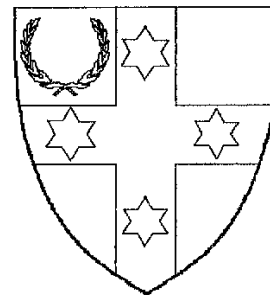


Camel

Crux Australis Monthly Letter March AS XXV



Meeting Date: 16 March AS XXV (1991)
Posting Date: 25 March AS XXV (1991)

Transactions Considered: 5 Names, 8 Devices
Forwarded to Vesper: 5 Names, 8 Devices

Crux Australis Herald
Decion ap Dyfrwr Trefriw
[Bruce Probst]
4 Max Court
Noble Park
VIC 3174
AUSTRALIA
Telephone: +61-3-547 0654

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

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

This is my monthly letter for March AS XXV (1991).

Pat-on-the-back time: Mistress Alison von Markheim, Vesper Herald, recently wrote to me saying, "Congratulations are in order to [Decion], to [Gereint] and to the heralds of Lochac as a group. Please again relay to the Lochac CoH my delight in their performance as heralds. I don't get to visit often, so you do not often get the direct feedback that the mainland Principalities and Marches receive. I cannot describe how much easier my job has been made by the excellence of the heraldic establishment in Lochac." OK, are we all finished blushing?

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Rostering - A Clarification

Recently, the acting Black Wing Pursuivant, Lord David de Saxby, asked me to clarify the position on "direct superiors". Since taking on office as Crux Australis, I have informed all the Baronial Pursuivants that they are the direct superiors for the heralds in their Baronies. Yet, when these heralds receive a roster letter, it tells them that *I* am their "direct superior". Is there a contradiction here? Well, not really, but I can't blame anyone for thinking so. The situation is this: I have delegated many of my administrative functions to the Baronial Pursuivants - mainly supervision, preparing of submissions, and report-gathering. Rostering heralds is *not* one of those delegated functions. So when the roster letter describes me as the "immediate superior" it's quite correct - in as far as it goes. Perhaps the roster letters should have an additional notation to fully explain the situation - but frankly, I couldn't think of a convenient way to phrase it, and I guess I sort of expect the Baronial Pursuivants to explain things anyway. My apologies for any confusion this may have caused.

And whilst we're talking Baronial responsibilities, Lady Vesper has requested that a further clarification on the subject be made: namely, the Baronial Pursuivants should *not* consider themselves the "supervisors" of the "at Large" heralds in the Barony. Whilst it is *convenient* (convenient for me, that is) for the Branch heralds to report on the activities of the "at Large" heralds in their group (*any* group, not just Baronies), *all* "at Large" heralds have the Crux Australis Herald as their "immediate supervisor". (Note: this does *not* mean the "at Large" heralds can thumb their noses at the group heralds if they want to, OK?) Does this clear everything up now? Probably not, but it will suffice for the meantime.

Roster Changes

In the incipient Canton of Dubh-Thrian, in the Barony of Stormhold, Lord Gareth Greystone has stepped down as local herald. His replacement is Pedair na Cluain Bheag [Pedr Gurteen], 10/55 York Street, North Fitzroy, VIC 3068. Telephone (03) 489 4777. I am roosting Pedair directly as a Pursuivant Extraordinary, as he has given me ample demonstration recently of both his book and voice skills. Lord Gareth, of course, will be re-rostered as a P.E.-at-Large.

In the Barony of Stormhold, Lady Vesper has approved the promotion of Viscount Sir Steven ("Styvren") Longshanks to a full Pursuivant-at-Large. Congratulations!

In the College of Blessed Herman the Cripple (Barony of Innilgard), and the incipient Canton of Parvus Portus (Barony of River Haven), the local heralds (Accolon Aquilifer and Gildon of the Glen, respectively) have both been removed from office for failing to return their signed roster letters, despite repeated requests for same. Consequently both of those offices are now vacant. In the College of St. Ursula (Barony of Rowany), Andrew of Gwent has resigned after several years of distinguished service to the College. A successor has apparently been chosen, but I still await formal notification. Likewise, the vacant office of local herald for the incipient College of St. Aldhelm (Shire of Politarchopolis) has not yet been officially filled, although a candidate has apparently been found.

As warned, the following P.E.s (and Pursuivant!) at Large have been removed from the roster, again for failing to return their roster letters: Kane Greymane, Llewyn the Unruly, Otto von Besenburg, Peter du Gant Noir, Snorri Ottarsson.

Meanwhile, in the Kingdom of the West, Master Caiomhin ó Fiodhabhra is now Compline Herald (i.e., Vesper Designate), a title he will hold for all of two months. Meisterin Therasia von Tux is now Banner Herald, in charge of courts and ceremonies and things. As for Mistress Alison von Markheim, she says she is "not exactly counting the *hours* yet . . ."

(No) Fees For Resubmissions

One of this month's resubmissions was accompanied by a fee of \$8.00. According to the consulting herald, this was because the original return was some years ago, and he says "I remember reading something in the Administrative Handbook about a twelve month limit".

OK, the appropriate section is **General Procedures For Submission: D. Payment of Fees** (p.5) which says in part ". . . no fee may be charged for . . . resubmissions made within a year of the most

recent notification of return. The Laurel Office will charge no fee for resubmissions, but kingdoms may . . ." Note that last *may* - it doesn't say *must*. In point of fact, it has been West Kingdom policy for a very long time not to charge submitters *anything* for a resubmission no matter the length of time involved. This policy is not likely to change in the near future. PLEASE DO NOT TELL YOUR SUBMITTERS ANYTHING DIFFERENT!

The submitter affected will be refunded his \$8.00.

A Few Policy Reminders from Lady Vesper

The following is reprinted in entirety from the February *Minutes*:

Please remember when a submitter marks the "Make No Changes" box on his/her submission form, it means that we will do just that. We won't change an incorrect capital letter to a small letter, we won't correct spelling errors in common English words and we won't consider any alternatives, even if they would be OK! Be aware of this and make sure that those you consult with know it too.

In the March edition of the *Page* is a short rant about heralds who hang on to submissions too long. I hate to keep on harping about this, but it *is* very important. We are one of the few offices in the S.C.A. who take money for our services, and even though this IS a volunteer organisation, we have a very serious obligation to serve our customers. Again, if you receive a submission with money, or a resubmission, you *MUST* send it on to the relevant Principality or Kingdom herald within 30 days. If you absolutely know that it isn't going to pass, you may return it to the submitter (along with the submitter's money) and an explanation of what is wrong. If you have *any* doubts whatsoever about its acceptability, send it on. It's my job to take the flak for returns - not yours. And, a final note, **HOLDING A SUBMISSION FOR OVER 30 DAYS IS GROUNDS FOR REMOVAL FROM OFFICE AND THE HERALD'S ROSTER!** This note has been made necessary because several heralds (and you know who you are) have recently sent in submissions with attached cheques over five months old

As of Beltane, there will be brand new submission forms once again. The only significant difference between the new forms and our current ones is that they will have the new CoH address on them. Work is underway on the Third Edition ("Fit") of the *West Kingdom Herald's Handbook*. We hope to have it available for sale at Beltane.

A Reminder to Group Herald's

Your next triannual report is due to me *before* the May Coronet Investiture/Tourney - ideally mid- to late-April. So *now* is probably a good time to get started on it. Remember, if you are the local herald for a Canton or a Baronial College, your reports go to your Baronial Pursuivant - *not* to me.

Pageantry For Herald's

Recently, Pedair na Cluain Bheag gave me a short note on a matter he would like brought up for discussion within the College:

Having just attended the Investiture of the new Baron and Baroness of Stormhold, and been suitably moved and impressed, I write of the one, *small*, disappointment: the lack of Pageantry by the Herald's, and to some extent the Marshals.

One way to improve this would be to have the Herald's and Marshals forgather in their tabards. Except that twenty heralds all in the same tabards would not give the populace any idea who was who. To that end I have a suggestion to make.

Any herald who is an officer of a group should wear sleeves bearing the Arms of the group represented. These sleeves could take any one of a number of forms. The style would be left up to the individual, however the sleeves should be open to better display the Arms [*heraldic Arms, that is, not those fat pink things some of us are cursed with*]. Those heralds who are "at Large" would continue to wear the sleeveless tabard.

The material of these tabards would also be subject to the level of the office. Alan Mansfield in his book *Ceremonial Costume* states that "in 1544 Kings of Arms had satin ones, Heralds damask and Pursuivants sarcenet. At King James I's coronation velvet tabards were worn by Kings of Arms and satin by Heralds . . . The Pursuivants, however, had to do with mere painted damask."

This could be modified to S.C.A. needs as follows: for Kingdom Heralds and ranking members of the College of Arms, a tabard of velvet; for Principality Heralds and Pursuivants, satin; for Baronial Pursuivants and Pursuivants at Large, silk; and for Canton/ Shire/ College P.E.s, and P.E.s at Large, linen. Cornets would wear simple cotton or wool tabards.

These "rules" would only apply to Courts or other such occasions when Pageantry should be the guiding principle. As to the Marshals, a similar set of guidelines for both Arms and materials could also be applied.

In finishing I would remind heralds that one of the reasons they exist in the S.C.A. is to promote the display of Arms and Devices. The use of tabards bearing such Devices would go a long way toward this end.

OK, not all of Pedair's suggestions are new ones, by any means. I can't blame him for being a little disappointed at the Investiture: the Crux Australis Principality tabard has - err - well, disappeared since I last used it at Twelfth Night in Innilgard, and the Barony of Stormhold has never had a "spekky" tabard for the Goutte d'Eau office - something I often regretted during my tenure but never got around to actually doing anything about.

However, I would be extremely hesitant about attempting to enforce a "standard" for Principality use. As you can see in just about any decent book on heralds, heraldic costume varied considerably, depending on who the herald was, and where and when he lived. Trying to tie us down to one particular method of expression would be unfairly serving the other periods and cultures that we study in the Society.

What I *will* say is that every rostered herald should have at least one tabard for their own use - ideally this should be the traditional green-with-gold-crossed-trumpets sleeveless job. (Rumour has it that Pursuivants are "entitled" to use a cloak instead of a tabard, but I have yet to see documentation for such practice, and I certainly don't want to promote such rampant snobbery. As far as I am concerned, if it's the right colour then it will do the job.) In addition, local heralds should have a tabard which in addition to the basic design should reflect the group in some way - using the sleeves to depict the group's arms is one such method, but there are others. Mistress Rowan Perigryne has volunteered to replace the Principality tabard with one that promises to be quite impressive (and my eternal thanks go to her for making the offer) - quartering the arms of the Principality and the College of Heralds on front, back *and* sleeves. What's that you say? Your group doesn't have a heraldic tabard? Sounds like a job for the local arts officer (and associated helpers) if you ask me. There is a disadvantage to the "local group" variant of the tabard though - and that is, it isn't appropriate for someone who *isn't* the local herald (or representative) to wear, and neither is it appropriate to wear when acting as court herald for a *different* group. (See the discussion in the *Camel of December 1989*, reprinted in "*Lochac Heraldic Policy*".) But, that's what removable sleeves are for!

And do I need to add that all heralds should take their tabards to every event that they attend? I didn't think so.

I certainly wouldn't want to restrict the use of material by Rank, either. "Oh you naughty man! Take that tabard off this instant, you're not allowed to wear satin!" is *definitely* not something I ever want to hear. As far as I am concerned, a spekky tabard should look spekky; an everyday field-use tabard made from expensive hard-to-clean material is just silly.

As for the other offices - well, they can do what they like. There's certainly no reason why they *can't* have spekky tabards if they want them. I doubt that any will appreciate the College of Heralds starting to tell them what they should wear, however. But I'll happily give them advice, if they want to ask for suggestions.

But this is all *my* opinion. If you have a differing opinion, why not write and tell me about it? I'm never averse to printing items of discussion - it is, after all, part of the reason for producing the *Camel* in the first place.

Documenting A Name? - Some Additions

In addition to the sources previously listed (see the *Camel* for October 1990, or *Lochac Heraldic Policy*), you might like to note the following:

Firstly, Lady Vesper writes "Master Da'ud [*ibn Auda, Laurel King of Arms*] is perfectly willing to take off his Laurel crown and put on his fez (or whatever) to help document Arabic names. And he's good at it." Master Da'ud can be contacted c/- David B. Appleton, PO Box 1646, Dallas TX 75221-1646 U.S.A.

Secondly, somewhat closer to home, Lord Martin de Mont Blanc is a native Spanish speaker and has kindly consented to offering whatever assistance he may to anyone struggling with documenting their Spanish persona. Lord Martin can be contacted c/- Alex Tewes, 120 Summerleas Road, Fern Tree, TAS 7054.

Subscriptions, Publications, etc.

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

For those interested, subscriptions to the West Kingdom College of Heraldry Minutes are available for US\$15. Send a foreign draft to **West Kingdom College of Heraldry, PO Box 10469, Oakland CA 94610, U.S.A.**, made payable to "S.C.A. College of Heraldry." These are sent airmail. Note, however, that everything of relevance to Lochac is reprinted in the *Camel*.

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

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

News of Previous Submissions

The *Minutes* of the West Kingdom College of Heraldry for the month of February 1991 arrived in Lochac 12 March. At this meeting were considered the Lochac submissions of December 1990. For the results, see p.12.

The *Laurel Letter of Acceptances and Returns* for February 1991 arrived in Lochac on March 18. The decisions affecting Lochac submissions, as well as some important new precedents, are detailed on pp.14, 15.

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 4 Max Court, Noble Park VIC 3174, on Saturday afternoons, beginning at 2.00pm and continuing until we're done. The next meeting will be April 13; after that the scheduled dates are May 18, June 15, July 20 and August 17.

The Hund Herald, Master Thorfinn Hrolfsson, holds weekly meetings to comment on submissions from around the Known World. These meetings are almost invariably held Monday nights beginning at 8.00pm at the home of Lord Thrainn Járngímsson [Stefan Akerblom], 'Fjordhalla', 7 Glenlea Close, Rowville VIC 3178 (phone (03) 752 8458). Regular commentary is also taking place in Innilgard

[Adelaide], Llyn Arian [Lake Macquarie, NSW], River Haven [Brisbane] and Ynys Fawr [Hobart]. Contact the relevant local herald for details.

This Month's Submissions

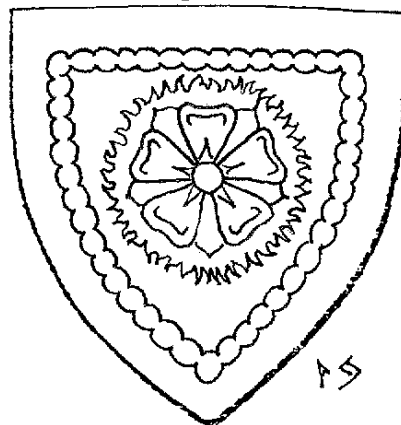
The March meeting of the College of Heraldry in the Kingdom of the West in the Principality of Lochac was held on the afternoon of 16 March at the home of the Crux Australis Herald. Present were: Lord Decion ap Dyfrwr Trefriw, Crux Australis Herald; Master Thorfinn Hroflfsson, Hund Herald; Lord Selwyn Searobyrig, acting Goutte d'Eau Pursuivant; Pedair na Cluain Bheag, Pursuivant Extraordinary for Dubh-Thrian; Lord Thrainn Járngímsson, P.E. at Large; and Lord Telsor du Bois, Cornet.

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

1. Antoine le Rêveur (Device Resubmission to Laurel; SUBMITTED) [Stormhold]

Sable, a rose gules, seeded and barbed proper, enflamed Or, within an orle invected argent.

Lord Antoine's most recent resubmission, which was this design without the orle, was returned by Crux Australis in February 1991 for conflict with the S.C.A. device of Nige of the Cleft Lands: *Sable a rose gules, barbed and seeded proper, fimbriated, within a bordure invected Or* (August 1979). This redesign clears this conflict, as there are two CVDs for changing type and tincture of the peripheral charge. There appear to be no other problems, so we are submitting it, with our fingers crossed!

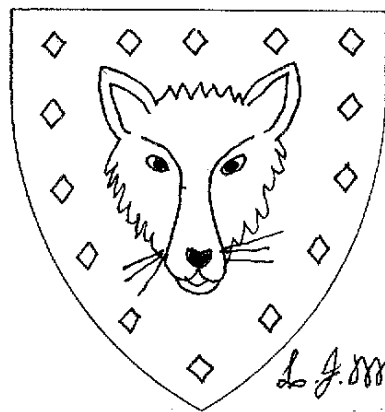


Consulting herald: Decion ap Dyfrwr Trefriw.

2. Antoinette Saint Clair (New Name and Device; both SUBMITTED) [St. Bartholomew]

Azure, a wolf's head caboshed within an orle of lozenges argent.

The name is French/English. *Antoinette* is a French feminine diminutive of the male given name *Antony*, which has been around since Roman times. There is not actually any evidence to say that *Antoinette* was used in period; indeed, Withycombe (p.27) implies that its use is no earlier than the 19th Century - in England, at least. Still, it has been registered without comment in the S.C.A. previously (October 1988, to *Antoinette Louise de la Foret de Compiègne*), and as the name from which it derives is very ancient, it didn't seem unreasonable for S.C.A. use. *Saint Clair* is given on p.72 of Reaney's *OoESN*, deriving from the French town of Saint-Clair-sur-Elle (in the La Manche region of Normandy); Reaney's *DoBS* further dates its use to 1086 (under various spellings) (p.321, under *Sinclair*). The name was submitted as *St Clair*, but the College of Arms does not register abbreviations - however, the submitter is quite welcome to use the abbreviated form.



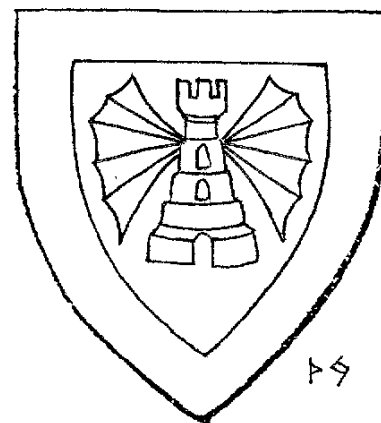
The device seems free of problems. The orle was blazoned *of fusils*, but fusils have no independent existence as charges - whilst you can have a *fess fusily*, for example (i.e., a fess made up of several conjoined lozenges), you cannot have *three fusils in fess* (i.e., three lozenges in a line, not touching). Many books on heraldry will tell you that a fusil is a lozenge that is small, or narrow, or both. That is a modern heraldic concept, and is no longer used in Society heraldry.

Consulting herald: Llewellyn Judde of the Marches.

3. **Bardolph Dragontower** (Device Resubmission to Vesper; SUBMITTED) [Innilgard]

Or, a tower sable, winged as a dragon vert, within a bordure sable.

Lord Bardolph's name was registered in June 1987. His previous device, *Or a tower sable winged gules, and in chief a dragon passant sable*, was returned by Vesper in March 1987 for conflict with the S.C.A. device of Eadwynne of Runedun: *Or a chevron inverted cotised gules, in chief a dragon passant sable* (November 1982). Although these two devices are no longer in conflict under our current rules, Lord Bardolph has chosen to redesign the device. It should be clear of the arms of Mountjoy: *Or a castle sable* (Papworth p.365) - even if you don't grant any difference between a castle and a tower, there is certainly a CVD for the bordure, and the wings are prominent enough for another. Similarly it is clear of the arms of Gidley: *Or a castle sable and a bordure sable bezanty* (Papworth p.368), with a CVD for removing the bezants and another for adding the wings.



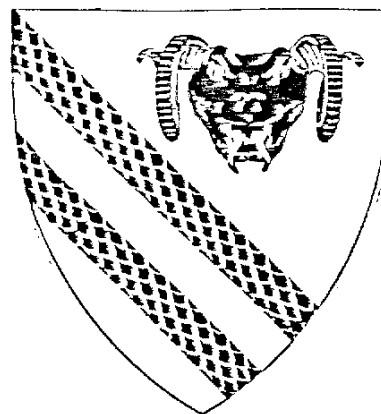
Consulting herald: René du Bon Bois.

4. **Dubhgall O'Connor** (New Name and Device; both SUBMITTED) [Stormhold]

Argent, two bendlets sable, scaly argent, and in chief a snake's head caboshed, attired of ram's horns, sable.

The name is Irish. Withycombe states that the given name is "Old Irish *dubhgall* 'black stranger', a name originally given by the Irish to the Norwegians . . ." (p.88, under *Dougal*). *O'Connor* is cited from *Irish Families*, pp.88-90, where it is dated back to the 11th Century - ". . . perhaps the most illustrious of all Irish surnames . . ."

The device, which definitely should not be shown to small children on stormy nights, should be clear of the arms of Bradsaw: *Argent two bendlets sable* (Papworth p.283), with a CVD for the treatment of the bendlets, and another for adding the monster.



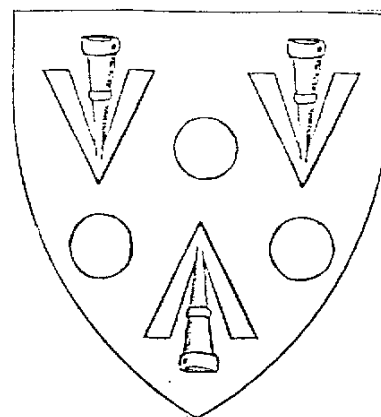
Consulting herald: Pedair na Cluain Bheag.

5. **Hugh de la Brett** (New Name and Device; both SUBMITTED) [Stormhold]

Or, between three pheons, the one in base inverted, three roundels in chevron, all gules.

Hugh is given in Withycombe, p.157, as a name introduced into England by the Normans, and is dated to 1273. *de la Brett*, "of the Bretons", is a surname usually encountered in the form *le Bret* (Reaney's *DoBS*, p.49), but it was found in this spelling in Foster, p.33 - Sir Eumenius de la Brett, who was present at the battle of Falkirk in 1298.

The device should be clear of the arms of Partington: *Or, three pheons gules* (Papworth p.1020). Counting the pheons as the primary charge group (they are slightly larger and in the default locations for three charges), there is a CVD for inverting the bottom-most of the three charges, and another for adding the roundels. (Lord Laurel's precedent of 6 September 1990, stating that for the purposes of *R/S X.4.d, e and h*, the bottom-most of three charges, either on the field alone or around an ordinary, is defined as one-half of the group, is what is being used here. Now, strictly speaking, this device does not qualify for that precedent, because the pheons are *not* around



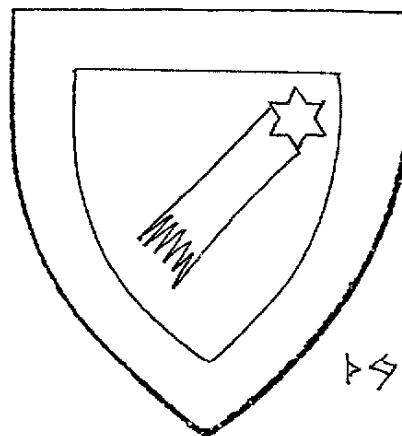
an ordinary or on the field by themselves. It is my opinion however that in this example the roundels are "acting" as an ordinary (a chevron). Basically, this is a test case to see if the precedent can be extended to a relatively simple variation such as this. I would not be so generous if the roundels were not all the same tincture, or indeed not all roundels.)

Consulting herald: Pedair na Cluain Bheag.

6. Sanchia de la Tourre (New Name and Device; both SUBMITTED) [Innilgard]

Argent, a comet in bend sinister and a bordure gules.

The name is Provençal. *Sanchia* is in Withycombe, p.263, as the Spanish and Provençal feminine of *Sancho*, from the Latin *sanctus* 'holy'. It was introduced into England when Richard, Earl of Cornwall, married Sanchia, daughter of the Count of Provence, in 1243. *de la Tourre* is the correct Provençal for "of the tower" - documentation from French-Provençal and English-French dictionaries was provided. (Apparently English-Provençal dictionaries are not in high demand!)



The device should be clear of the S.C.A. badge of Egill von Stahl: *Argent, a comet bendwise sinister inverted sable, bearded gules* (August 1986). There is a CVD for adding the bordure, and, according to the PicDic, p.21, the mullet is to chief by default, so there should be another CVD for changing the direction. The submitter is advised to draw the mullet much larger, and to 'flare' the beard at the end.

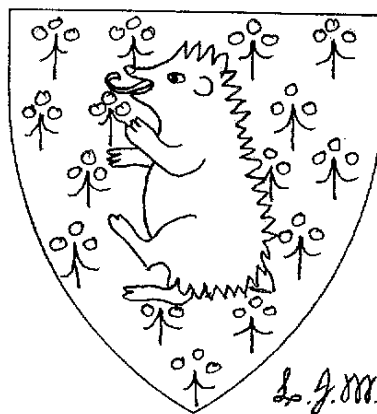
Consulting herald: Kenelm de la Dale.

[Mini-rant: The documentation for this submission was provided on lots of little cut-out pieces of paper. Rather than risk anything being lost in transit, I glued the little bits of paper to standard A4 sheets. PLEASE do not send me loose little bits of paper, especially if they contain important information! Stapling them together is not enough, as they will invariably tear free from the staple.]

7. Valentine du Promontoire (New Device; SUBMITTED) [St. Bartholomew]

Argent ermined gules, an urchin rampant sable.

Valentine's name was registered in January 1991. This seems free of problems. We did think the beast is extremely cute, however.



Consulting herald: Llewellyn Judde of the Marches.

8. Vespa Vesperis, Canton of (New Name and Device; both SUBMITTED) [Vespa Vesperis]

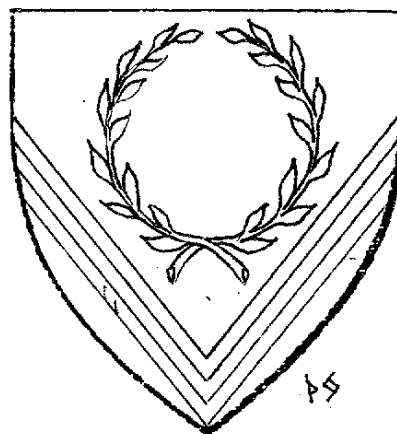
Sable, two chevronels inverted and in chief a laurel wreath Or.

This is Stormhold's newest Canton. The name is Latin, and is intended to mean "Wasp of the Evening", or "Western Wasp" - alluding to both the Canton's location (it is the western part of Melbourne, and the site of the RAAF bases where the FA18 Hornets were assembled) and the Canton's archers, who are apparently quite willing to deliver wasp-like stings when the sun is low in the west . . . it's all a bit too poetic for me, I think. Be that as it may, the Latin words are certainly

correct (according to my Latin dictionary, anyway), but our nearly non-existent knowledge of Latin grammar cannot tell us if it's formed in a correct manner or not. It seems OK, though.

The device appears free of problems. The chevrons should be drawn a little thicker, and the laurel wreath just a little smaller.

A petition signed by the populace has been included. However, the petition only gives the populace's approval of the submitted name and device; the *forms* provide alternates but the *petition* doesn't. This may cause difficulties later if there are any problems with the submissions. We shall see.



Bibliography

- Foster** *The Dictionary of Heraldry*, Joseph Foster (Bracken Books, London 1989)
- Irish Families** *Irish Families: Their Names, Arms and Origins*, E. MacLysaght (Allen Figgis, Dublin 1978)
- Papworth** *Papworth's Ordinary of British Armorial*s, Papworth (Five Barrows, Bath 1977)
- PicDic** *A Pictorial Dictionary of Heraldry as used in the S.C.A.*, Draconarius & Yoshio (privately published, Caid 1988)
- Reaney's DoBS** *A Dictionary of British Surnames* (2nd Ed.), P.H. Reaney (Routledge & Kegan Paul, London 1987)
- Reaney's OoESN** *The Origin of English Surnames*, P.H. Reaney (Routledge & Kegan Paul, London 1987)
- Withycombe** *The Oxford Dictionary of English Christian Names* (3rd Ed.), E.G. Withycombe (OUP, Oxford 1977)

Oops!

In last month's *Camel*, the device for Ingerith fra Russ was blazoned as *Gules chapé ployé, in base a double-bitted axe Or*. It should have been *chapé ployé argent, in base . . .* Sorry about that.

Laurel Precedents

The following decisions are extracted from the February 1991 Laurel *LoAR*, and presented here as being worthy of note; it is by examining decisions such as these that we gain a greater understanding of how the *RfS* are meant to work in practice. (Also see p.15 for some specifically spelled-out new precedents.)

- * *(Registering the given name "Lynne")* While it was a surname in period, Lynne is also a diminutive of a given name. Hence we felt that II.4 (Legal Names) could be applied here. *(Note that Lord Laurel appears to be overturning the provision of II.4 that says "the allowance is only made for the actual legal name, not any variants" - either that or he doesn't consider the diminutive of a name to be a "variant" of it.)*
- * *(On registering an augmentation)* While the [augmentations] have a tendency to unbalance the device somewhat, it is Laurel's feeling that we need to loosen the application of our standards a little with regard to augmentations, which by their very nature will add complexity to and not infrequently serve to unbalance a device. *(The device in question had two augmentations; one was registered whilst the other was returned for being too unbalancing.)*
- * *(On registering a very complex device)* Although this technically exceeds the rule of thumb as outlined in VIII.1.a, it holds together so extremely well visually through the use of identical charges on each side of the bend and identical charges on the chief that it may be registered.
- * *(Winged monsters)* There was a consensus that, particularly in relatively simple armory, that the addition of wings to a beast which is a primary charge should be worth a CVD.
- * It is not possible to eclipse something "of the field" on a fieldless badge.

- * *(On returning [Fieldless] A quaver azure)* In keeping with prior Laurel rulings on this issue, just as a badge may not consist solely of a single letter, neither may it consist solely of a single abstract symbol.
- * *(On returning Argent, a sprig of heather proper . . .)* . . . Nor is it likely that heather could be rendered recognisably.
- * Use of a charge of the same type as a seme is visually confusing and has been grounds for return before.
- * I can only repeat what Master Baldwin said about arcs of stars: "The design, although pretty, is not heraldic. A circle of stars may surround an entire charge or group of charges, but stars surrounding only part of a charge is fantasy art." (Baldwin of Erebor, LoAR 28 September 1984, p.14)
- * Orchids come in far too many different shapes for reproducibility of the emblazon from the blazon, or for the blazon to adequately describe the emblazon.
- * The Rules for Submissions (X.3) limit fimbriation to simple geometric charges placed in the centre of the field. The use of fimbriation here (of multiple charges) appears a little excessive.
- * *(On returning a very complex device)* The rule of thumb outlined in RfS VIII.1.a is simply that, a rule of thumb. Some devices may be too complex by that rule of thumb and yet because of their visual unity be simple enough to register. Others may be "simple enough" by that rule and still be visually too complex.
- * . . . Any armory submitted for registration by the College of Arms must be judged by SCA standards, not British, Scottish, French, German, Polish, Russian, Saracenic, or Japanese. This must be so because we do not register British, Scottish, etc. armory - we cannot. That is left by law to the Colleges of Arms of those respective nations. We are the Society for Creative Anachronism, and what we register is SCA heraldry, what we use and display is SCA heraldry, and what we have to use to determine appropriateness are SCA standards.
- * *(Whilst returning a device with a cross-variant for conflict, Lord Laurel mentioned "in passing" that different types of crosses can be clear of each other by X.2 - i.e., Complete Difference of Primary Charge. He has neglected however to specify any guidelines for what crosses can benefit by this rule.)*
- * Gargoyles do not have a standardised heraldic form and hence cannot be registered.

Trivia

The discussion of Heraldic Pageantry (see page 3) reminded me of something I recently read concerning the College of Arms: just why do we use green-with-gold-trumpets, anyway? You might be as interested as I was in the answer, found in the article "The History of the S.C.A. College of Arms", by Master Wilhelm von Schlüssel, as presented in the Proceedings of the Known World Heraldic Symposium of AS XXII (West Kingdom, 1987).

The answer is quite simple, as Master Wilhelm writes:

At the third tournament, held on September 25, 1966, Henrik of Havn defeated Fulk de Wyvern, the winner of the second tourney, to crown his lady, Wendryn, Queen of the Day. Harold Breakstone began heralding on a regular basis, and the green cloak he wore came to be the symbol of the heralds. At this time he was the only official herald. . . .

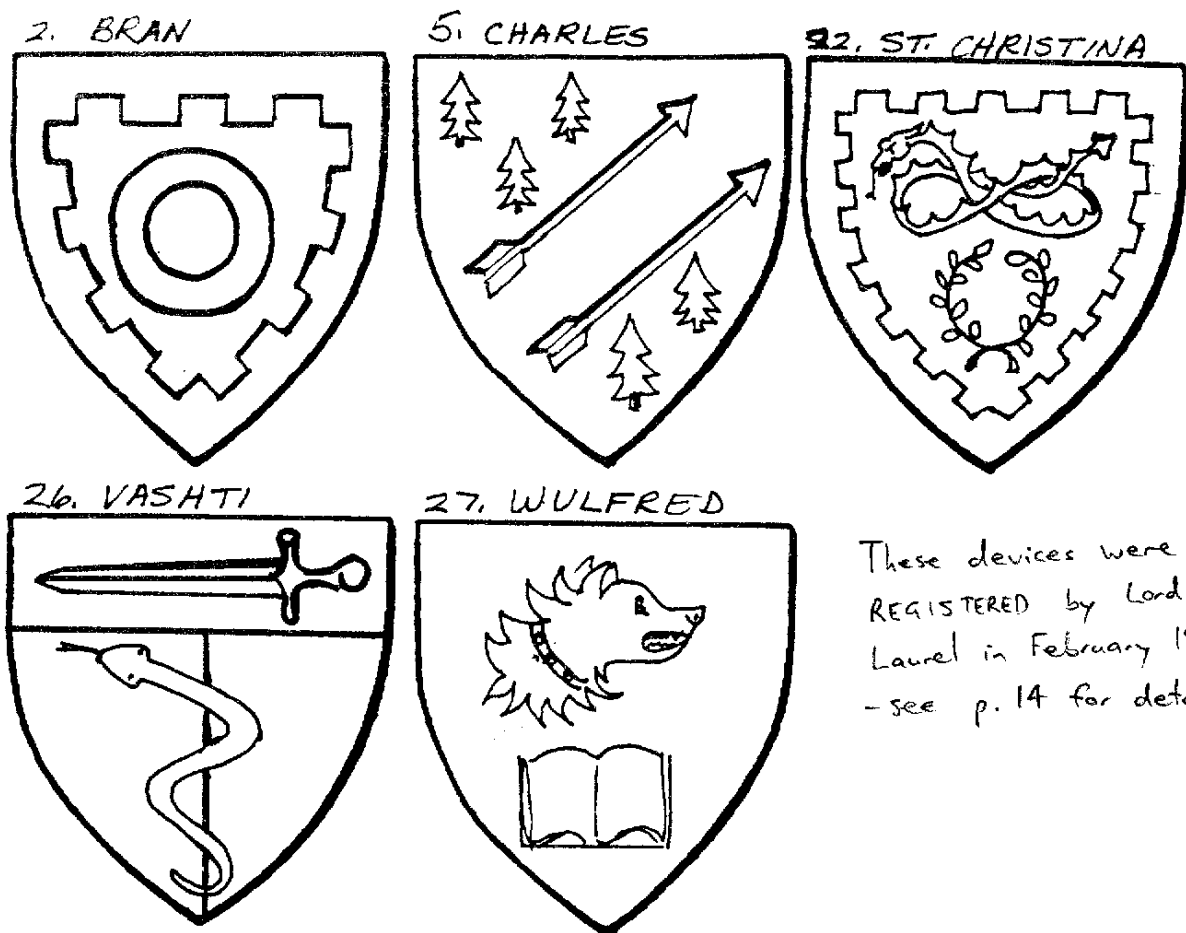
The fourth tournament was held on March 25, 1967. . . . Harold Breakstone, as Lord Herald, was primarily concerned with making announcements and announcing fighters in the lists. He was joined that year by Randall of Hightower and Karina of the Far West, as Pursuivants. . . . As there was more than one herald, the heralds adopted titles, with Harold Breakstone as Laurel Herald, Randall of Hightower as Clarion Pursuivant, and Karina of the Far West as Banner Pursuivant. . . .

On July 21, 1968 the Kingdom of the East split off from the Kingdom of the West when it held its first Crown Tournament. . . The heralds were registering the arms of the members of the S.C.A., in order to prevent duplication, and a national organisation was now needed, separate from the Kingdom Colleges of Heraldry, to register heraldic submissions and to set overall policy. Master Harold Breakstone moved up to Laurel King of Arms, with Master Randall of Hightower becoming Clarion Herald for the West and John of Brook Lynn becoming Mural Herald for the East. Mistress Karina of the Far West became Banner Herald. The S.C.A. Board of Directors, consisting of Master Jon de Cles, Mistress Diana Listmaker, and Master Harold Breakstone, created the National College of Heraldry, headed by the Laurel Sovereign of Arms, and consisting of Laurel, the kingdom Principal Herald, and the Laurel staff. This was announced in T.I. Issue #9.

On February 15, 1970, a new practice was begun, namely written minutes of the Laurel meetings, kept by Mistress Dorothea of Caer Myrddin. Many arms in use before this date were considered accepted by grandfather clause. At this point Laurel began issuing Letters of Acceptance, listing those arms and badges which were approved and therefore registered. At this meeting the National College registered the arms of the S.C.A., the West, the East, the College of Heraldry, the College of Seneschals, the Earl Marshal, and some individual arms, the first being that of John ap Griffin, the last being that of Eric Haroldsson Breakstone, the son of Lord Laurel, then still *in utero*. . . The green cloak with gold crossed trumpets was reaffirmed as the emblem of the herald on duty.

So there you have it - quite simple really. I suppose we should all be grateful that Master Harold did not favour cloaks of, say, green and purple checks . . .

The article is quite extensive and covers the entire history of the College of Arms up until the date of the Symposium (1987). It's fascinating, if you're curious about this sort of thing, and well worth reading, if you can get hold of a copy. One of the most intriguing things about the Society, in my opinion, is the fact that it has a history with a depth all of its own, quite apart from the "real" history that we're supposed to be recreating.



These devices were REGISTERED by Lord Laurel in February 1991 - see p. 14 for details.

The following submissions were considered by Vesper at her meeting of 3 February AS XXV (1991) and were SUBMITTED to Lord Laurel for registration:

1. Aldric of Wolfden (Parvus Portus) new name only

Searle's Onomasticon Anglo-Saxorum, p. 200 cites "Ealdric" and notes "Ald-" as a variant of "Eald-". "Wolfden" is a constructed placename. Hanks & Hodges' Surnames derive the placename "Wolfenden" from the given name "Wulfhelm" plus "-denu", an Old English form of "valley". As "Wulf" and "Wolf" are also cited as given names in Searle, this is a parallel construction. Consulting herald: Jacques du Bar sur le Loup

3. Baldwin the Wanderer (Parvus Portus) new name only

"Baldwin" is noted in Withycombe, p. 40, with other spellings as early as the 11th C. "The Wanderer" is one of the most common descriptive epithets found in SCA nomenclature, and is even relatively period. Consulting herald: Gilden of the Glen.

4. Bess Haddon of York (Rowany) new name and device

Gyronny azure and argent, on each gyron a quatrefoil counterchanged.

"Bess" is a common diminutive of "Elizabeth" and is found in this form in period in the nickname of Queen Elizabeth I, "Good Queen Bess". "Haddon" is dated in this spelling in Reaney's Dictionary of British Surnames, p. 161 to 1267. "York" is a relatively well known place in England. We were made a bit uncomfortable about the combination of "Bess" and "of York" in this name, as Countess Elizabeth of York was the mother of King Henry VIII and quite an important figure in her own right. Technically the addition of a surname should make this clear. We considered the blazon Gyronny azure and argent, eight quatrefoils in annulo counterchanged, but reluctantly substituted the submitted blazon as it is a bit more precise. This ought to be clear of the device of Melianne de Avignon, Gyronny argent and azure, crusilly counterchanged. We see two CVDs for type and number of charges. There was some debate as to whether a CVD could be gotten for change of number between eight charges and "semy" of charges, but we decided that if that didn't work, then either two CVDs could be gotten for type and arrangement of charges (the semy ought to be rather random) OR, technically, for the almost visually insignificant change to the exact placement of the field colors and type. There are fewer questions about the device of Coinneach Mac an Leigh, Gyronny of ten azure and argent, on each gyron an arrow, point to center, counterchanged. There the CVD for difference of field is made more obvious by the differing symmetries and there is another for type of charge. Consulting herald: the submittor.

9. Elżbieta od Siedleczi (Stormhold) new name only, see RETURNS for device

"Elżbieta" is cited in Yonge on p. 35 as the Polish form of "Elizabeth". The submittor says that "od Siedleczi" refers to the town in Poland in which she was born. We know that "od" does mean "of", or "from" in Polish, and we have found a town in Poland called "Siedlce" in the Webster's Geographical Dictionary. Bearing in mind that the submittor is an Australian, and that they use (along with the British) a different form of transliteration of Slavic languages than do Americans, it seems to be close enough to send on for comment. I suspect that this would be more correctly "od Siedlce", with the actual name of the town used with "od", and that "Siedleczi" is a surname that in itself means "of Siedlce", but that is just a hunch. Consulting herald: Morgan ap Idris.

12. Juan de la Gard (Rowany) new name and device

Argent, a chevron rompu purpure between two fleurs-de-lys vert and a stag lodged sable.

"Juan" is the Spanish form of "John" and the "Gard" is a river in the southern part of France. We suspect that this ought to be "du Gard" as both the river and its preposition are French, but lacking a knowledge of what the Spanish call said river, we are passing it on in the form the submittor desires. If the Spanish word for the French river is the same as the French word for it, then it is OK as it is. Consulting herald: Richard de la Croix.

Azure, four oak leaves conjoined in saltire argent within an orle Or charged in cross with four harts.

"Talbot" is cited in Withycombe as dating to the 12th C. (page 275). The placename is coined on the pattern of "Oakley", "Oakford", "Oakley" etc. Consulting herald: Melloney de Charteris.

"Tegan" is the name of an early Welsh saint, cited in Gruffydd (Welsh Names, p. 88). Bartram's Early Welsh Geneological Tracts, notes several names with an "an/en" variation, such as "Cathan/Cathen". The Fodoir Gaelige-Bearla Dictionary has "meanbh" as a variant of "mion", meaning "small, tiny, diminutive". The examples of feminine bynames in O'Corrain and Maguire are neither inflected nor aspirated, so this would seem to be the correct form. Consulting herald: Decion ap Dyfrwr Trefriw.

The following submissions were considered by Vesper at her meeting of 3 February AS XXV (1991) and were RETURNED for further consultation:

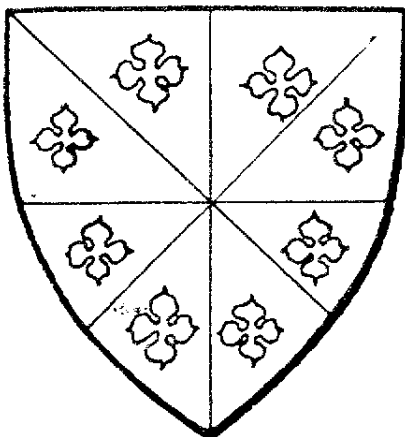
Vert, semy of daisies argent, on a pile Or a fox sejant erect gules, playing bagpipes vert.

"Adrienne" is cited in Withycombe Oxford Dictionary of English Christian Names as a French feminine form of the name "Adrian", the name of the only English Pope. "Fildyng" is a 14th C. spelling of "Felding" and is found in Foster's Dictionary of Heraldry p. 84. The submitter claims that "Faux" is a town in the Aquitaine area of France near Bergerac, but none of our maps are detailed enough to show it. There is a place called "Poix" (French for "fox" and a cant on the device), but it is a lot closer to Toulouse than Bergerac. Because "faux" is also a French adjective meaning "false" it is not a suitable word to form a placename. If we could document it as a real place, there would be no problem. If the submitter allowed any changes at all in her name, we would substitute "Poix" for "Faux", which we suspect is what she intended. As it is, this otherwise excellent name and device will have to be returned. Consulting herald: Pedair na Cluain Bheag.

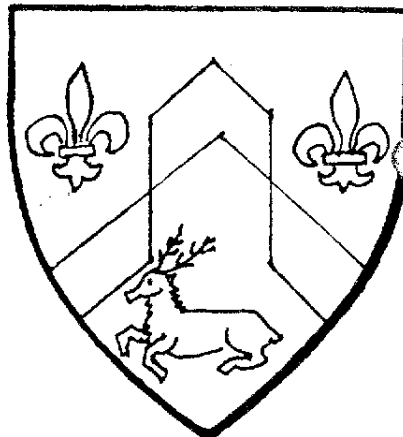
Sable, a griffin passant to sinister argent, and in dexter chief a broad arrow Or.

This very elegant device is in conflict with the device of Aethelthrittha of Whitby, Sable, a winged lion passant guardant to sinister, argent. While there is a CVD for adding the arrowhead (which ought to be drawn much larger to really count for anything), the actual differences between a griffin and a winged lion are not enough to count for a second CVD, as a griffin is only a winged lion with the head and forequarters of an eagle. Even though the submitter did list some alternates, she had also checked the "Make no changes" box, and we could therefore not consider them. Consulting herald: Morgan ap Idris.

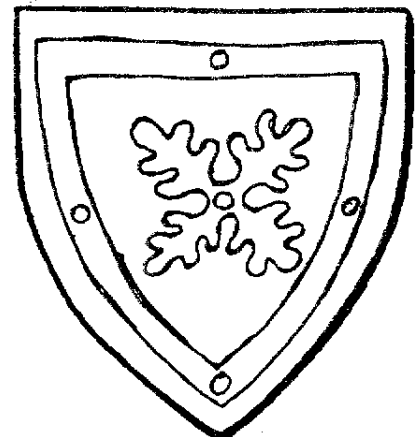
4. Bess



12. Juan



20. Talbot



The following correction to a previous registration was issued by Lord Laurel on 8 March 1991:

Corrections to the June 1990 LoAR

WEST

Ninianne aet Seolesigge. Device. Per bend sinister Or and gules, a dragon sejant erect, in dexter chief two axes in saltire sable, hafted gules.

The position of the axes, in saltire, was not specified in the LoAR.

The following correction to the Armorial and Ordinary was issued by Lord Laurel on 8 March 1991:

Corrections to the Armorial and Ordinary

Fmrys Eustace Boreyne. Device. Or, a sprig of broom plant peascods within a mascle gules. (Genista anglica)

This was registered simply as a "sprig of peascods", which would not strictly reproduce the emblazon in the files.

The following submissions were REGISTERED by Lord Laurel on 23 February XXV (1991):

Bran of Lochiel. Device change. Gules, an annulet within a bordure embattled Or.

Charles du Bois. Name and device. Argent, two arrows bendwise sinister inverted sable, flighted azure, between five pine trees coupé proper.

Though the trees were blazoned in the LoI as three and two, this should be the normal distribution of five objects around a bend or bendwise object(s).

Saint Christina the Astonishing, College of. New device. Or, in pale a sea serpent nowed and a laurel wreath vert, a bordure embattled gules.

Sveinn Tryggvason. New name only.

Vashti Damascene. Name and device. Per pale sable and azure, a snake glissant palewise and on a chief argent, a sword sable.

Wulfred Haraldsson. Name and device. Argent, in pale a wolf's head erased contourny sable and an open book gules.

The following submission was RETURNED by Lord Laurel on 23 February XXV (1991):

Julian du Bois. Device appeal. Per bend sinister argent and sable, a stump eradicated vert.

We were forced to agree with Mistress Alisoun in the previous return of this device: "The placement of the bulk of the distinguishing feature of this tree trunk, the roots eradicated, upon the sable portion of the field unacceptably diminish the identifiability of this charge." RfS VIII.3, Armorial Identifiability, states that "Elements must be used in a design so as to preserve their individual identifiability", and notes in the explanatory text that "elements may be rendered unidentifiable by ... marginal contrast...." Such is the case here. A reversal of the field tinctures should rectify this problem.

From the cover letter to the February 1991 Letter of Acceptances and Returns:

FIELDLESS STYLE (or, [Fieldless] ♪ ♪ Here a charge, there a charge, ... ♪ ♪)

Well, results are in on the poll regarding whether or not fieldless badges may consist of disconnected charges, and the results came out overwhelmingly in favor of banning such. So on and after June 1 of this year, the College will no longer register fieldless badges consisting of disconnected charges. This ban will include charges "framing" another charge, unless such charges are conjoined. The three-month delay in implementing this action will allow those fieldless badges currently pending at the College of Arms level to be considered without prejudice, since they were submitted before this ruling. I do not believe that this ruling will require a change to the wording of the rules, since it is really only a stricter interpretation of the current wording of Rule VIII.5, Fieldless Style ("Ideally, a fieldless design will have all its elements linked together.")

CHARGED TIERCES

Owing to what is becoming overwhelming support for the idea, on and after June 1, 1991, the College will no longer register charged sides or tierces. The three-month delay in implementing this action will allow those submissions with charged tierces currently pending at the College level to be considered without prejudice, since they were submitted before this ruling. I would like a discussion in the College as to whether uncharged tierces should be included in this ban (and whether we could or should expand it to un/charged gores, gussets, etc.).

PARTICLES AND PERIOD PRACTICE

We need to be educating our submitters regarding name formation. One particularly noticeable area is the formation of geographical, occupational and descriptive bynames. "Of" this and "from" that and "the" something-or-other are not really non-period style, but it isn't good period style, either. The next couple of paragraphs are excerpted from my column to be published in the Summer issue of Tournaments Illuminated. Please feel free to use the examples here, or look up some of your own. It's not hard to do; simply open Reaney's Dictionary of British Surnames. I doubt that it is possible to read through a single page without finding an example of a geographic or occupational or descriptive byname which very rapidly dropped the "of" or "the" or "atte" or whatever. If we can teach our members (and our heralds, too!) what good period name formation is, we will end up registering more good period-style names.

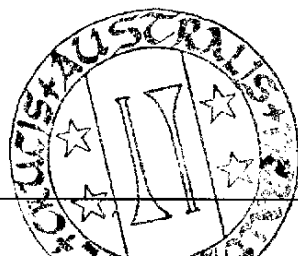
Many geographical bynames in English lost the article "of" and became hereditary surnames in their own right, passed on from parents to children despite the actual place of birth or residence: Lincoln (from "of Lincoln"), Stafford ("of Stafford"), and Maxwell ("from Maxwell") are only a few examples of these.

Occupational Bynames: Another common way of differentiating one Tom, Dick or Harry from another is to append their occupations: "the Smith", "the Baker", "the Cooper", and so on. In English, and in many other languages in period, the article "the" was often dropped. You may have noticed that the examples of occupational bynames given just above have all become surnames in their own right without the article: Smith, Baker, and Cooper. Wainwright (from the wainwright, or wagon maker), Woodman (woodsman), and Chandler (candler, maker or seller of candles) are just a few of many other examples. This occurred in other languages as well.

Descriptives: Descriptive epithets were frequently appended to an individual's given name, usually referencing some aspect of that individual's physical or personality traits. Many descriptive epithets, like geographical and occupational bynames, were used without the article "the" and became hereditary surnames: the Big became "Big", "Bigge", the Tall became "Longman", the Quiet became "Still", "Stille", as only a few examples.

Until next month...

SECTION



Thanks to the usual folks:
Thrain, for his pencil;
Gareth, for his generosity;
Cassandra, for her patience.