisions on all submissions for November and December. Therefore, after October 17, please forward all submissions to him. However, all cheques, and other correspondence, are still to go to me, until the end of the year.

Lord Vesper and Master Peter have agreed to allow me to act as a deputy to Crux Australis responsible for commenting on external submissions. So I won't be disappearing altogether



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The Kingdom of Lochac

As those who were present at the September Investiture of Aylwin and Ingerith will already know, Their Highnesses have requested that the populace actively turn their minds to the question of Lochac as Kingdom. As part of this overall process, I would like the readers of the *Camel* to consider the issues involved in creating a Lochac College of Heralds. Below I'm going to list some of the possibilities inherent in this. I'm not suggesting that any of the following are desirable or preferable to the current set-up; I'm just going to give them as examples for debate. If anyone else can think of other possibilities, I would be interested in printing them for general consumption.

* The Submissions Process. The current West Kingdom method of making submissions to Laurel requires that every month a meeting is held at Kingdom level, and every submission passing this meeting is then forwarded to Laurel on a *Letter of Intent* (LoI). There is nothing inherently wrong with this method, and if we continue to do this as the Kingdom of Lochac, we will shave at least a month off of the current waiting period between the time the submission is made and the time it's considered at Laurel.

However, not *all* kingdoms use this method. Some others generate what is usually called an *Internal LoI*. This letter is distributed to as many heralds within the kingdom as possible and they are all asked to do research and make comments on the submissions. The Principal Herald then distils these comments to decide which of the submissions make it on to the LoI proper. In essence, the "local" meeting is expanded to cover all of the kingdom.

The advantages of such a system is clear: all of the heralds in the kingdom (or a substantial number of them, anyway) become involved in the submission process, not just the few who can make it to the main meeting. Everybody gets a chance to practice their research; education is improved and hopefully a higher standard of submissions overall results.

The *disadvantages* are that it will require a high level of commitment from all the heralds involved; comments *must* be input every month on time for the Principal Herald to be able to make a balanced decision. It also re-introduces a delay into the submission process.

What do people think is best for Lochac? Can anyone think of an alternative method that would suit us better still? Are there any other pitfalls or highlights of either method that I haven't noted here?

* Ceremonies and Precedence. Obviously most ceremonies will need trivial changes to reflect the change to Kingdom status. However, we will also have the opportunity to make some sweeping changes, if we so choose. For example:

The Principality Awards currently carry no precedence, i.e., they are not armigerous. Which should carry an Award of Arms? Should any carry a higher award? Court Baronies in the West are quite low on the OP; in some other Kingdoms they carry a Grant of Arms. Where should Lochac place them? Are there any awards that are crying out to be created?

Western tradition says that the Knights, alone of the Peers, swear fealty only to the King, not the King and Queen. Is this a desirable tradition to keep? Are our Oaths wellworded, in general, or is a more appropriate medieval form available? (The current Western oaths owe a bit more to *The Lord of the Rings* than they do to history.)

- * The Significance of Registering a Device. Some kingdoms don't permit fighters to enter the Crown Lists unless they and their consorts have names and devices registered with the CoA. Is this a good requirement? Should we enforce registration for other honours, e.g., admittance into the Peerage? Do we tend to *under-* or *over* state the importance of registered devices?
- * The Structure of the College. Would a Lochac CoH be better served by a small or large number of Deputies to the Principal Herald? Should Baronial (or Shire) heralds be given greater or fewer responsibilities? Do we need Herald Extraordinary positions, i.e. titles for "at

large" heralds who "deserve" more than just "Pursuivant"? Are our requirements for promotion set too low or too high?

Heraldry And Memberships

The following is reproduced from the AS XXVII Third Quarterly Board Meeting, July 26, 1992 (held in Germany).

V. OLD BUSINESS

C. Privileges of Membership

e. Registering names and armory. George advised that the survey showed a very substantial body of opinion in favor of requiring membership for registering names and armory, though not for maintaining registrations. There is also some opposition to the idea, mainly from inside the heraldic community. The Board agreed that requiring membership to maintain registration would place an undue burden on the College of Arms; any prerequisites should be applied at the time of registration but not thereafter.

The Board agreed by consensus that it is undesirable for Society members' access to heraldic services to be impeded by non-members. However, they agreed that the College of Arms should develop and propose a system to ensure adequate protection to members, rather than having a solution imposed upon them.

The Board directed the Laurel King of Arms to work with the College of Arms to develop a system that would protect members against (1) excessive delays in registering armory and names due to non-member registrations in the queue, and (2) preemption by non-members of armory or names desired by members. If the College proposes a plan to achieve the desired level of protection, without requiring membership, the Board will consider it. The Board requested a preliminary report by the October meeting. They would like to see a final plan by the January meeting, but indicated that they understood College of Arms communications time might extend the process to next April.

In the course of the discussion, it was pointed out that many people regard the College of Arms as essentially independent of the SCA, in large part because it's day-to-day operations are funded by direct fees rather than by the corporation. The Board agreed by consensus that this is a serious misinterpretation. They regard the College of Arms as integral to the SCA, partly because the names and devices registered with the College are valid only within the SCA, and partly because heralds are officers of the SCA at all levels. They felt that it would be appropriate for the Laurel Office to receive support for general expenses as other offices do, and also noted that major expenses such as the transfer of the files from one incumbent to the next have always been paid out of corporate funds.

I'm not going to use this space to debate the merits or otherwise of this proposal. I do, personally, believe that it is a mistake, and can only add work to the heraldic offices, and not benefit anybody. (The real problem is that the decision is based on the assumption that non-member submissions slow the process down. As all submissions are treated equally at all levels, I'm quite at a loss to explain where such a misconception could have arised from.) But that's beside the point; the real problem here is that this "mandate" is based on a response from less than 1% of the active SCA membership. There may have been a "substantial body of opinion in favor" but the fact remains that only 300 or so responses were received. Out of a membership of 30 000 or so, that's pretty small fish.

What I am asking is that everyone who is reading this make *their* opinions known to the Board. Don't write to me; don't complain to your friends. *Write to the Board*. Even if you think this is a good idea, you need to make your opinions known. If the Board is going to make decisions such as these, it should be based on a *real* response from the membership.

Subscriptions, Publications, etc.

The Camel is available from the Crux Australis Herald at an annual rate of \$20. Make cheques and money orders 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, direct from Laurel's office, for US\$25 per annum. Send a foreign draft to SCA College of Arms, PO Box 1329, Manhattan Beach, CA 90266-8329, U.S.A., made payable to "S.C.A. College of Arms". 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 Heralds' Handbook, the S.C.A. Ordinary and Armorial (plus Updates to same), the Pictorial Dictionary of Heraldry as used in the S.C.A, and the Combined Ordinary. Master Thorfinn advises that current prices are as follows: A&O, \$60; WKHH, \$30; and CO, \$35. There is a \$5 discount for every book ordered after the first. Contact Steve Roylance, 1592 Malvern Road, Glen Iris, VIC 3146. 'Phone (03) 885 6348.

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 1/273 Warrigal Road, Burwood (VIC), on Saturday afternoons, beginning at 2.00pm and continuing until we're done. The next meeting (my last) will be October 17. After that, Master Peter is holding his first two meetings on 14 November and 12 December.

The Hund meetings are held weekly, to comment on submissions from around the Known Worlde. These meetings are almost invariably held Monday nights beginning at 8.00pm at the home of the Crux Australis Herald (address above). Regular commentary is also taking place in Ynys Fawr [Hobart, TAS]. Contact the local herald for details.

This Month's Submissions

The September meeting of the College of Heralds in the Kingdom of the West in the Principality of Lochac was held on the afternoon of 19 September at the home of the Crux Australis Herald. Present were: Lord Decion ap Dyfrwr Trefriw, Crux Australis Herald; Master Thorfinn Hrolfsson, Hund Herald; Lord Tristram du Bois, acting Mortar Pursuivant; Lord Pedair na Cluaine Bige, acting Goutte d'Eau Pursuivant; Lord Thomas Flamanc of Kelsale, P.E. for St. Monica; Claas Jongkryger de Leeuw, acting P.E. for Vallis Vespatis Vesperis; and Lord Hrólfr Hreggviðarson, Cornet.

The following conventions are used: *CD* means a "Clear Difference", as defined in the *Rules for Submissions*, or *RfS*; books cited without further details are in the Bibliography (see p.9).

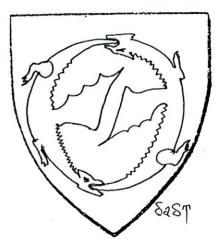
1. Adair Mac Dermid (Device Resubmission to Principality; SUBMITTED)

[Politarchopolis]

Vert, two dragons in annulo, wings elevated and addorsed, grasping each other's tails in their mouths, that on the dexter Or and the other argent.

This gentle's name was registered in July 1992. He originally submitted this device in November 1991; I returned it then because although the blazon was the same, the emblazon on the original was not identifiable. This redrawing seems clear enough. There appear to be no other problems.

Consulting Herald: None listed.



Gyronny Or and vert, a winged stag trippant sable.

The name is meant to be Scots Gaelic. Cailean can be found on p.71 of Withycombe, under Colin. It's derived from the term for "slender youth". We believe that an Gruag Dubh means "the black-haired". The submitter requests that the grammar be corrected as required.

The device is very elegant. The emblazon would have been better if the wings and antlers were more clearly separated, but we believe this to be acceptable nevertheless.

Consulting Herald: Pedair na Cluaine Bige.

3. Caslin an Kernow (Device Resubmission to Principality; RETURNED)

[River Haven]

Argent, a sword palewise gules, hilt sable, between two leeks proper, a bordure sable bezanty.

This gentle's name was returned by Vesper in June 1992. Unfortunately, no name resubmission accompanied this device resubmission, so we can't process it further. However, we would have had to return this anyway.

The original device, without the bordure, was returned by Crux Australis in May 1992 for conflict. The addition of the bordure seems to take it well clear of any other conflicts, but there's a new problem: that of presumption. *Kernow* is an ancient Cornish word for "Cornwall". The arms of the County of Cornwall are *Sable bezanty* and the use of a bordure of this design is frequently associated with the royalty of Cornwall - e.g., RICHARD PLANTAGENET, Earl of Cornwall, bore *Argent a lion rampant gules*

crowned Or within a bordure sable bezanty (Papworth, p.117). The combination of name and device is an excessive claim to rank not earned within the Society (RfS XI.2).

The only alternate permitted was the addition or subtraction of bezants. Adding more to a seme is meaningless; while we could drop the number to four, say, the allusion would still be strong. This direction does permit removing the bezants altogether, but that radical a change really requires an explicit directive from the submitter.

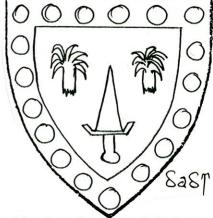
Consulting Herald: Eric of Stormwind.

4. Crisiant Dreigben (New Device; SUBMITTED)

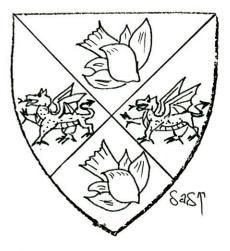
Per saltire vert and sable, in pale two daffodils bendwise Or and in fess two dragons passant argent.

Lady Crisiant's name was registered in December 1991. This new device seems clear of conflict. There is a small problem with the depiction of the daffodils; in the bendwise position, without any slipping, they're a little hard to identify. Some people at the meeting thought that they were birds. However, the consensus of the meeting was that it wasn't a cause for return.

Consulting Herald: The submitter.



[Aneala]



[Note: the "vert" used to colour in this device was actually "aqua", or a dark "duck egg green". This shade is very easy to mistake for "azure", and should be avoided! Make sure to always use strong, bright versions of the heraldic tinctures.]

5. Elena of Lincoln (New Name and Device; both SUBMITTED)

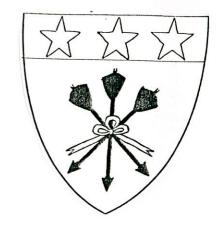
[Stormhold]

Argent, a sheaf of arrows sable, on a chief azure three mullets Or.

The name is English. *Elena* is found in Withycombe, p.148 (under Helen), found in England "soon after the Conquest". *Lincoln* is of course an ancient town in Britain, dating to at least the 2nd Century.

The device is lovely and appears free of problems. The fact that the arrows are tied "with a love-knot azure" can safely be left as a note to the scribes, I feel.

Consulting Herald: Pedair na Cluaine Bige.



[River Haven]

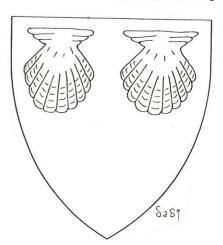
6. Leonia Dubarry (Resubmission of Device to Principality; SUBMITTED)

Gules, in chief two escallops argent.

Lady Leonia's name was submitted to Vesper in July 1992. Her original device submission was returned by Crux Australis at that time for multiple conflicts.

This is her second choice. Her first, Gules in chief three escallops Or conflicts with AKERS: Gules three escallops Or (Papworth, p.681). There's only 1 CD for changing the position of the charges. The second choice is just clear of several designs in Papworth; in every case, the second CD is gained for changing the default position of the charges, from in the centre of the shield to in chief.

Consulting Herald: None listed.



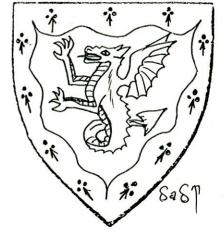
[Aneala]

7. Liduina de Kasteelen van Valkenburg (Device Resubmission to Kingdom; SUBMITTED)

Vert, a wyvern erect argent within a bordure wavy erminois.

Lady Liduina's name was registered in December 1991. Her previous device submission was returned by Vesper in August 1991 for marshalling; this is a complete redesign.

It's very close to Warinycham: Vert a wivern dragon passant volant argent swallowing a child proper (Papworth, p.984). There is 1 CD for adding the bordure. There is almost certainly a second for the change in position from passant to erect; consider the appeal of Gareth Deufreuddwyd ap Rhys, whose device (Or, a wyvern erect gules within a bordure per bend sinister sable and gules) was registered in January 1991. The argument was made that the default position of a wyvern is passant and therefore there is a CD from erect. Although Laurel didn't make any



explicit comments, we can only assume that he found the argument reasonable (otherwise he wouldn't have registered it).

Consulting Herald: Craig Eideard MacGhille Aindrais.

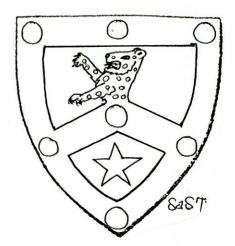
8. Pierre Edouard Poitevin (New Name and Device; both SUBMITTED)

[Aneala]

Argent a demi-catamount sable platy, issuant from a chevron sable charged with a plate, in base a mullet sable, a bordure sable platy.

The name is French. *Pierre* can be found in Dauzat, pp.482-3; it's of course the French form of the Biblical *Peter*; *Edouard* is found in *ibid.*, p.232; and *Poitevin* on p.491, meaning "a man from Poitou".

The device is drawn very strangely. Although intended to be a panther, the demi-beast is lacking any of the incensing (flames) that distinguishes the heraldic panther from the generic catamount; hence we have reblazoned it as above. The fact that the chevron is charged with a single plate, but the beast and the bordure are platy, is definitely a Weirdness. The submitter is strongly encouraged to draw many more plates on the bordure. Still, one Weirdness is legal, and there appear to be no other problems.



Consulting Herald: Peter du Gant Noir.

9. Reignald Seymour of York (New Name and Device; both SUBMITTED)

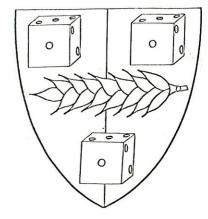
[Stormhold]

Per pale gules and azure, an ear of wheat fesswise Or between three dice argent.

The name is English. *Reignald* is found in Withycombe, p.252-3, under *Reynold*; it's dated to 1444. *Seymour* is a surname found in Foster, p.177, dated to the 14th Century. *York* is of course an ancient city in the north of England.

The device seems free of problems.

Consulting Herald: Pedair na Cluaine Bige.



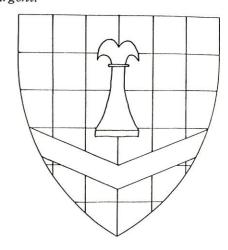
[Adesse Draco]

10. Riccardo della Torre d'Avorio (New Device; SUBMITTED)

Chequey sable and Or, a chevron inverted and in chief a chess-rook argent.

This gentle's name was registered in September 1991. The device seems free of conflict, but it could be drawn better: the chevron needs an acuter angle, with the arms issuant from closer to the top of the shield, and the rook could be just a little smaller correspondingly.

Consulting Herald: The submitter.



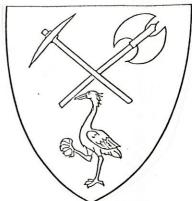
11. Roland Ironbeard (Change of Registered Device; SUBMITTED)

[Stormhold]

Vert, in pale a pickaxe and a double-bitted axe in saltire and a crane in its vigilance Or.

Lord Roland's name was registered in August 1989. His current device, identical to this but with the tinctures reversed, was registered then also. He has decided that he prefers it the other way around. The old device will be released if this is passed.

Consulting Herald: None listed.



12. Siân Llwydwyn (New Name and Device; Name SUBMITTED, Device RETURNED)

[Stormhold]

Sable, a dragon displayed and on a chief argent three garden rosebuds sable.

The name is Welsh. H&H First Names, p.301, cites Sian as a Welsh form of Jane. It doesn't date it, but Withycombe, p.172, cites an instance of Jane from the 15th Century, so it's not too much of a stretch to assume that the Welsh form is also Period. Llwydwyn is a Welsh surname found in M&M p.152.

The device appears free of conflict, but there's a few problems with the style of drawing; enough so that we felt is was better to have it redrawn than submit it as is. The upper limbs of the dragon really ought to be above the wings where they can be seen; the tail should lie between the legs, and most importantly the garden roses need to be drawn in profile so that they can be recognised, not in trian aspect as they are now. (And replacing them with real *heraldic* roses would be a significant improvement.)



Consulting Herald: Llewellyn Judde of the Marches.

13. Saint Gildas the Wise, College of (Name Resubmission to Principality, New Device; both SUBMITTED)

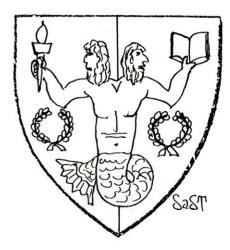
[St. Gildas/Ynys Fawr]

Per pale gules and vert, a two-headed merman, heads addorsed, argent, bearing in the dexter hand a torch and in the sinister hand an open book, between two laurel wreaths Or.

This name was returned by Crux Australis last month for lack of sufficient copies of the documentation and no petition from the populace. These lacks have now been rectified. Saint Gildas "the wise" was a famous 6th Century Welsh scholar.

The new device seems clear of conflict. An appropriate petition has been provided for this also.

Consulting Herald: Gunnar Njalsson.



Argent, a frog statant erect affronty vert, holding in its mouth a dagger fesswise reversed sable.

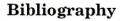
William's name was submitted to Laurel in May 1992. This new device has a couple of conflicts: Gules a frog palewise proper, belonging to FROSCHAMMER of Bavaria (Woodward, p.279), and Argent three frogs vert, belonging to DE LA RUELLE of Belgium (ibid.). Against the first there is only one CD for change of field (we may assume that a frog proper is vert); against the second there is only one CD for change of number. The default position for frogs is tergiant palewise, which has negligible visible difference from the position provided here.

The first alternate changes the position of the front legs to "hands held above the head". That makes it even closer to the default position and not worth any difference anyway. The second

alternate, changing the field to Or, is still in conflict with FROSCHAMMER, for the same reason.

There are a couple of simple changes that can be made that should clear this. And the submitter may be told that yes, we got the joke, but it's really only a "funny-once" gag.

Consulting Herald: Llewellyn Judde of the Marches.



Dauzat Dictionnaire Étymologique des Noms de Famille et des Prénoms de France, Albert Dauzat

(Larousse, Paris 1989)

Foster The Dictionary of Heraldry, Joseph Foster (Bracken Books, London 1989)

H&H First Names A Dictionary of First Names, Patrick Hanks & Flavia Hodges (OUP, Oxford 1991)

M&M Welsh Surnames, T.J. Morgan & Prys Morgan (University of Wales Press, Cardiff 1985)

Papworth Papworth's Ordinary of British Armorials, Papworth (Five Barrows, Bath 1977)

Withycombe The Oxford Dictionary of English Christian Names (3rd ed), E.G. Withycombe (OUP, Oxford 1977)

Woodward A Treatise on Heraldry British and Foreign, John Woodward & George Burnett (Tuttle, Rutland

1971)

An Advertisement

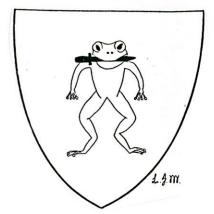
Only tangentially related to heraldry, but hey, I write this thing, I can put whatever I want in it:

Attention all of Welsh persona (and other interested gentles): I have the opportunity to distribute throughout Lochac two important documents:

(1) A Guide to the Authorised Welsh Alternate Titles and How To Use Them. This small pamphlet not only lists what the Welsh equivalents of "Lord", "Baroness", "Knight", etc. are (as approved recently by Laurel King of Arms), but also their correct grammatical usage. Compiled by Brehyres Keridwen ferch Morgan Glasfryn, Pendefig Llawr a Phelican (that's "Baroness Keridwen ferch Morgan Glasfryn, Peer of the Laurel and Pelican" to the Welsh-impaired). Normal price: US\$4.00 (A5 pamphlet, 18 pages.)

(2) Y Camamseriad, Issue 1. Edited by Pendefiges Keridwen ferch Morgan Glasfryn. This is the first of what will hopefully be many journals devoted to Welsh Medieval Research. This issue has articles on the Welsh language, poetry (Period and new), name formation, cookery, book reviews and some original fiction. Normal price: US\$15.00 (A4, 164 pages.) (The title

translates as "The Anachronism".)



These two documents can be ordered direct from the publisher, Harpy Music, at 5838 Fremont Street, Oakland, CA 94608, U.S.A. The prices quoted above include shipping. However, it may be possible to arrange a cheaper price through local distribution. So if you are interested in either or both of these journals, please contact me. Don't Send Any Money! At this point I am only interested in judging levels of interest. If there is sufficient demand, further advertisements with full details will appear.

Miscellany - A Herald's Oath of Service

(Reproduced from the InterNet SCA Heralds' List.)

This is taken from Dillon, "On a MS Collection of Ordinances of Chivalry in the Fifteenth Century, Belonging to Lord Hastings", *Archaeologia*, LVII (1900), 70, as quoted in *Chaucer's World*, pp.137-9, C. Olson & M. Crow, ed., Columbia, 1948.

First, ye shall swear that ye shall be true to our high and excellent prince, our sovereign lord that here is, and to him that makes you herald. And if ye have any knowledge or hear any imagination or treason, which God defind that ye should, but in case that ye do, ye shall discover it to his high grace or to his noble council; and counsel [i.e. hide] it in no manner wise, so help you God and the saints.

Also ye shall promise and swear that ye shall be connsamit and serviceable to all gentlemen to do their commandments to their worship of knighthood; and to excuse their worship by your good counsel that God sends you, and ever ready to offer your service to them.

Also ye shall promise and swear to be secret and keep the secrets of knights, squires, ladies and gentlewomen; a confessor or arms; and not discover them in any wise except treason abovesaid.

Also ye shall promise and swear if any fortune befall you in divers lands and countries where ye go or ride, if ye find any gentleman of name and of arms that hath lost his goods in worship of knighthood or in service of his lord and hath fallen into poverty, and if he ask of your goods for his sustenance, ye shall give him of your goods to your power and as ye may bear.

Also ye shall promise and swear if ye be in any place where ye hear debate or peril between gentleman and gentleman which ye be privy to, if so be that ye be required by prince, judge, or any other to bear witness, ye shall not without license of both parties, and when ye have leave, ye shall not for any lust or any good favor or awe, but say the sooth to your knowledge.

Also ye shall promise and swear to be true and secret to gentlewomen, widows, and maidens. And in case that any man would do them wrong, or forse them, or disinherit them for their livilihood, and they have no good friends to sue for their rights to the princes or judges, if they require of you your support, ye shall support them with your good counsel to princes and judges abovesaid.

Also ye shall promise and swear that ye shall forsake all places of dishonesty and hazard and dishonestly going to common taverns and places of debates and all manner of vices, and take to virtues as much as you are able. This article and all other articles abovesaid ye shall truly keep, so help you God and the saints.

That's all for this month. Until next time, I remain as always

Yours in Service

Lord Decion ap Dyfrwr Trefriw Crux Australis Herald

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