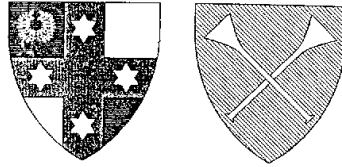


CAMEL, July A.S. XXV (1990)

Meeting date: 15th July

Mailing date: 27th July



## Crux Australis Herald

Baron Master Gereint Scholar

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UNTO THE COLLEGE OF HERALDS of the Kingdom of the West in the Principality of Lochac, and unto all others who might read this missive, does Gereint Scholar, Crux Australis Herald, send greetings. This is my *Crux Australis Monthly Letter* for July A.S. XXV.

### This Month's Highlights

- Roster Changes. (page 1)
- Are you a member? Why not? (page 2)
- Requirements for submissions. (page 2)
- Be prepared at events! (page 3)
- This month's submissions. (pages 3-8)
- News of previous submissions. (page 8)
- Names and gender. (page 9)
- Gerein't rant of the month. (page 9-13)

### Roster Changes

In the new Shire of Draconis Fortae, Slaine MacKeelta is handing the office of herald to another gentle, who'll initially be rostered as a Cornet: Olaf Thordarson [David Eddy], 21/181 Cambridge Street, Wembley WA 6014. Telephone (09) 382-3375.

Meanwhile, closer to home — well, at least it's closer to *my* home — the College of Saint Christina the Astonishing has a new herald: Aiden of Sicily [Catch Tilly], 9 Lanark Avenue, Mitchell Park SA 5043. Telephone (08) 374-0457. She'll be rostered initially as a Cornet.

To Olaf and Aiden, a welcome to the College of Heraldry. To Slaine, my thanks for getting the new group's heraldry off the ground.

Meanwhile, the Goutty d'Eau Pursuivant has a new address, effective from 29th July: Lord Decion ap Dyfrwr Trefriw [Bruce Probst], 4 Max Court, Noble Park VIC 3174. Telephone (03) 547-0654.

### Memberships: an Important Warning

I've just obtained a current *Officers Report* from the Deputy Registrar. This report lists all the members of the SCA in Australia. If you're the local herald for an SCA group, and you're not on this list, then you're about to receive a stern letter giving you one month to either become a financial member of the SCA or nominate a successor who is.

As I've said on *many* other occasions, Article VII Section 8.1 of Lochac's Laws requires that "all local officers must be at least Family or Associate members of the SCA with immediate access to the

newsletters provided by a sustaining membership". This means that if you're the local herald for a group, you should be a member of some sort — and if there isn't anyone else in your household getting *Pegasus*, then you *must* be a Sustaining member yourself.

You really do need access to *Pegasus*, since it's assumed that anything printed therein has been received by the entire populace. However, this requirement for membership isn't just a bureaucratic nicety. Local heralds make decisions that affect their group and its members, like any other officer of the SCA. It makes sense that the power to make those decisions is only given to people who are actually members of our organization. Although I've always felt strongly about this, it becomes even more important now that the legal requirements of Incorporation will soon be upon us.

I'm willing to be flexible, and I'll probably listen sympathetically to arguments for waiting longer than one month — provided I'm contacted in advance. However, membership of the SCA is a legal requirement for office-holders — not only under Principality Law, but also under the governing document of the SCA itself, the *Corpora*, which guarantees that decisions affecting the SCA are taken by members. If you haven't paid a membership fee, you're not a member. And if you're not a member, the SCA owes you nothing — especially not the right to be an office-holder. It's as simple as that.

#### Field Heraldry

In a "Stop Press" to the April *Camel*, I spoke at length about field heraldry. In particular, I said it's the herald who calls "Lay on!", not the marshall. Well, I've heard from a few people around Lochac, who've said they've been told different. It's an important point, so I've asked Lady Vesper for her comments. I'll print them when they arrive.

#### Requirements for Submissions

When you send an heraldic submission, make sure you send the correct number of forms and the correct fee. Because there still seems to be a bit of confusion, and I'm *still* getting too few or too many copies of submission forms, a reminder.

I need *three* copies of each name submission form and *four* copies of a device or badge submission — *in colour*. In addition, you should make an extra copy for your local herald's files, which are kept in your local group. And you should always encourage submitters to keep a copy for themselves, just in case everything goes missing.

One copy of everything goes into my files, and two go to the Vesper Principal Herald. She in turn sends one on to the Laurel King of Arms' office, where it becomes the official and definitive record of what has been registered. (It's also the basis for the Laurel King of Arms' final decision. It's in your interest, and the interest of your submitters, to make those drawings as clear as possible.) When a device or badge is finally registered, I send the fourth copy to the College of Scribes, who use it to work out how your award scrolls should be drawn.

It's important to make sure you send me all those copies in colour. Otherwise there'll be a delay while I get someone (probably you) to organize the missing copies. (Well, name submissions I *can* photocopy, but it means an extra trip and more grumbling on my part.) It's very nice if you provide sufficient photocopies of the documentation as well. On the other hand, there's absolutely no point in sending more than the required number of copies. I have no use for them whatsoever, and I just throw them away.

A submission will not be formally considered unless it's accompanied by the appropriate fee. That fee is \$8 for every new "heraldic transaction", whatever it might be: new name, new device, new badge, change of registered name and so on. A name and a device submitted together count as *two* transactions, \$16. A resubmissions after a return is free of charge, as is the release of a registered item. Any new submissions *must* be accompanied by the new amount. Make cheques or money orders payable

to "SCA College of Heraldry". (The only exceptions are the official name and device submissions for SCA groups: these are paid for by the West Kingdom College of Heraldry.)

#### At Events, Be Prepared!

While I'm issuing reminders, I'll reprint a plea originally made more than a year ago, because I'm still getting complaints about it. If you're the herald-in-charge at an event, or one of the duty or field heralds, or even if you're "just" rostered At Large and are turning up, then you should be prepared to be of some use. Specifically, remember to bring pen or pencil, writing paper, a timepiece (suitably concealed) and your herald's tabard or baldric. I feel bloody stupid having to remind you *again*, but there have been a few too many cases where these essential items have been forgotten. If you're the herald for a group, then it's *your job* to make sure these items are present, and it's *your job* to make sure the event has the heraldic services it needs. If you're not going to be present at the event, then it's your job to make sure you arrange for someone else to be there to organize everything. You should also bring your *West Kingdom Heraldry Handbook* to each and every event. Sometimes you may not need it. But if you do need it, you'll need it *bad*, and it had better be there.

#### Meeting Schedule

My regular monthly meetings are held on Sunday afternoons at The Scriptorium IIA, 2A Te Anau Avenue, Prospect SA 5082, starting at 2.00pm. The next meetings are on Sundays 19th August, 16th September and 14th October. From November, the meetings will be run by my successor, Lord Decion, in Stormhold. The first is on the afternoon of Saturday 17th November.

The Hund Pursuivant, Master Thorfinn Hrolfsson [Stephen Roylance], holds weekly meetings to provide comments on submissions from other kingdoms. There's a meeting at 8.00pm every Monday night at the home of Lord Thrainn Jámgrímsson [Stefan Akerblom], "Fjordhalla", 7 Glenlea Close, Rowville VIC 3178. There's often an additional meeting on the first Tuesday of the month, at a different venue. Regular commentary is also taking place in Aneala [Perth], Innigard [Adelaide], Llyn Arian [Lake Macquarie NSW], River Haven [Brisbane] and Ynys Fawr [Hobart]. Contact the relevant local herald for details.

#### This Month's Submissions

The July meeting of the College of Heraldry of the Kingdom of the West in the Principality of Lochac was held on Sunday 15th July at The Scriptorium IIA. Present were Master Gereint Scholar, Crux Australis Herald; Mistress Aislinn de Valence, Frette Rouge Pursuivant; PE At Large Lord Robert Furness of Southwood; Cornets Lord Dubhghlas MacAilean, Lord René du Bon Bois and Baroness Selfran the Singer; Visitor James; and The Cat.

Abbreviations used in these notes: "CVD" means "clear visual difference", as defined by our heraldic *Rules for Submissions (RfS)*. Book cited only by the author's name have been listed in the *Library of the Crux Australis Herald*, which was last printed in the *Camel* for March 1990.

1. **Amus al-Musa** (new name and device; SUBMITTED) [Stormhold, HID25]

*Per chevron Or and gules, a chevron between two lions combattant and an oak tree, all counter-changed.*

The name is intended to be an Arabic transliteration of the Biblical name *Amos* and the epithet *the Razor*. (You probably know this submitter better as Lord Amos of Stormhold.) We could find plenty of mentions of *Amos* as a Biblical name, including Withycombe (p.20), although there's nothing we could find to support the spelling *Amus*. Given that the submitter will accept corrections, we'll submit the name, since it'll eventually reach the new Laurel King of Arms, Master Da'ud ibn Auda — who just happens to be the Society's expert on Arabic names. The epithet *al-Musa*, 'the razor', is documented in the *New Redhouse Turkish-English Dic-*

tionary (p.799), photocopies of which were provided. (Yes, we realize that Turkish and Arabic are *not* the same thing, but the languages are similar, so this gives us enough of a lead to be fairly sure that Master Da'ud will be able to confirm the rest of the details.)

This is the submitter's second choice for a device. His first choice was *Per chevron Or and gules, two lions combattant and an oak tree, all counterchanged*. Lord Decion asks whether this might be in conflict with the registered arms of Kathleen Regina the Wild Irish Rose: *Or, a rose vert, its stem nowed sable, in chief two lions rampant gules* (August 1988). We can certainly count one CVD for the different fields, but Lord Decion speculates that changing a *rose vert* to an *oak tree Or* isn't enough for another CVD. We're inclined to agree, and would probably count this in conflict, but the point is moot — because the device is clearly in conflict with the mundane arms of Lea: *Per chevron Or and gules, in chief two lions rampant combattant of the second [that is, gules]* (Papworth, p.149). We can count one CVD for the different number of charges in the main group (three versus two), but that's all. Adding the *chevron* clears this conflict.

Consulting heralds: Kilic ibn Sungur ibn al-Kazganci al-Turhani and Decion ap Dyfrwr Trefriw.

[Yet Another Note on Documentation: Careful readers will have noted that we haven't actually documented this name properly. All we've done is document a very similar given name, and a version of the epithet in a related language. Then why haven't I returned this submission? A combination of two things. First, the submitter will accept changes to correct name. Second, we know that the documentation probably exists within the College of Arms. We could write to Master Da'ud ibn Auda, asking him for the documentation, attach it to the submission, and then submit this name and device. This is what we'd do if the "expert" was someone other than Master Da'ud, and was less accessible. But since Master Da'ud is the new Laurel King of Arms, it's much quicker if we just send the submission to him to start with. If no-one can actually document the name the submitter wants, then Master Da'ud will be able to provide a correct version and register that — or at least register the armory under a "holding name" — because the submitter has given us permission to do so.]

2. Aylwin Greymane (device resubmission to Crux Australis; SUBMITTED) [Innilgard, HID513] *Azure, two chevrons between in chief a compass star between two incresecents, and in base a compass star, all argent.*

This gentle's name was submitted on the West Kingdom's *Letter of Intent (LoI)* for April 1990, and is currently pending at the Laurel office. His device submission, *Per chevron azure and argent, in chief a bezant*, was returned by Crux Australis in March 1990 for conflict with the mundane arms of Bassingford: *Azure, a bezant* (Papworth, p.1046) and others. We could count only one CVD for the different fields, nothing else.

This device is a complete redesign. It's clear of the mundane arms of Brayton: *Azure, two chevrons between three mullets argent* (Papworth, p.547), counting one CVD for the different number of charges around the *chevrons*, and another for changing the type of at least half of them.

Consulting herald: Aislinn de Valence — although she claims that her rôle in this submission was merely collecting the forms from the post office.

[Compass Stars: According to Bruce Draconarius' Pictorial Dictionary, a compass star is "a mullet of four greater and lesser points", a charge unique to the SCA's system of heraldry (fig.448).]

3. Cassandra the Gypsy (device resubmission to Crux Australis; SUBMITTED) [Stormhold, HID481] *Per fess sable and argent, a pale counterchanged, overall a garden rose gules, slipped and leaved vert, in chief a mask of comedy and a mask of tragedy argent.*

This gentle's name was submitted on the February *LoI*, and is pending at the Laurel level. An extremely similar device submission was returned by me last month because the *emblazon* depicted on the forms used a modern garden rose, and our *Rules for Submissions VII.4*, "Period Flora and Fauna", states that "hybrids or mutations of period forms known to have been developed after 1600 generally may not be used as charges." The modern form of the rose, with many overlapping leaves, was not developed until the 17th century.

The device has now been re-drawn with a period garden rose, and with the rose placed more clearly *overall*. It appears free of problems — although Lord Robert Furness of Southwood wondered whether it *might* be in conflict with a certain set of mundane arms: *Per fess sable and argent, a pale counterchanged*, which could be problematic because they're for the name Gardener (Papworth p.1003). But he's like that. More seriously, Lord Dubhghlas MacAilean asks whether this device is in conflict with that submitted for Gareth Greystone: *Per fess sable and argent, a pale counterchanged, overall a dragon rampant gules and in chief two hourglasses argent*, which will have been considered by Lady Laurel at her June meeting. The answer is, "no, it's not in conflict", because we can count two CVDs. *RfS X.4.e*, "Type Changes", says "significantly changing the type of any group of charges placed directly on the field, including strewn charges or charges overall, is one clear visual difference... Separate differences may be obtained from changing the types of charges in different charge groups." Here, we have two charge groups, the charge overall (*garden rose* versus *dragon*) and the charges in chief (*masks* versus *hourglasses*).

Consulting herald: Gareth Greystone.

[A Note on this Submission: Please read the comments regarding the original return of this submission. They start on page 9.]

4. **Gerhardt der Jäger** (new device; SUBMITTED) [Saint Christina, HID562]  
*Or, two arrows in saltire gules, overall a bow fesswise and in chief a boar courant sable.*  
 This gentle's name was considered at my meeting last month. This device appears free of problems, although it did generate comments about "pigs crossing, no archery" signs, and speculation about the porcine position *trufflant*.  
 Consulting herald: Dubhghlas MacAilean.
5. **Hadassah Hnesher al Yad** (new name and device; SUBMITTED) [Llyn Arian, HID564]  
*Or, an eagle sable within a Star of David gules.*  
 The name is intended to be Hebrew. The submission forms say the name *Hadassah* can be found in Abingdon Strong's *Exhaustive Concordance* (p.312) and in the *Hebrew and Chaldee Dictionary* (entry 635), and that *Hnesher* is found in the same volumes (p.289 and entry 5404 respectively). Copies of the documentation were *not* provided [*groan!*], so there's no way we can evaluate this submission. On the other hand, given that a Concordance is a list of references to the Bible, we can be assured that these name elements are period — assuming that the documentation has been read correctly. We *guess* that the epithet *al-Yid* means "the Jew", although we're only guessing. However, we understand the Vesper office is reasonably proficient with Hebrew names, so we'll ask for their help. We *can* document one name element: according to Withycombe, under *Esther* (p.107), "in the Old Testament book of this name, *Esther* is given as the Persian equivalent of the Hebrew *Hadassah*."  
 The device appears free of problems.  
 Consulting herald: Colin de Charteris.
6. **Karl der Kriegerhelm** (new name and device; name SUBMITTED, device RETURNED) [Llyn Arian, HID563]  
*Argent, a great helm gules, a bordure embattled sable.*  
 The given name *Karl* hardly needs any documentation from us. As for the epithet *der Kriegerhelm*, we assume it's intended to mean "the war-helm", although documentation wasn't

provided. However, our small German-English dictionary confirms that "helm" is *der Helm*, and *der Kriegerhelm* would appear to be the correct formation.

The device is in conflict with the mundane arms of Knight: *Argent, a helmet gules* (Papworth p.912). We can count one CVD for adding a *bordure* (whatever fancy line of division it might have), but nothing more. The submitter didn't provide any alternatives. Incidentally, according to Bruce Draconarius' *Pictorial Dictionary*, facing to the dexter is the default posture for a helm, so we needn't blazon it explicitly.

Consulting herald: Gilchrist Morgan.

7. **Magdalena Elisa della More** (name and device resubmission to Crux Australis; SUBMITTED) [Dismal Fogs, HID512]

*Sable, two turk's head lilies slipped, leaved and conjoined, issuant from an Italian trimount Or (Lilium chalconicum).*

We looked at this name and device last month, when they were listed under the name *Magdalena Elisa du Moresque*. However, although all the elements of the name were well-documented, the name as a whole didn't appear to be formed in a grammatically correct fashion — and nor were the alternatives listed on the forms. Because the submitter didn't allow us to make any other changes, we had to return the name. The device was also returned, for lack of a suitable name to go with it.

The submitter has now given us permission to construct a grammatically correct form. As last month, the name is a mix of French and Italian. *Magdalena* is a variant spelling of *Magdalene*, as cited in Withycombe (p.202). François Boucher's *20,000 Years of Fashion* reproduces a portrait of a Princess *Magdalene Sybilla* dating from around AD1635, slightly out of our period. *Elisa* is found in Edward Burman's *Italian Dynasties* (p.87), which mentions a certain *Elisa dei Petruscini* in period. *Moresque* is the French adjective for "moorish", as cited in *Harrap's New Standard French and English Dictionary* (p.50). Further, *Italian Dynasties* mentions that a certain Italian, Lodovico Maria (1451-1508), gained himself the epithet "The Moor", or *il Moro*, because of his dark complexion.

As for the device, we'd especially like to thank the submitter for providing documentation that this flower, the *turk's head lily* was known in period. For those interested in such things, two books were referenced. Martyn Rix's *The Art of the Botanist* (Lutterworth Press, Guildford & London) shows *Lilium chalconicum* in an engraving from AD1624, just out of period, whilst Thomasina Beck's *The Embroiderer's Garden* ("A David & Charles Craft Book") shows a drawing of the turk's cap lily remarkably similar to that shown on the device, taken from an illustration in de Lobel's herbal of AD1581 (p.99).

Consulting herald: Frae Fitzalfeyne.

8. **Melloney de Charteris** (change of registered device; SUBMITTED) [Llyn Arian, HID206]

*Per bend sinister Or and gules, in base a pomegranate slipped and leaved Or, seeded sable, a bordure counterchanged.*

Lady Melloney's name was registered in July 1987. If this new device is registered, she'll release her current registered device: *Vair, a two-towered castle gules with a wooden gate proper and on a chief azure, two estoiles Or*, which was also registered in July 1987. Lady Melloney, or her embroiderer, would probably be grateful.

This new design is the submitter's *fourth-choice* design. Her first design, *Gules, a pomegranate Or, seeded sable*, is in conflict with the mundane arms of Grange: *Gules, a pomegranate Or* (Papworth, p.888). This is exactly the same design, because the tincture of the seeds is merely an artistic variation, not an heraldic one. Her second choice, using the time-honoured technique of adding a *bordure*, gets us *Gules, a pomegranate slipped and leaved Or, seeded sable, a bordure counterchanged*. This is in conflict with the same device, because adding a *bordure* only generates one CVD. Her third choice, *Per bend sinister Or and gules, in base a*

*pomegranate slipped and leaved Or, seeded sable*, is also in conflict with Grange. Although we can get one CVD for the difference in the fields, the change in position is forced by the change in the field. (The *pomegranate Or* can't be on the *Or* portion of the field.) *RfS* X.4.g, "Arrangement Changes", allows a CVD to be counted for changes to the arrangement of charges "provided that change is not caused by other changes to the design". Lady Melloney's fourth choice combines both changes to the basic design, and eventually clears the problem.

Consulting herald: the submitter.

[A Note on a Cunning Technique: *Heralds with a good memory for armory may recall the arms of the now defunct Shire of Ventbarré: Per bend sinister Or and gules, a laurel wreath and a pomegranate slipped and leaved Or, seeded sable, within a bordure counterchanged. These arms were released from registration when the group was dissolved. It might well pay to keep an eye open for attractive armory as it's released. There's no guarantee that you'll be able to register it, since the rules might have changed since the armory was originally registered, and it might not be legal any more. But it's worth a shot.*]

9. **Rodrigo Diaz Mendoza** (name and device resubmission to Vesper; SUBMITTED) [Saint Bartholomew, HID345]

*Per pale sable and Or, an escarbuncle counterchanged.*

This gentle originally submitted under the name *Rodriguez Dias Mendossa*. This name was returned by the Vesper Principal Herald in October 1987. All three name elements were in fact *surnames*, and our rules required (and still do require) that at least one element of a personal name be a valid *given* name. The device submitted at that time was: *Vert, a lymphad Or issuant from a ford, and in chief three sextants Or*, although on the forms the *sextants* were blazoned as *astrolabes*. This was returned because the sextant wasn't developed until AD1731, out of our period, making it illegal for use on SCA armory.

This name resubmission uses what we believe to be the correct versions. *Rodrigo*, for instance, is mentioned in Yonge as the name of various period royalty (p.393). Although we have no documentation, we believe this version of the name was provided by the Vesper office when the name was originally returned.

The device is a complete redesign. Although there are no conflicts involving *escarbuncles*, the device is possibly in conflict with the device registered to Kathrine of Bristol: *Per pale sable and Or, a Catherine's wheel counterchanged* (July 1984). *RfS* X.5, "Visual Test", says "If the tinctures, shapes or arrangement of the charges in a submission create an overwhelming visual resemblance to a piece of protected armory, the submission may be held to conflict even if sufficient theoretical difference can be counted between them". Given that an *escarbuncle* and a *Catherine's wheel* are similar-looking spoked items, especially if the *flory* bits on the *escarbuncle* are drawn in a florid fashion, and given that the tinctures are identical, the feeling of the meeting was that these two devices are in conflict. I'm still submitting this device, however, because we'd like either Lady Vesper or Lord Laurel to make a ruling. The fact that Kathrine of Bristol is the West Kingdom's current Brachet Herald also influenced our decision: perhaps she might kindly grant permission to conflict.

Consulting herald: Decion ap Dyfrwr Trefriw.

10. **Saint Cecilia, College of** (name resubmission to Vesper and new device; PENDED) [Saint Cecilia, HID421]

*Vert, a goose statant, maintaining in its beak a scroll, argent, within a laurel wreath and in chief an annulet Or.*

The College's name was first considered by Lady Vesper in March 1989, but the submission was held because it wasn't accompanied by an appropriate petition from the populace. This submission is now accompanied by a petition — but the wrong one. What we always need when

groups submit a name or arms is a petition from the populace of the group supporting the choice of name or arms. That way, we know the proposal has the support of the group's members, and isn't merely the creation of an over-enthusiastic local herald. Unfortunately, the petition accompanying this submission is the standard petition to the Crown, via the Seneschallate, asking that the College of Saint Cecilia be recognized as an official branch of the Society for Creative Anachronism Inc. This is not the petition we need. What's more, we know that under the SCA's *Corpora*, the petition to recognize the group cannot be granted until the group's name is registered.

The device appears free of problems. But again, without a petition from the populace, it can go no further.

Consulting herald: Arenvald von Hagenburg.

11. **Saint Ursula, College of** (request for device reblazon; SUBMITTED) [Saint Ursula, HID322]  
*Argent, two she-bears combattant gules, maintaining between them two arrows inverted in salire, in base an open book sable within a laurel wreath proper.*

When this group's arms were registered in December 1989, the book was blazoned as *tergiant* — that is, with its back toward the viewer. The group's herald, Andrew of Gwent, writes: "Where did anyone get the idea we wanted the book *backwards*?" When I first read this, I guessed that Lady Laurel assumed that because the book was *sable*, it must have its back outward, since a book's pages are usually white. Alas, this is not the case. When we look at the original submission forms from the files, the reason the device was blazoned that way it becomes clear: the book is drawn in a way that gives the distinct impression that the cover is toward the viewer. Nevertheless, we'd like to make sure that we've registered what the group wants, so I've submitted their request for re-blazon.

Consulting herald: Andrew of Gwent.

As usual, I've included drawings of all the devices considered at the meeting. This month, you'll find them on page 14.

#### News of Previous Submissions

There's no West Kingdom College of Herald's *Minutes* for July, because there wasn't a meeting held.

The Laurel Queen of Arms' *Letter of Acceptance and Return (LoAR)* for her April meeting arrived on 5th July, and that for the May meeting on 23rd July. No submissions from Lochac were considered at those two meetings. However, there was some material of interest in the covering letter, and this has been included on page 15. In addition, some material from the covering letter to the March *LoAR* is reprinted on pages 16–18.

We're still waiting for the *LoAR* for the June meeting, at which Lady Laurel considered the items from the February and March *Letters of Intent*: *Alaine Bartolomieu Lorenz* (name and request for device reblazon); *Alisaundre de Kilmaron* (name); *Anton de Stoc* (name and device); *Arenvald von Hagenburg* (device); *Bartholomew Ratcliffe* (N&D); *Bran Emrys o Garnhedryn* (D); *Cassandra the Gypsy* (N); *Corin Anderson* (N&D); *Cynon Yscolan ap Myrddin* (N&D); *Elenor of the Grieving Heart* (D); *Eric Hrafn* (N); *Filippa Ginevra Francesca di Lucignano* (N&D); *Francis of Hexham* (N&D); *Gabriella della Santa Croce* (N&D); *Gareth Deufreuddwyd ap Rhys* (N&D); *Gareth Greystone* (N&D); *Guimora Peverel of Scopasheall* (N&D); *Ine na Coille Ghlusa* (N&D); *Jamys de Godeleia* (N); *Jennet of Amberley* (N&D); *Joab Cohen* (D); *Julian du Bois* (D); *Katrin die Wißbegierige Reisende von Tübingen* (N); *Learbhean ni Séigine* (N&D); *Madelaine de la Fôret* (N&D); *Miriam d'Aurigny* (N&D); *Mungo of the Rock* (N&D); *Niell MacCormican* (N); *Ninianne æt Séolesigge* (N&D); *Owen ap Dafydd* (N&D); *Parvus Portus, Canton of* (N&D); *Peter æt Séolesigge* (N&D); *Pietro del Toro Rosso* (N&D); *River Haven, Barony of (Order of the Bridged Towers)*



(badge); *Robert Furness of Southwood* (D); *Thorfinn Hrolfsson* (badge). With luck, we'll hear about these items soon.

On a positive note, on 18th July I received an *LoAR* from the new Laurel, Master Da'ud ibn Auda, covering items considered at a special meeting on 1st July, held as part of the Known World Heraldic Symposium. This letter is "of academic interest only", since it considered only submissions from Ansteorra and Trimaris. (Submissions from the West Kingdom's *Lol* for May will be considered on 28th July. Of those, the only one from Lochac was a device for *Aveline de Roet*.) However, it's interesting to note that Master Da'ud's *LoAR* arrived in Lochac a mere 17 days after the meeting in question. I certainly hope Lord Laurel can continue such speedy service!

### Names and Gender

A few people have asked me why I didn't return the name *Tanw the Confused* last month, on the grounds that he's male but the name is documented as a female name. Well, under our *Rules for Submissions*, it doesn't matter whether a name was originally used for males or females; it may be registered by either within the SCA. This part of the rules is a hangover from the very early days of the Society. Although women have traditionally been less involved in fighting than men, some years ago there was a lot of "discussion" on the basic issue of whether females should be allowed to engage in SCA combat at all. To avoid some of the perceived problems, some women who wished to fight would adopt a male persona, and register a male name. To maintain symmetry, men were also allowed to register female personae, if they so desired — but although that's probably been done occasionally in the case of "alternate personae", I haven't heard of any cases where that was done. So although submitters are notified when they're registering a name of a sex different from their own, they're still allowed to do it. Thus, *Tanw* may legally register a female name — as, for example, did *Reynardine de Clifford*.

### On the Return of *Cassandra the Gypsy*

[*No, that's not meant to sound like the title of a cheap movie, although this section is somewhat "epic" in length. Still, it's been a while since I had a rant.*]

Although *Cassandra the Gypsy* decided to re-submit her device with a period rose, Lord Decion ap Dyfrwr Trefriw made some comments on my return of the original submission last month. Normally, I'd just respond to Lord Decion in a private letter. But he's raised some interesting points. Those points probably deserve a wider audience, so I hope Lord Decion won't mind if I respond publicly. I've also given Lord Decion the chance to respond to what I've said. Let me start by quoting Lord Decion, with my own comments interspersed:

**Decion:** The Rule that you returned it on, *RfS* VII.4, says *generally*, not *always*. I do not believe that the rule should be enforced on an easily-identifiable object such as a rose (which 99% of people would not be aware has been mutated through the centuries); rather it is intended, I think, for weird animals and other uncommon heraldic charges.

**Gereint:** First, to save everyone running to their files, let me quote the relevant rule, *RfS* VII.4, "Period Flora and Fauna". "Flora and fauna that were known in the period and domain of the Society may be registered in armory. Hybrids or mutations of period forms known to have been developed after 1600 generally may not be used as charges. For example, the English Sheepdog may not be used in Society armory because it was developed after 1600."

The intent of this rule, and the other rules in this section of the *RfS*, is simple: to prevent armory containing elements that are out of the SCA's period. The "generally" isn't so much to limit us to returning blatantly out-of-period charges, but to allow Laurel to rule that certain charges are acceptable within SCA heraldry, even though strictly they're out of period.

It may well be that 99% of people don't know some forms of the rose are out of period. And it's probably also true that 99% of people don't know the English Sheepdog is out of period. But it doesn't make the out-of-period elements legal simply because the fact that they're out-of-period isn't "general knowledge".

Furthermore, if you expect me (or any other Stormhold herald) to start counting petals on roses, you will be severely disappointed! For that matter, should I be expected to return devices with horses on them if the submitter neglects to draw a mane? Or devices with galleons on them if the wrong number of sails are present? Just where do you intend to draw the line here?

It isn't so much a matter of "counting petals" as determining two things: Does the blazon match the emblazon? And is the charge legal? Let's explore Lord Decion's examples further. If a horse is drawn without a mane, that's just poor artistry, and the device should be submitted. If, however, the forms blazoned it as a *horse* but it was drawn like a *zebra*, then I'd look up to see whether a zebra was known in period. If it was, I'd submit the device, but change the blazon to read *zebra*. If it wasn't, I'd return the submission. The "galleon with the wrong number of sails" is a better example still. If it's just that, a galleon with the wrong number of sails, I'd submit the device. If it had the wrong number of *masts*, though, or the wrong rigging, so that it wasn't a *galleon* but a *barquentine*, then we're in a grey area, and before making my final decision I'd listen to what the meeting had to say — either submit it, changing the word *galleon* to *barquentine*, or return it with a note explaining why. My decision would be based on how much the alteration affected the outline of the ship. Like I did with Cassandra's submission, if the forms were well-drawn I'd assume the choice of ship was deliberate. If it were blazoned as a *galleon* but was drawn as a totally different kind of ship, say a *trireme*, then I'd have no hesitation in returning the submission.

With device and badge submissions, we spend the majority of our time worrying about whether it's "in conflict". But there's a lot of other things we need to consider. Theoretically, we should look at every element of every submission in terms of every section of the *RfS*. In practice, though, as you probably know, we tend to skip over some of the requirements because we "know" they're OK. We don't bother documenting a *chevron* as a period charge, for instance, nor do we demonstrate that *a fess between four charges* is period style. But, all the rules do apply to every submission.

Like most senior heralds, my decisions aren't made in isolation: I have the advice and opinions of the other heralds at my meetings, and my regular attendees aren't afraid of making their thoughts known. I'm sure the situation isn't any different in other groups. Curiously, the decision to return Cassandra's device was almost unanimous, and the first call "But that's not period" came from a member of the "general populace" — a reasonable approximation of the legal concept of the "reasonable person".

But what does all this mean in practice? It means that I draw the line as follows: If I'm sure a submission is legal, I'll submit it. If I'm sure a submission isn't legal, I'll return it. If I'm not sure, I'll submit it, and the next higher level of the heraldic administration will make the decision. That decision as to whether a submission is or isn't legal will be based on the documentation provided, and on whatever other research material exists in the library of the Crux Australis Herald. Failing documentation one way or the other, I'll rely on the combined knowledge of the meeting. In Cassandra's case, I was sure the submission was illegal — based on the combined knowledge of the meeting.

To further add insult to injury, your letter of return states "As far as we know, the modern form of the rose... wasn't developed until the 17th century." Maybe that's true. If you are going to

return a device on a purely technical detail, however, I think that you should provide something a little more concrete than a vague speculation. If you can't *prove* your reason for return, shouldn't it then be passed on to let someone else try? If *no-one* can prove the point, then your whole argument falls over, doesn't it?

Although my letter of return used the phrase "as far as we know", this is *not* a "vague speculation". I could have said "the modern form of the rose wasn't developed until the 17th century", baldly stating the fact, but I thought that sounded too dogmatic. Those at the meeting could be divided into two categories: those who had no knowledge one way or the other, and those who "knew" that the modern rose was developed in the great age of English horticulture — which was out of period. It wasn't speculation, but solid knowledge. True, we'd be stuck if we were asked to pin down the exact start and end dates of that period. But we didn't need to. The knowledge that it was out-of-period was sufficient to cause the device's return.

Hindsight is a wonderful thing, and perhaps it *would* have been better if I'd taken the trouble to look up some reference. That way my letter could have said something like "the modern form of the rose was developed by the great English horticulturalist John Smith in 1735". But I didn't.

"If you can't *prove* your reason for return, shouldn't it then be passed on to let someone else try? If *no-one* can prove the point, then your whole argument falls over, doesn't it?" No it shouldn't, and no it doesn't. In the new *Administrative Rules* [copies of which have yet to be distributed, I know], there's a section dealing with the general procedures for a submission. It lists the requirements for a submission, which include things like proof of entitlement to charges indicating rank, petitions of support for a group's name and device, and paperwork requirements. The first part of this section says "The submitter bears the primary responsibility for meeting procedural requirements [which includes documentation], but can and should be advised by heraldic officers at the local level and above." So the burden of proof lies with the submitter, not the College of Heraldry. It's not up to me to prove the rose is out of period; it's up to submitter to prove it's in period.

It seems to me that you have gone to a great deal of trouble to justify your return. Personally, I think that a lot of delay and bother could have been saved by submitting the device further on with a note to the submitter to draw the rose less artistically..."

Well, not really. I'm required to explain why I return each submission. In the case of a simple conflict, most people in the SCA know their device must be sufficiently different from everyone else's, and it's usually easy to explain why there's a problem. In this case, though, the explanation was a little more complicated because the problem is a little more subtle.

As I say, hindsight is wonderful. Yes, perhaps I should have done as Lord Decion suggests. But when it comes down to it, I made my decision on the day using the information in front of me and the advice of the people at my meeting. Perhaps I might have decided differently on another day, but I doubt it. I've heard of cases where submitters were told "well, it's not really legal. But draw it like *this* to get it registered. After that you can draw it how you like." There are two problems with this: it ignores the fact that we register the *emblazon*, not the written *blazon*, a point I've mentioned a number of times recently; and it seems to run very close to the edges of what I'd consider courteous behaviour.

The decision to return a submission isn't an easy one to make. It's much easier to say, "Well, it's close enough. I'll submit it, and all I need do is put it in the envelope to Lady Vesper. If I return it, I'll have to write a letter of return, and that's a lot of work, and I might upset the submitter." But the whole reason for having an heraldic hierarchy is to make sure decisions are made at as local a level as

possible. Heralds at all levels must be prepared to return submissions they believe are illegal. And of course they must also be prepared to cope when a submitter says: "I appeal against your decision". But if a local herald isn't prepared to make decisions, then there isn't a lot of point being there. As each submission moves up the heraldic hierarchy, it generates more paperwork. If a local herald returns a submission, all he or she need do is write one letter of return, and send a copy to me. (In fact, what's more likely to happen is that the local herald says "That's not legal, so don't waste your time filling out the submission forms".) Conversely, if a submission reaches the top level of the College of Arms, it's circulated for comment throughout the Known World. If dubious submissions can be weeded out before they reach this level, a lot of work can be saved. When I began as Crux Australis Herald, I was told that I should be prepared to return more submissions. This becomes even more important as Lochac grows, and we start generating as many submissions as a Kingdom, as we've done lately. Lady Vesper gets copies of the *Camel*, and she complains that I've submitted something I should have returned far more often than she complains that I've returned something incorrectly. It pleases me that her complaints about this sort of thing have been quite rare.

I've spent a lot of time on this topic, but before I finish I'll say one final thing. Having a submission returned is *not* the end of the world. Once a submission is formalized, with forms and money and the like, I can only do one of two things with it. I can either submit it to the Vesper Principal Herald. Or I can return it. ("Pending" is really just another word for "returning".) A return is the only way of consulting with a submitter. A return does *not* mean "there's no way this submission will be registered in any way shape or form"; it means "this submission can't be registered on the basis of what you've provided". Now if a device is in conflict, say, then things are pretty clear-cut: unless you get permission to conflict, your device cannot be registered in that form. But in other cases, things get a little more blurry, and often a submission is only returned because some minor thing is missing. People often ask me "why did you return that submission, because it was only missing *x*?" Well, the missing *x* is precisely the reason it *was* returned. All the submitter or their consulting herald need do is provide the missing *x* and all will be well.

Of course, all this probably won't make Lord Decion or Cassandra the Gypsy any happier, and I can understand that. Their submission was returned, they had to re-draw submission forms and a month's delay was introduced. Sorry about that. But if I submitted something I *knew* to be illegal, I'd be neglecting my duty.

As I said, I've given Lord Decion a chance to respond. Here's his message:

As far as the *RfS* are concerned, I like to think we're following the *intent* of the rules, and not the *letter* (although in the majority of cases they are, wonder of wonders, the same thing). The *intent* can be summarized as follows, I think: to make sure that the populace of the SCA register devices that are mediæval in form and content, without stepping on anyone's toes (*i.e.* no conflicts or modern offensive content).

I have no arguments with the "sheepdog" example. I, personally, did not know that sheepdogs are not period. Once this is pointed out to me, however, it is easy to recognize a sheepdog from a dachshund from a rottweiler... I don't think *anyone* would have problems there. But a *rose*? The hell with it, I say, a rose is a rose... and why can't a modern depiction of a rose simply be considered a bad drawing of a period rose? It *still* comes down to counting petals, which I *still* think is silly!

For those who haven't seen the original device, the rose was drawn in a very picturesque manner (copied from a gardening book, in fact). I was going to suggest to the submitter that it be drawn more "heraldically" (*i.e.* simpler), but I thought, "it's the primary charge, it's important to her, no-one is going to mistake it for anything else, it's not such a big deal". On such beginnings are wars started.

And although it is undeniably true that we register the emblazon, not the blazon, that

does *not* mean that we ignore the blazon — rather we use it to clarify ambiguities. (Although of course an emblazon with ambiguities is, by definition, *not* a very good device.) If it had been blazoned *a Russian pink rose of 13 petals* and then someone told me that the famous Russian Pink was only invented for the cause of the glorious 1917 Revolution... well, sure, return it. But the blazon said, simply, *rose*. I think *that* should have provided the necessary clues.

Maybe Lord Decion has a point. I must admit I'm a bit of a stickler for "period heraldic design". Still, I made the decision I made. Might I suggest that the most productive thing you can do with this extensive rant is read it and discuss it amongst yourselves at the next convenient opportunity. If you have any comments, please let me know.

I should also say, by the way, that Lord Decion and I are *not* at blows over this issue, despite his use of the word "wars". It just happens that we both enjoy a good debate. At the moment, I'm Crux Australis Herald, so I get to have the final say. But come January... Well, come January, he can tell me to pull my head in.

#### Tassles for Tourneys

Finally, another reminder that your comments on our system of awarding coloured tassles for victories in the Lists must be with the Goutty d'Eau Pursuivant by 31st July. Please note his new address on page 1.

Your Servant,

*Gereint Scholar*  
 Baron Master Gereint Scholar  
 Crux Australis Herald

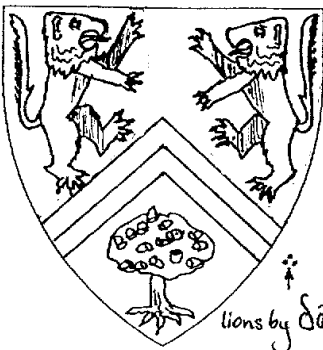


#### Stop Press!

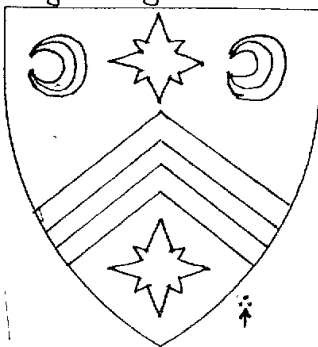
I've just heard that I won't be on the breakfast shift as long as it was first thought. I'll be working my current early morning shift until Friday 10th August, after which I'll return to my customary afternoon-night shift. Therefore, until 10th August, please don't call after 8.00pm Central Time. Instead, call me at work on (08) 343-4888 any time until 12.30pm, or at home on (08) 344-1794 from 1.00pm until 8.00pm. After 11th August, don't call before 12.00 noon. Either call me at work between 1.00pm and 8.30pm, or at home any time from then until 1.00am. Of course, all this could change again at any moment, but at least that's the current plan.

The following armory was considered by the Crux Australis Herald at his meeting on 15th July A.S. XXV (1990), and was submitted to the Vesper Principal Herald, unless marked otherwise:

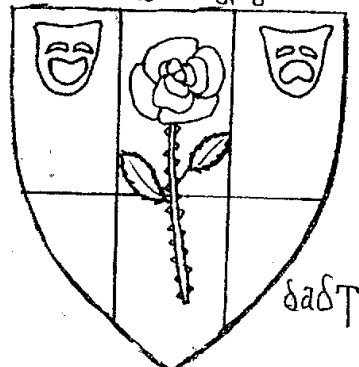
1. Amus al-Musa



2. Aylwin Greymane



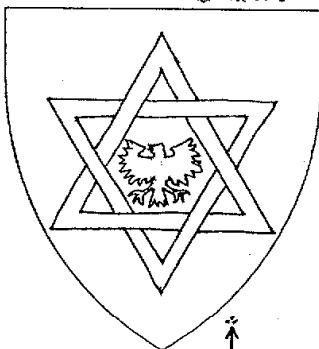
3. Cassandra the Gypsy



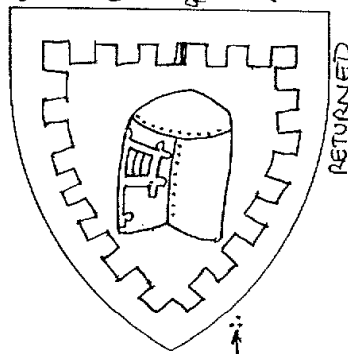
4. Gerhardt der Jäger



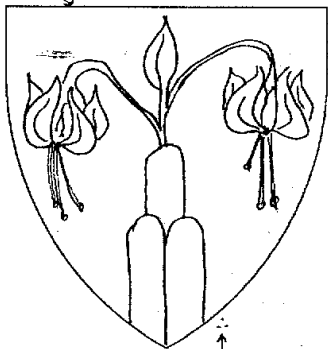
5. Hadassah Hnesher al Yid



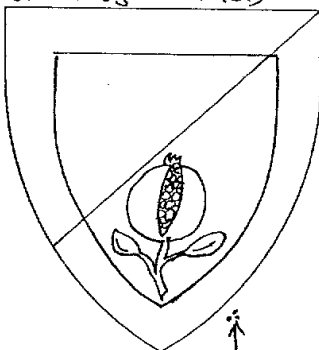
6. Karl der Kriegerhelm



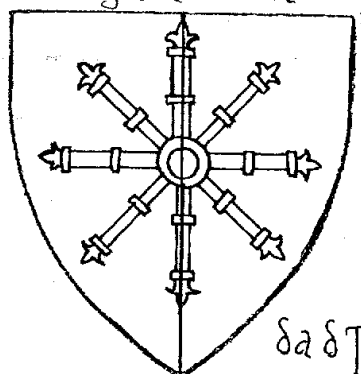
7. Magdalena Elisa della More



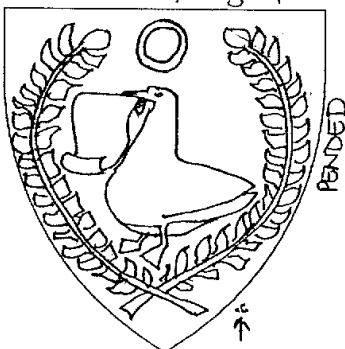
8. Mellores de Charteris



9. Rodrigo Diaz Men doza



10. Saint Cecilia, College of



#### A Note about These Mini-Emblazons

As I've mentioned before, preparing the small illustrations of each item of armory is, for me, the *least* enjoyable part of being Crux Australis Herald. I'd therefore be *most* grateful if, when sending in a submission for a name or device, you'd also send a small black-and-white illustration which I can use on these pages. Although it certainly isn't a *requirement* (yet), it makes my life a *lot* less frustrating. And besides, your submitters' devices will be depicted in a much more satisfactory fashion. I mean, look at the drawing for *Mellores de Charteris* just above: the *bordure* isn't even even!

You might have noticed that I gave you a blank page of little shield shapes in last month's *Camel*. Feel free to photocopy that page and use it.

The following material is extracted from the covering letter to the Laurel Queen of Arms' *Letter of Acceptance and Return* for February A.S. XXIV (1990):

## PAWPRINTS

Some time ago, the Laurel Office solicited commentary on a proposed ban on pawprints as non-period style. The motivation for this proposal was a fairly continuous stream of complaints from commentators on the generally non-period appearance and unidentifiability of pawprints whenever a submission containing pawprints appeared before the College of Arms.

The burden of commentary appears to be that, while many do not think pawprints are the best style, they were not beyond the pale. Therefore, we shall continue to register submissions containing pawprints for Society use. However, we suggest that those who have spoken in favour of pawprints may wish to consider whether they should comment negatively on submissions containing pawprints in future.

## ON FRETTY

Please take note of the ruling contained in this letter in the case of the device of Karl Tollemache of Cuxhaven (under Middle-Kingdom acceptances).

Over the years there has been a certain amount of controversy with regard to the "fretty": issues of contrast, line thickness in period depiction, etc. have been often been discussed. Less obviously, there has been discussion and some confusion concerning the degree of difference to be obtained from addition of a fretty or from change of a semy such as "mulletty" to a "fretty" when the tinctures were identical.

As noted in the ruling, there is considerable period and modern evidence that the "fretty" was considered to be more a set of frets strewn upon the field in a more or less regular manner than the sort of decoration that we categorize in the Society as a "field treatment". As such, "fretty" must be considered to be a form of semy and thus entitled to add difference under section X.4.b of the Rules for Submission (**Addition of Charges on the Field**).

- 1 Karl Tollemache of Cuxhaven. Device. Gules, fretty Or, on a pale argent, a sea wolf erect sable maintaining a trident palewise gules.

This is no doubt under the new rules that this is clear of the Furnes Cistercian Abbey ("Sable, on a pale argent, a crozier of the first.", as cited in Papworth, p. 1007) and others of that ilk since there is one difference for the difference in field tincture and another for addition of the fretty. While there seems to be some confusion in the College on this point, examination of period and modern sources makes it clear that "fretty" is not a field treatment in the sense that term is used in the Society, but rather a "semy of frets" and as such contributes difference (**X.4.b. Addition of Charges on the Field**). Period treatises make it clear that the fretty was seen as placed *upon* the field in the same way that fleurs-de-lys or mullets or other charges semy were strewn. Indeed, Woodward is very careful to note that the fretwork is specifically supposed to be ~~in relief on a shield and therefore is commonly painted with shading to emphasize that fact~~ (p. 96). Unlike "normal" field treatments, but like secondary charges, a "fretty" can be itself charged (Woodward, p. 97). Finally, a number of early rolls of arms show a common alternation in blazon (and emblazon) between what is now commonly blazoned as "fretty" and "a fret" indicating that the change in number of "frettings" was seen as a form of geratting for cadency.

## ON HERALDRY TODAY

Reports from abroad indicate that Heraldry Today will be closing its storefront in the not too distant future. Unless there is a last-minute reprieve, visitors to London will no longer be able to indulge in heraldic bibliomania there.

At this point, we have no information on the possible continuation of a mail order service from a less expensive location. If any further news reaches the Laurel Office, we will keep you posted.

The following material is extracted from the covering letter to the Laurel Queen of Arms' *Letter of Acceptance and Return* for March A.S. XXIV (1990):

#### A PRECEDENT ON SIGNIFICANT DIFFERENCE OF CHARGE

Your attention is drawn to the precedent set in the case of the device of Monique Larrivé (Acceptances, Caid).

Under this precedent, Section X.2 of the new rules, which allow for automatic difference when there is a change of primary charge on a simple coat, is interpreted fairly strictly to allow such difference of primary charge to apply when the primary charge(s) are themselves charged, provided the other criteria outlined in that section of the rules are met.

In applying this precedent, please remember that the "visual test" still remains active. If the combination of position, tincture, arrangement, etc. of the identical items in the design creates an overwhelming visual resemblance to a piece of protected armoury, "visual conflict" may still be called.

Monique Larrivé. Device. Azure, upon and maintained by a mouse sejant erect Or, a fleur-de-lys azure.

Several issues were involved here with regard to "new rules/old rules" conflict problems. While there seemed to be substantial feeling that this should not conflict with By ("Azure, on a bend Or three fleurs-de-lys of the first.", as cited in Papworth, p. 239), these tend to be "gut reactions" and people's rationales for this differ. It is certainly a possibility to consider that the phrase "alone on the field" should be taken literally in the new rules and the significant difference of charge license apply even where the primary charges are themselves charged. In this case, such a policy would create few difficulties for most heralds, but we suspect that this would not be the case where all elements were identical and the difference was really only one of orientation of ordinary. Take, for example, the situation where "Azure, on a bend Or, three fleurs-de-lys azure within a bordure argent, crusilly azure." is compared with "Azure, on a fess Or three fleurs-de-lys azure within a bordure argent, crusilly azure." Such a change of ordinary with all other elements retained was in fact used for cadency in period and would look like cadet arms to many.

After much wrestling with this issue, we have come to the conclusion that the letter of the law in this case is also the spirit of the law and thus section X.2 of the new rules can apply to charged primaries. However, it must be stressed that the tertiary charges cannot significantly diminish the identifiability of the primaries in each case (by definition, both must be charged or else the two coats would be clear under the new rules). Also, it is presumed that the "visual conflict" rule may apply in cases such as that cited above where charges of the same type and tincture are modified with no other modifications.

#### AN ADMINISTRATIVE PROPOSAL

As was inevitable, suggestions for changes to the rules for submission and administrative guidelines are already a staple of discussion in the College. (Laurel herself makes one immediately below!)

Laurel would propose as a rider to the sections on the publication of changes on rules and administrative guidelines that the Laurel Office and College of Arms adopt a policy for change of the rules or administrative guidelines parallel to that used in some Kingdoms for emendation of Kingdom Law:

1. All proposals are made with specific suggested wordings for discussion and with additions to, deletions from and renumbering of current documents specified for clarity.
2. After the designated period of discussion and final revision of the modification, it is published in full in the Letter of Acceptance and Returns. (This *is*, after all, the heraldic community's equivalent of a Kingdom Newsletter.)
3. Whether at the time of publication with a Letter of Acceptances and Returns or by a separate mailing to Principal Heralds for local distribution, all changes be published in a form suitable for insertion into the looseleaf format of the rules and administrative guidelines. Preferably, sections which would appear in non-sequential portions of the documents should appear on separate sheets. If possible, each change should be dated to facilitate evaluation of "hardship case" and "grace period" appeals below Laurel level.
4. As is the case with Kingdom Law, the Armorial and Ordinary, etc., unified revisions of the Rules for Submission and Administrative Handbook should be made available to the heraldic community on a regular periodic basis.

Obviously, implementation of these proposals is up to Laurel's successor. However, the experience of the last four years suggests that such procedures would avoid a lot of confusion and stress in the lower levels of the heraldic hierarchy.



The following material is extracted from the covering letter to the Laurel Queen of Arms' *Letter of Acceptance and Return* for March A.S. XXIV (1990) (continued):

#### A PROPOSAL ON DIFFERENCE FOR DISCUSSION

At the time that the final draft of the Rules was being prepared in September and October of last year, there was a certain amount of discussion between Laurel and Badger on the circumstances under which Section X.2 should apply.

Based on commentary at the time, we decided there was sentiment in the College for applying such automatic difference in cases where the primary charges were considered different in period (i.e., emending *complete* difference of charge as defined in the old rules to *significant* difference of charge, thus removing conflicts where the primary charges were dissimilar quadruped or bird, for example). However, there did not seem to be sufficient support for modifying the pre-existing definition of adequately simple cases.

That situation now appears to have changed. Laurel would therefore like to propose to the College for discussion the following revised wording for Section X. 2 of the Rules for Submission:

2. Difference of Primary Charges - Armory that consists of one group of charges alone on the field, or accompanied only by a *single group of identical charges lying on the field*, a chief that may be charged *or* a bordure that may be charged, does not conflict with similarly simple protected armory that significantly changes the type of all of the primary charges.

Such a broadening of the current restrictions would not "reward" overly complex heraldry, since you could have at most *either* a group of identical secondaries *or* a charged chief *or* a charged bordure. The visual weight of all three of the types of "accompaniments" are more or less equal from the modern viewer's perspective so it should not materially increase the number of devices which *look* so much alike that "visual conflict" must be called. Best of all, although there *are* period cases where an ordinary is modified in a coat consisting of an ordinary or other primary charge accompanied by a single group of identical secondaries in order to show cadency, these are the exceptions rather than the rule.

To allow adequate discussion of this issue in a summer which bids fair to be rather hectic for the members of the College and somewhat tumultuous for the Laurel Office, we ask that commentary on this issue be returned to Master Da'ud in time for him to consider and rule on this issue at his September meeting.

#### A PROPOSAL ON RESTRICTED CHARGES FOR DISCUSSION

Brigantia has proposed that we drop current restrictions which limit the use of certain charges (e.g., the Caduceus) to those with medical qualifications.

Brigantia argues that the restriction has no basis in period heraldry and serves no useful function in the Society since we now have Chirurgeon's badges to indicate to members where to find the "First Aid" function. He feels that the probability of a member's seeking medical assistance from someone simply because his armoury bears a caduceus is so low that we need not guard against this remnant of the "Dark Ages of SCA heraldry", as he phrases it.

It is possible that Brigantia has modified his position somewhat in light of the problem with the Chirurgeon's badge outlined below. However, the arguments originally raised merit a fuller discussion in the College. We would therefore like to request commentary on the following proposal to be received by the incoming Laurel in time for him to rule at his September meeting:

Proposed: That no charge be restricted from use in armoury of individuals or groups in the Society only because it is associated with rank, status or professional qualifications outside the Society.

Please note that this would still allow charges which may be problematic on other counts (e.g., offensiveness, identifiability, etc.) to be restricted.

#### ON A PROBLEM WITH THE CHIRURGEON'S BADGE

Brigantia has informed the Laurel Office of a problem encountered with the Chirurgeon's badge. While it is being dealt with through the appropriate channels in the Chirurgeonate, you should all be aware of it.

Older members of the College will remember that the current version of the Chirurgeonate badge was registered in early fall, 1986, at the current Laurel's very first meeting. (It replaced a previous badge which was too reminiscent of KKK insignia.)

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The following material is extracted from the covering letter to the Laurel Queen of Arms' *Letter of Acceptance and Return* for March A.S. XXIV (1990) (continued):

At that time, some members of the College, to include Laurel herself, were uncomfortable about the possibility that the new badge could be considered to be a display of the Red Cross insignia on a goutte. However, this was immediately after the Board of Directors had issued its "Independent Heraldic Jurisdiction" directive and most of the College felt that the point was moot.

Unfortunately, that may not have been the case. Recently, a senior member of the Chirurgeonate in Drachenwald wore her Chirurgeon's insignia instead of the more usual non-Society insignia when attending a Red Cross function in Drachenwald. She was immediately informed rather strongly that the display of the badge not infringed the Red Cross insignia, but such infringement was specifically banned by a Federal law that had been on the books since before the First World War. (Not copyright or trademark law, each of which has its own limits: this is a Red Cross specific statute which grants broad protection to the "Swiss Cross" in red on a white field --- or its counterchange!)

Subsequent investigation into material provided by the Red Cross indicates that this infringement could be a very real problem for us. As a result, the Chirurgeonate is considering its options for a change of badge.

In the meantime, it is advisable that we try and show a "good faith effort" to avoid continuing any actions which might be considered as infringement now that we have been informed of the problem. At the very least, you should alert the appropriate individuals that major sewing projects involving Chirurgeonate baldrics should be put on hold for the time being!

The following item was sent to me by Viscountess Rowan Perigrinne. It's from a computer industry magazine, although I'm not sure which one. It's a worry...

## No need to dust off the old coat of arms again

FANCY your own coat of arms? Then a new on-disk system of heraldic art released last week is just what you've been looking for.

Called "Today's Heraldry", the package covers more than 600 heraldic symbols, including shields and charges. These can be modified and assembled to produce thousands of different coats of arms, for black-and-white or colour output.

According to Ken Blackmore, managing director of World Wide Heraldry, the seven-disk package is more than a "clip art" collection.

"The tutorial disk and 140-page manual combine to form a step-by-step guide to understanding and learning about heraldry," he says.

"With the pomp and mystery removed, even those who cannot draw acquire the skills of the heraldic artist.

"Many advertising art directors faced with a package design for wine, tobacco and other products requiring a solid corporate image will find it a boon.

"And at less than 75c per image, it's really great value."

So Backbytes asked for a sample, and what you see here is one of several Ken Blakemore provided. It'd look great fluttering proudly over a certain fishery down at Sydney's Watsons Bay.

