

Crux Australis Herald
Baron Master Gereint Scholar

Stilgherrian • The Scriptorium IIA
P. O. Box 213, Prospect SA 5082, Australia
phone (08) 344-1794 • intl +618-344-1794

CAMEL, OCTOBER A.S. XXV (1990)

Meeting date: 14th October

Mailing date: 2nd November

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 October A.S. XXV.

This Month's Highlights

- Changing Crux Australis Herald. (page 1)
- The Review of Herald. (page 2)
- Other roster changes. (page 2)
- Submissions now go to Lord Decion. (page 2)
- A CHANGE TO THE *RULES FOR SUBMISSIONS*. (page 3)
- Help with Welsh and Far Eastern names. (page 4)
- This month's submissions. (pages 4–6 and page 16 — don't ask!)
- News of previous submissions. (page 6)
- Laurel Precedents. (pages 6–7)
- More pointless statistics. (pages 7–8)

The Succession of the Crux Australis Herald

It's been approved. It's official. At Twelfth Night I'll hand on the office of Crux Australis Herald to Lord Decion ap Dyfrwr Trefriw [Bruce Probst], 4 Max Court, Noble Park VIC 3174. Telephone (03) 547-0654. My sincere thanks to Lord Decion for accepting this job — and for journeying to Innilgard specifically to discuss the changeover with me.

As part of our "organized handover", Lord Decion is now handling all heraldic submissions. All submissions should now be sent to him at the address shown above. He'll hold the monthly heraldic meetings [see below, page 4], and for November and December he'll send the processed submissions to me for final approval.

One task that I will retain after Twelfth Night is maintaining the heraldic database, and preparing *Orders of Precedence*, award lists and other reports. (Those of you who know computers will know that once you have a system working on one machine, you leave it alone.) I intend making an easy-to-understand award list and order of precedence available on a regular basis, perhaps once a year, but more likely every four months, to coincide with the Principality events. This document would be available to the populace at nominal cost. This will be a Titled Pursuivant position, similar to the West Kingdom's Golem Pursuivant. I'll be thinking up a suitable title soon. If you have any suggestions, please let me know.

Remember that the position of Field Deputy to Crux Australis is still vacant, so if you're interested in applying, please *write* and let me know. For details, see the August *Camel* (p.1). Lord Decion has told me he's also interested in developing the position of Court Deputy, to work on ceremonies, and coordinate Court heraldry at the three Principality events. Again, write if you're interested.

Cleaning Up the Loose Ends

When I hand the reigns to Lord Decion in just nine weeks time, I want to hand him this Principality's chunk of the West Kingdom College of Heraldry in a fully working order. To that end, I'll be tidying up a few loose ends before Twelfth Night. In particular, I'll be looking at three things. Local heralds who are not members of the SCA will be asked to nominate a successor who is before the end of November. Local heralds who've failed to report on schedule for two quarters will be asked to explain why, and if they have no reasonable explanation for their failure to communicate, they'll be removed from office. And local heralds who've been particularly inactive will be given a gentle prod — or something stronger if it's appropriate. In other words, I'm continuing my review of the local heralds throughout the Principality. Local heralds, expect to receive a detailed letter before mid-December — and if you're suffering from any of the three problems I've just described, expect your letter earlier.

I should stress that the local herald is one of the officers required by *every* local SCA group. If a group doesn't have a herald, this fact is brought to the attention of the Principality Seneschal, who is obliged to take appropriate action.

That may sound a bit strong, but I've always felt that whilst the SCA's local officers are indeed all volunteers, they volunteer *to do a job*. I therefore have what I think is a quite reasonable expectation: that the job is done.

On a more positive note, this review will give me the chance to catch up on all the smaller requests for information that have thus far managed to slip through the net. And the office of Crux Australis Herald will be taking on the direct responsibility of rostering all heralds in Lochac, so this will enable me to complete the formalities of rostering for everyone who's managed to slip through *that* net.

Other Roster Changes.

Lady Morag Ameredith has reluctantly resigned as the PE for the College of Saint Aldhelm, and I have equally reluctantly accepted. She'll remain on the *Roster* as a PE At Large. Thank you, Lady Morag, for three years excellent service as local herald, and for your well-researched and excellently-presented heraldic submissions. Saint Aldhelm's is therefore currently without a local herald — a situation I trust will be remedied forthwith.

The Incipient Canton of Odin's Wood failed to reach "cipientcy", and was officially closed down some time ago. I've now caught up and removed their local herald from the *Roster*. As Stormhold's Canton of East Ridge is also about to vanish soon, I've asked that Lord Thrainn Járgrímsson be re-rostered as a PE At Large.

And the Canton of Parvus Portus has a new local herald: Gildon of the Glen [Glen Chalmers], 8 Caf-ferley Street, Leichardt QLD 4305. He'll be rostered initially as a Cornet.

Submissions go to Lord Decion

I've mentioned it above, but I'll mention it again now, and I'll probably mention it again later:

All heraldic submissions should now be sent to Lord Decion ap Dyfrwr Trefriw [Bruce Probst], 4 Max Court, Noble Park VIC 3174. Continue to make cheques payable to "SCA College of Heraldry".

Changes to the *Rules for Submissions*

Yes, I know you haven't received your official copies of the *Rules for Submissions* yet, despite the assurances that they were sent surface mail some *many* weeks ago. But when you do, you'll have to change one bit. In his *LoAR* for September, Lord Laurel announced a change to the conflict rules. He writes:

After reviewing carefully what commentary there was on the change to X.2 proposed by Mistress Alisoun, X.2 will be changed as follows, effectively immediately:

X.2 Difference of Primary Charges. Armory that consist of: (a) a charge or group of charges alone on the field; or (b) a charge or group of charges which may themselves be charged; or (c) a charge or group of charges accompanied only by a single group of identical charges upon the field; or (d) a charge or group of charges accompanied by a peripheral charge which may itself be charged — does not conflict with similarly simple, protected armory if the type of the primary charge is substantially changed.

This wording is a little longer than Laurel himself would have liked, but describes more clearly than a more abbreviated form would the various conditions under which X.2 will apply. Please note the careful placement of the word "or" between the various subclauses: X.2 will not apply to two devices with secondaries *and* a charged chief, for instance. The change to the primary charge(s) must be substantial: type variants are not sufficient (a chevron vs. a chevron embattled is not a substantial change in type [both are, after all, the same *type* of charge, a chevron] for the purposes of this rule); some quadrupeds and crosses, for example, may be to close visually to apply this rule.

As Lord Laurel's explanation is intended for relatively experienced heralds, I'll expand on his words. This rule, X.2, applies when you're considering two simple pieces of armory. You should already be familiar with the concept: when comparing two pieces of armory [*devices or badges — but from now on I'll say "devices" for brevity*], even if all the tinctures and all the other things about the devices are the same, if they're simple enough and if the primary charge groups are of different types, then they're clear of each other: you don't have to find a second Clear Visual Difference. And you're probably familiar with some of the requirements for being "simple enough". Subclause (a) just tells us that *Argent, a chevron gules* is different from *Argent, a dragon gules* (or, for that matter, that *Argent, three dragons gules* is different from *Argent, three mullets gules*). Subclause (b) says that it's still clear even if the *dragon* and the *chevron* are both charged with a *roundel Or*, say. And subclause (d) says *Argent, a chevron and on a chief gules, a cross Or* is clear of *Argent, a dragon and on a chief gules, a cross Or*. All this is much as before.

The change is subclause (c): we now allow difference to be counted even if the primary charge group is accompanied by other charges on the field — provided that those charges are all identical, and they're in a single charge group. In other words, *Argent, a chevron between three mullets gules* is now clear of *Argent, a dragon between three mullets gules*. Further examples will probably come up in future submissions, because until now this sort of thing has been a relatively common source of conflicting armory, so I'll explain it further as we go along.

In addition, Lord Laurel has explicitly stated a new Precedent, relating to charges on other charges (which used to be called "tertiary charges"), which is described in his own words on page 10.

Documenting a Name? Help is At Hand!

Mistress Keridwen o'r Mynydd Gwyrdd, HarpyHerald and former Brachet Herald in the West Kingdom, reminds us that she *loves* helping people research their names. Her special interest is Welsh

names, although I understand that she also knows a little about Irish Gaelic and Scots Gaelic. Her address is: Heather Rose Jones, 5838 Fremont Street #3, Oakland CA 94608, United States of America.

And Master Morimoto Koryu, former Monsho Herald, has repeated his availability and willingness to help as a consultant on Far Eastern names and armory. His address is: Anthony Ferrucci, 1203 NE 92nd Street, Seattle WA 98115, United States of America. Not that I *like* people registering Far Eastern names and armory, but they are legal, so my *personal* opinions must be put aside. However, it is official Society policy to discourage people from developing persona outside the SCA's main areas of interest.

Meeting Schedule and Submission Notes

Every month, the Crux Australis Herald holds a meeting to consider the heraldic submissions from around the Principality. However, I've delegated my November and December meetings to my nominated successor, Lord Decion ap Dyfrwr Trefriw, and after that he'll be holding the monthly meetings in his own right. All heraldic submissions should now be sent to him at 4 Max Court, Noble Park VIC 3174. The November meeting is on Saturday 17th November at that address. After that, meetings are scheduled for Saturday 15th December and tentatively for 19th January. The meetings will continue to be held on Saturdays unless there's an outcry from the populace.

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 Jángrímsson [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 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 October meeting of the College of Heralds of the Kingdom of the West in the Principality of Lochac was held on Sunday 14th October at The Scriptorium IIA. As this was the final meeting held in the home of the current Crux Australis Herald, there were more people present than usual, and a lively time was had by: Master Gereint Scholar, Crux Australis Herald; Lord Decion ap Dyfrwr Trefriw, Goutty d'Eau Pursuivant and Crux Australis Designate; Lord René du Bon Bois, Acting Frette Rouge Pursuivant; Aidan of Sicily, Acting PE for Saint Christina's; Olaf Thordardson, Acting PE for Arx Draconis; Pursuivant At Large (and on this occasion *very large!*) Mistress Aislinn de Valence; PEs At Large Lord Dubhghlas MacAilean, Prince Haos Windchaser, Lord Kenelm de la Dale, Lord Robert Furness of Southwood and Master Tovy Woolmongere; Cornets and Visitors Princess Bryony of the Bees, Ceridwen ferch Dafydd ap Cradog, Ikey Dagonet, Marcus and Ziyadah ibnatu Zahara; and The Cat. Thank you all for a wonderful day.

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

1. **Bran of Lochiel** (change of registered device; SUBMITTED) [Arx Draconis, HID48]
Gules, an annulet within a bordure embattled Or.

Sir Bran's name was registered in February 1986. If the new device is registered, he'll release his current device, *Per pale gules and Or, an annulet within a bordure embattled, all counterchanged*, which was registered in March 1986.

As you can see, Sir Bran's new design is merely his existing arms with the counterchanging removed. It's clear of the mundane arms of Blankenson: *Gules, an annulet Or within a bordure*

engrailed sable; we can count one CVD for the change in tincture of the bordure (*RfS* X.4.d) and another CVD for the difference in the line of division. As Olaf Thordarson notes, "I attribute the 'gap' in heraldic space to the relaxation of the 'outline rule' in the new *RfS*. I suspect that there will be a large number of similarly simple devices that are now available to us of the SCA." We were inclined to agree.

Consulting herald: Olaf Thordarson.

2. **Charles du Bois** (name and device resubmission to Vesper; SUBMITTED) [Stormhold, HID478]

Argent, two arrows bendwise sinister inverted sable between five pine trees coupé proper, three and two.

This gentle has previously submitted under the name *Sharrig na Coille*. That name was returned by Lady Vesper in June 1990 because *Sharrig* couldn't be documented as a valid Irish-Gaelic name, either "real" or constructed.

The new name is (more or less) an equivalent in French. *Charles* hardly needs further documentation, although you can certainly read all about it in Withycombe (p.62) and Dauzat (p.112); and *du Bois* is French for "of the wood". This name is clear of *Charles of the Dark Forest* (registered Feb 82) and *Karl von Alpenwald* (Aug 85) under *RfS* V.4.b because, although the translations have similar meanings, there's a significant difference in sound.

As before, the device appears free of problems, although it would be a more balanced design with six trees rather than five, or perhaps a *semé* of trees. The fact that the arrows are *flighted azure* has been left to artistic license, since it doesn't get you any heraldic difference.

Consulting herald: Decion ap Dyfrwr Trefriw.

3. **Drew Steele** (change of registered device; SUBMITTED) [Stormhold, HID486]

Sable, a dexter fist aversant fesswise to sinister coupé, first and second fingers extended and separated, within a bordure Or.

This gentle's name was registered in July 1990. If this new device is registered, he'll release his current device, *Sable, a dexter arm, armoured and gauntleted, embowed fesswise, grasping a goblet, in base a goutte, Or.*

There was Quite Some Discussion on whether this device is offensive or not. As you'll see when you look at the mini-emblazon on page 8, if you just rotate this device 90 degrees, you get the standard "two fingers in the air" gesture — which for our American readers is equivalent to your "middle finger in the air" gesture. This gesture originated in period, or so we believe. During the battle of Agincourt, there was a rumour to the effect that if the French won, they'd amputate the first two fingers of all those nasty English archers. So when the English won, they taunted their French captives by holding their distinctly intact fingers aloft, with a call of "See, we told you so" — or perhaps something stronger. Whilst at least one person at the meeting found the device offensive, others did not. The *Rules for Submissions* are deliberately a little vague on the issue of offensiveness, because that way each submissions is discussed properly. Whilst I felt that some people would indeed be offended by this device, which therefore makes it illegal, I have nevertheless submitted it; we were all interested in seeing what heralds outside Lochac thought. We'd also like to raise the question of what this sign might mean in the various sign languages for the hearing impaired, particularly Auslan and Amerslan. Lord Drew should be told it's quite likely his new device will be returned.

Consulting herald: Decion ap Dyfrwr Trefriw.

4. **Sveinn Tryvegassen** (new name and device; name SUBMITTED, device RETURNED) [Arx Draconis, HID578]

Argent, a battleaxe sable within a bordure embattled gules.

The name is Old Norse. The given name *Sveinn* is found in the index of names in E V Gor-

don's *An Introduction to Old Norse* (Oxford University Press, London 1927), noting such notables as *Sveinn Hakonarson*, *Sveinn Haraldsson* (King of Denmark AD986–1014) and *Sveinn Ulfsson* (King of Denmark 1047–76) (p.381). The same book lists the patronymic *Tryggvason* (p.380), and Bassi lists the name *Tryggvi* (p.15), but the submitter would prefer the version given above if it can be documented or justified as a variant spelling.

The device is "simply beautiful", to quote Prince Haos. Unfortunately it's in conflict with Friedrich Ethelred aus Schloss Trier: *Argent, a double-bitted axe palewise sable* (SCA device, April 86). While we can count one CVD for the addition of the *bordure*, there's no heraldic difference between different kinds of axes.

Consulting herald: Olaf Thordarson.

5. **Vashti Damascene** (new name and device; SUBMITTED) [Stormhold, HID572]

Per pale sable and azure, a snake glissant palewise, and on a chief argent, a sword fesswise sable.

Vashti is a Biblical name, as can be confirmed by consulting the Book of Esther, Chapter I, verse 9, which comes after the bit describing the pretty wall hangings. *Damascene* is an English word meaning "of Damascus", as cited in the *Australian Concise Oxford Dictionary*, 7th Edition 1987 (p.257) and elsewhere.

The device seems free of problems. *Glissant* is the term used to describe a snake scuttling along as snakes are inclined to do.

Consulting herald: Decion ap Dyfrwr Trefriw.

6. **Wulfred Haraldsson** (new name and device; SUBMITTED) [Arx Draconis, HID579]

Argent, in pale a wolf's head erased sable and an open book gules.

The given name *Wulfred* is intended to be a variant of *Wilfred*, which Withycombe dates to AD634 (p.293). The patronymic *Haraldsson* is found in E V Gordon's *An Introduction to Old Norse* (cited above); a *Sveinn Haraldsson* was King of Denmark AD986–1014 (p.381).

The device might well in conflict with the arms of Ellick: *Argent, a wolf's head erased sable* (Papworth p.912). As we understand the Rules to be interpreted, we can count only one CVD for the addition of the *book*. We feel that in such a simple design, we should be able to count this clear under *RfS X.1*, "Addition of Primary Charge". However, the examples given in that rule all refer to adding an ordinary, such as a *chevron* or a *fess*. Although we suspect that this device is in conflict, I've submitted it as a test case. If it proves unacceptable, the submitter allows us to turn the *wolf's head to sinister*, which would clear the conflict.

Consulting herald: Olaf Thordarson.

As usual, I've included drawings of all the devices considered at the meeting. This month, you'll find them at the bottom of page 8.

News of Previous Submissions

The West Kingdom College of Herald's *Minutes* for September has not yet arrived, although they're expected immanently. Look in the next *Camel* for details.

The Laurel King of Arms' *Letter of Acceptance and Return (LoAR)* for his September meeting arrived on 30th October, and the extracts concerning the submissions from Lochac are on page 00.

Precedents

In this section of the *Camel* I mention any interesting comments or clarifications to the *RfS* that appear in Lord Laurel's *LoARs*. From the September *LoAR* we have:

- [Referring to the device *Argent, two palm trees in saltire, a dexter tierce vert, in chief three crescents inverted counterchanged*] It was the consensus of the commenters that

this was not so excessively unbalanced a design as to warrant return, but it does come close.

- [Referring to the name *Valencia Carlota Maria de Granada*] Enough evidence was presented of a pattern of *v/c* switch in Latin that *Valencia* appears to be a very reasonable form of *Valentia* [which was documented as a period name].
- Submitted as *Louisa LochSkye of LochSkye*, such a form (X of X, or X of that ilk) is a claim not only to chieftainship of a clan but implies overlordship of a territory, and rank and title. Such a claim is improper in the SCA.

As before, these comments are quoted *verbatim* from Lord Laurel's own notes. If you need further clarification of any of his points, please let me know. I should also point out that these examples are chosen purely because they happened to attract my interest as I skimmed through the *LoAR*. Doubtless you could find others. You can subscribe to the full *Letter of Acceptance and Return* for one year by sending me a cheque for \$20, made out to "SCA College of Heraldry".

More Pointless (?) Statistics

In a recent report, Lord Decion ap Dyfrwr Trefriw, Goutty d'Eau Pursuivant, notes the massive number of submissions from Stormholders, and asks "Would I be correct in assuming that Stormhold has the highest proportion of registered devices to armigers of Lochac groups? If not, we must be number two!"

"Well", I thought, "it won't take very long to find out!" Some quick work on the database soon reveals the figures. The chart below shows, for each group, the number of people who hold armigerous awards, the number of registered devices in that group, and the ratio between them, expressed as a percentage. Note that an "arms ratio" of 74% does *not* mean that 74% of the armigers in the group have registered their arms, because there are also non-armigers with registered devices.

Group	Armigers	Regd. Arms	Arms Ratio
Aneala	38	28	74
Innilgard	55	40	73
Llyn Arian	22	16	73
Stormhold	80	58	73
River Haven	40	28	70
Arx Draconis	3	2	67
Rowany (inc Agaricus)	57	34	60
Mordenvale	28	12	43
Ynys Fawr	14	6	43
Politarhropolis	46	18	39
Dismal Fogs	13	5	38

Well, Lord Decion is right: Stormhold holds equal second place with two other groups, Innigard and Llyn Arian. There seems to be two main sections to the chart. One is the set of local groups with "arms ratios" around 70%, the other section has ratios around 40%. It's interesting to note that the first group consists of the Baronies of Aneala, Innigard, Stormhold and River Haven, as well as the Shires of Llyn Arian and Arx Draconis. The other group consists entirely of Shires. The Barony of Rowany lies somewhere between the two groups, although with a ratio of 60% it's closer to the rest of the Baronies than the Shires.

As with the other statistics I've presented in recent months, it pays not to read too much into the numbers. It's easy enough to think of reasons why Baronies tend to have a higher ratio than Shires. But start trying to explain why Llyn Arian and Arx Draconis are up with the Baronies and things star-

ted getting a little arbitrary. Arx Draconis is a new group, and with such small numbers and a few high-ranking founding members, it's easy for it to have a "spurious result". As for Llyn Arian, well, the group has generated a couple sets of Royalty, so maybe there's some sort of inspirational effect involved here. Conversely, Rowany's relatively low ratio (for a Barony) might be explained by the group's age: some older members received Awards of Arms a long time ago and have since left the Society — before registering a device. Maybe. All this is, of course, idle speculation. I merely present the numbers for your amusement. And to encourage group heralds to encourage their local armigers to register a name and device.

[Please also note that these statistics were actually calculated about three weeks before the mailing of this Camel, and there may be some slight changes since then. Still, the changes won't be too big.]

Errata

In the September *Camel*, the device for *Katharine of Wotton-under-Edge* is mis-blazoned (p.5). It should have been *Lozengy argent and sable, a chevron and in base on a roundel purpure a triskelion of legs argent*. (The *vert* version was in fact the submitter's *fourth* choice, which we didn't need to use.) The September *Camel* also has a few pages labelled "August"; you might like to correct your copy.

Your Servant,

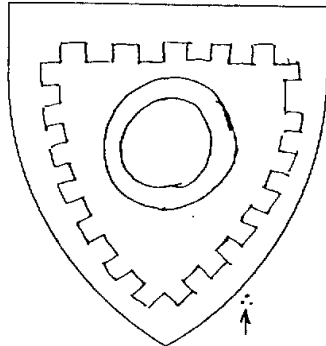
gereintus scholaris ¶

Baron Master Gereint Scholar
Crux Australis Herald

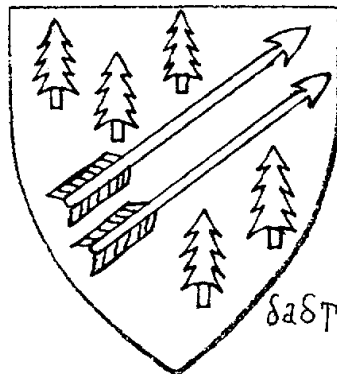


The following devices were considered by the Crux Australis Herald at his meeting on 14th October:

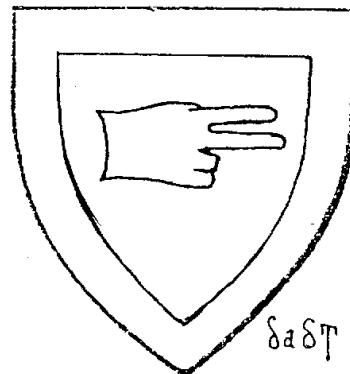
Bran of Lochiel



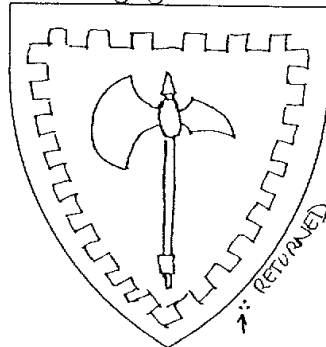
Charles du Bois



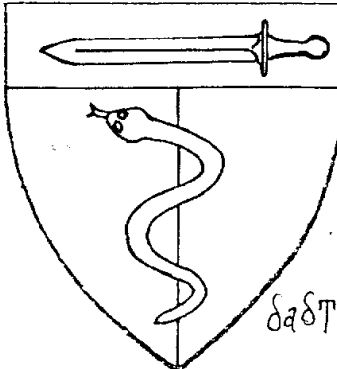
Drew Steele



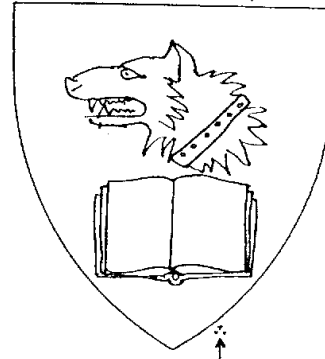
Sveinn Tryvegasson



Vashti Damascene



Wilfred Haraldsson



The following submissions were REGISTERED by the Laurel King of Arms on 29th September A.S. XXV (1990):

Alisaundre de Kilmaron. Device. Ermine, on a bend sinister purpure, two thistles palewise Or.

Éibhleann O'Ceileachair. Name and device. Azure, a demi-sun issuant from base Or, on a chief argent three shamrocks vert.

Versus the arms of the Barony of Aneala, cited in the Lol, many of the same issues apply here as with the device change of Bruce Draconarius of Mistholme, registered above. Here again, we are interpreting X.4.j in such a way as to allow changes to less than the entire group of tertiaries to count towards a CVD in simple cases.

Ingibjorg Ambadóttir. Name and device. Purpure, on a bend Or a brown domestic cat courant proper, and in sinister chief a mullet Or.

Martin the Juggler. Name and device. Argent, a torch bendwise sinister sable, enflamed proper, grasped by a hand bendwise sinister sable.

Meadhbh O'Labhraidh the Malevolent. Name.

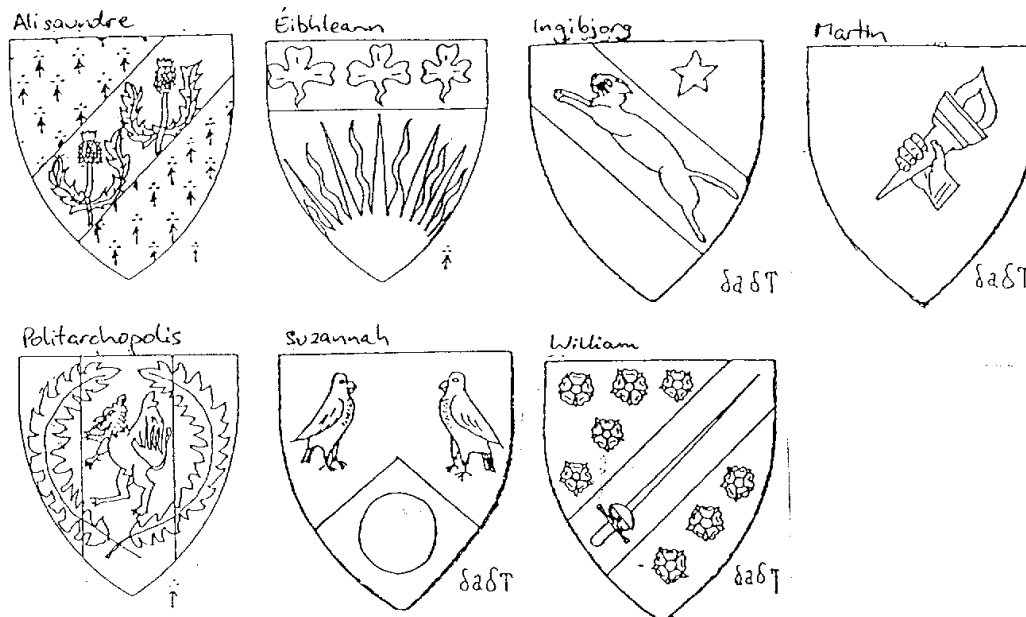
Poliarchopolis, Shire of. Device. Argent, on a pale gules a griffin segreant argent, overall a laurel wreath counterchanged.

Slaine MacKeelta. Name.

Suzannah van Houten. Device. Per chevron sable and gules, two popinjays close respectant and a roundel Or.

William Dumart-en-Ponthieu. Device. Argent, seme of roses proper, on a bend sinister gules a rapier proper.

William Patrick the Mariner. Name.



The following material is taken from the covering letter to the Laurel King of Arms' *Letter of Acceptance and Return* for September A.S. XXV (1990):

PRECEDENT

Consideration of the devices of Bruce Draconarius of Mistholme and Éibhleann O'Ceileachair in this LoAR has helped to focus on some of the difficulties in reconciling a relatively simple set of rules with the "realities" of a visual art. In view of the overwhelming support for Bruce's appeal by the commenters, I have been convinced that the wording of Rule X.4.j, "Generally such changes must affect the whole group of charges to be considered visually significant...", gives us some leeway here. As a consequence, in certain particularly simple cases, changes to type or number plus change of tincture of one-half of tertiary charge(s) will be sufficient difference for a CVD. For now this will have to be considered on a case by case basis. I am entirely willing to entertain suggestions and discussion regarding rewording X.4.j. in such a way as to better define when changes to less than the entire group of tertiary charges will be sufficient for a CVD. (Please keep in mind, however, that I would prefer not to complicate the rules any more than we absolutely have to, and if no clear and concise wording can be agreed upon, would prefer to leave the wording of the rule as it is and leave the interpretation to precedent.)

Bruce Draconarius of Mistholme. Appeal of kingdom of return of device change. Azure, on a chief embattled argent a dragon couchant azure, winged sable. His current device, Azure, two trefoil knots braced Or and argent, on a chief argent a dragon couchant azure, winged sable, becomes a badge.

Consideration of this appeal caused us no little heartburn, particularly since the submitter is a member (the most vocal member) of the Rules Review Committee, whose job is to look at commentary and make proposals for changes to the rules as particular problem areas are noted. X.4.j is one of those areas. (No doubt the Rules Review Committee is discussing possible changes even now?) In this case (and in that of Éibhleann O'Ceileachair below), the overwhelming support for the appeal by the commenters convinced Laurel that the wording of Rule X.4.j, "Generally such changes must affect the whole group of charges to be considered visually significant...", gives us some leeway here. In certain particularly simple cases, changes to type or number plus change of tincture of one-half of tertiary(ies) will be sufficient difference for a CVD.

NEW BUSINESS, PART B

The commentary on restricted charges, most specifically the caduceus, tended slightly to favor retaining the restriction to those with the medical qualifications to carry them outside the SCA. There did not appear to be a lot of strong feelings either way. We will therefore retain the restrictions as they currently apply to those charges.

The Laurel King of Arms notes the following correction to the *Letter of Acceptance and Return* for July A.S. XXV (1990):

Dubhghall ó Séaghdha. Name and device. Per chevron argent and sable, on a chevron between two lions dormant gules and a dragon dormant, two ermine spots palewise argent.

The given was mistakenly spelled Dughghall in the LoAR.

[I have a bit of room left in this month's Camel, so I thought I'd bring you two articles that I was recently reminded about. One contains some very practical advice on writing ceremonies, while the other is one herald's own personal thoughts about Court in the SCA. Both should prove useful. Please feel free to copy these articles and distribute them as you wish. — GS.]

HOW TO WRITE A CEREMONY

[This article was written by Sir William the Lucky, who at the time of writing was Banner Herald. The opinions expressed herein are those of the author. Notwithstanding the fact that he was responsible for Court Heraldry and Ceremony in the Kingdom of the West, it does not represent the one and only proper way to run ceremonies, nor does it establish requirements for ceremonies within the Kingdom of the West.]

Occasionally you may be asked to write a ceremony — for presenting a local award, acknowledging the winner of the local championship tourney etc. This need not be an occasion for panic, even if you have never done anything like this before. Of course, it helps if you have lots of experience with ceremonies (from the SCA, from your religious background, from the theatre, or whatever), but it is not really necessary.

STARTING OUT

The first step is to get *really* clear in your own mind what the purpose of the ceremony is. Since you have been asked to write it, talk to the individual who requested it. When you think you understand the reason (which may only take one sentence from them), repeat it back to be sure that what you understood is what they meant. It seems to help to use several short sentences rather than one long one for this.

Having gotten a clear idea of why the ceremony is being created, check to see if there is any particular bit of business which must be included, or any existing ceremony which is supposed to be used as a model. If so, try to get a copy. Find out who is supposed to be involved; a Barony or a Principality has a ceremonial figurehead, while a Province or a Shire does not. Find out what they are supposed to do.

STRUCTURE

Lay out the **basic structure** of the ceremony. This is the skeleton on which you will hang the final product. It can be very detailed or extremely sketchy. As an example, here is the skeletal outline of the standard Kingdom knighting ceremony:

- The Chivalry and the candidate come before the throne.
- The candidate swears fealty.
- The Sovereign returns the oath.
- The Sovereign dubs the new knight.
- The new knight gets his belt and chain.

Note that this leaves out some of the bits of "stage business" (fetching the candidate, the chain, the spurs etc) and has none of the language used. All it does is give the critical parts of the ceremony and the order in which they will occur. For the local award this will probably be *very* simple, e.g.:

- Herald call winner.
- Baroness gives token.
- Cheers.

If the ceremony is long or complex, you may want to expand the skeleton once or twice, to fill in the details of the action before you start adding the words. This is also the time to start thinking about blocking: where people will stand or kneel, who will be moving around etc.

LANGUAGE

It also helps to put the language in in two stages. Stage 1: just say it. Stage 2: make it forsoothly. "Just say it" helps to make sure that what you mean does not get lost in the effort to make it sound right. Take the oaths of fealty from the knighting ceremony again. The knight's oath is:

- State what is being agreed to.
- List some specifics.
- Give example of how universal the circumstances.
- State how long the contract runs.
- Sign.

The Sovereign's oath is

- Acknowledge the knight's oath.
- State who is covered in return.
- State what is being agreed.
- Confirm how long the contract runs.
- Sign.

Once you have what you want to say sketched outline modern English, you can put in the actual wording. Take the knight's oath again:

- State what is being agreed to: "Here do I swear, by mouth and hands, fealty and service to the Crown and Kingdom of the West,"
- List some specifics:
"to strike and to spare, to speak and be silent, to come and to go, to do and to let be..."
- Give examples of how universal the circumstances: "...in all matters which concern this Kingdom, in need or in plenty, in peace or in war, in living or in dying,"
- State how long the contract runs:
"until the King depart from His Throne, or death take me, or the world end."
- Sign: "So say I, (name)."

And the Sovereign's oath:

- Acknowledge the knight's oath: "This do We hear."
- State who is covered in return:
"And We, for our part, swear fealty to this knight of the West and to all his household,"
- State what is being agreed:
"to support, protect and defend them against every creature with all Our power,"
- Confirm how long the contract runs:
"Until we depart from Our Throne, or death take Us, or the world end."
- Sign: "So say We, (name), King of the West."

The same sort of process for a Baronial Champion:

- Herald: call winner.
- Baron: You are the winner. You will be protector of our Barony. Your term is one year. (gives token)
- Herald: call for cheers.

Then:

- Herald: call winner: "Let (name) come forward."
- Baron: You are the winner: "You have been given victory over the field this day,"
- Baron: You will be protector of our Barony: "and so become champion of our Barony of Grand Pismire, to protect us and lead our force into battle..."
- Baron: Your term is one year:
"...for the next year. Accept, therefore, this favour of the Barony." (gives token)
- Herald: "For the new Champion of Grand Pismire: Hip hip:" (etc)

REVISING AND POLISHING

Unless you have enormous aptitude for this sort of thing (and probably not even then), you will probably find that what you have at this point is not quite what you want. Let it sit for a while, a day or two. Read it aloud to someone else from beginning to end to see how it sounds. Have someone else read it over. Fiddle with wordings. See if you have used a perfectly good word which has acquired unfortunate overtones in the modern world. (On seeing the newly build St Paul's Cathedral, the King of England pronounced it "Awful, pompous and artificial". By which he meant that it inspired awe, that it was full of pomp and circumstance, and that it was a great artifact. In short, he liked it a lot. But what would be the instant reaction of a modern audience such as you could expect at a Society event?) A thesaurus is useful.

STYLE

There are varying preferences in style. Some like ceremonies as elaborate as possible; others like them as simple as possible. Some feel a short ceremony has more impact; others feel a long ceremony enhances the importance of the occasion. Primarily you should be guided by your own taste and the preferences of those for whom you are writing. It is well to remember, however, that few of our members are professional actors, and therefore they are unlikely to be able to memorize long speeches and rattle them off at need.

SOME MUSINGS ON COURTS

[Reprint of an article by Duke Frederick of Holland, a former Vesper Principal Herald, who writes: "The following are some thoughts that I have had on the matter of what is a 'Court' in the SCA and what the proper function of a herald is in such a Court. These are private musings and in no way delimit College of Herald's policy on such matters. These were originally printed for the session of Collegium Nebulorum in October A.S. XX.]

Let us consider the word "Court" in its mundane context. It is a word with multiple meanings, many of which are related or interact. A Court is a place marked out to play certain games on, as a tennis Court. It is an area surrounded by walls, sometimes within, sometimes just outside some other building, as a courtyard. It is used to indicate the people who normally accompany royalty, either as servants or as advisers or as guests, which meaning laps over into the SCA as is, "Who's going to be on the Court of the new Princess?" It is occasionally the normal location of these courtiers, or where the royalty carries out their business. It is also a place where legal judgements are rendered, either in equity or in law. As a verb,

it means to woo or to supplicate, to entreat a person to gain favours of one sort or another. All of these meanings interact and reflect on each other. For instance, a petitioner might Court the favour of the member of the King's Court to gain a more favourable reception.

Note that we do not find a meaning corresponding to the way the word is used in the SCA when the herald announces "Court will be in one half hour". The SCA use of the word has its root lodges to a certain extent in the mundane meaning dealing with the entourage of royalty and contains resonances from the other mundane meanings. However, our usage has created a new meaning for the word. This new meaning of "Court", as an occurrence at SCA events, encompasses several very different activities. An SCA Court is: (1) a public gathering to hear the announcements of the day, the "town crier" function; (2) a Royal "sitting in state" wherein the Kings or Princes receive gifts from the populace, or hear petitions; (3) an awards ceremony, wherein the populace watches while the Royalty gives out awards and recognition; (4) a gathering at which the various important ceremonies of transitions take place with the populace at witness — this includes the Invocation of the Lists, recognition of Heirs, Coronations and Investitures. Further, in the SCA these different functions are most often thoroughly mixed into the same time and space. The result bears little resemblance to anything that the people of the Original Middle Ages would have called "Court".

In large part this is so because we do not transact our business on a day-to-day basis as did our ancestors, but cram it all into weekends, and the important business into a relatively few weekends. All of the above functions are necessary adjuncts to our recreation, and there is too little time to do anything but put them all together. However, this means that the function of a herald in Court is not just one simple thing, but rather a mixture which changes back and forth as the Court progresses.

What is the function of the herald in Court? I would categorize the functions of the herald into two main aspects, which somewhat overlap and which contain various other functions within them. These are the function of the Herald as "Master of Ceremonies" for the Court, and the function of the Herald as the "Voice of the Crown".

As "MC" for a Court, the herald has the responsibility for making sure that all the business which ought to be in a Court is located and screened. He must deal gently with the populace and other officers to get all the information needed and to make sure that presentations are appropriate and acceptable to the Royalty. He must consult with the Royalty to determine what business they will have in Court, and advise the Royalty with respect to the order of business in addition to determining their wishes in the matter. This is the area of Court activity most susceptible to rational analysis, and it is not my purpose to deal with it extensively.

Once Court is under way, the MC function of the herald includes making sure that the announcements are clear and appropriately phrased so that mundane announcements are both understandable and, to the greatest degree possible, not jarring to the mediæval atmosphere of the event. It also includes calling people before the Crown or Coronet, make sure that both the people and the Royalty know what is happening next in Court, and generally keeping the business of the Court moving along. In these activities there is room for the herald to use his creativity to keep things interesting. Various ways of calling people forward with their presentations, various ways of announcing meetings or contests can be used to enhance the Court. Announcements to the populace of the nature of the gifts given to the Royalty, if such is not obvious, not only keeps them interesting, but enhances the appreciation of the gifts and the givers.

In all this the herald has some identity as a person in addition to being "herald". He is a member of the King's Court (mundane meaning), and even while serving the Crown he is also advisor and spectator. In this rôle it is occasionally appropriate to make a public remark about the activity in Court, or even the occasional joke or pun. The herald should not overdo these activities, however. It is nowhere in the function of the herald to be a continuous stand-up comic or jester — in Court the Royalty is the star.

Commentary and jokes should be indulged in cautiously, but the opportunity is there to enhance the theatre of Court when done wisely.

The MC function of the herald is basically theatre or circus, and covers largely the first two kinds of business which comes before the Court. For the awards and the ceremonies, the "Voice of the Crown" function of the herald, always present to some extent, takes complete precedence. These activities are the ones where Court most closely approaches the "reality" of the recreation we are performing. In recognizing his subjects with honours, the King or Prince enhances them and makes them more than they were. The higher the honour being given, the more important it is that the reality of the moment not be intruded upon. It is the function of the herald in this case to support the Royalty and to help create and maintain that reality. Even a simple Award of Arms can be a very real thing; a Knighting or a Coronation is important not only to the people who are involved, but to the whole populace and the surrounding suspension of the mundane. In those moments the herald becomes, with the ceremonies before him, the voice of Tradition, the counterpoint to the words which Their Majesties speak directly, and the guarantor that the ceremony has been done correctly, and that the results of the King's action is right and proper.

In a very real way, ceremonies are magic, and the more important the ceremony the stronger is the magic. But our, 20th Century minds largely distrust magic, and so, the stronger the magic is, the more care must be taken so that the spell is not broken. The herald must not call attention to himself or intrude himself into the action of the ceremony, except where it is part of the ceremony. He must work to enhance the ceremony, in phrasing, in body stance, in activity and lack thereof. He must help the Royalty do their parts and help them maintain the magic. The words of the ceremony help, but sometimes need to be changed to take care of unusual situations or extra-special circumstances. If this is the case, the herald must act, and it must be correct action. In the service of the Crown, and the magic of the SCA, there is not room at that point for ego or aggrandizement. The thought of the herald must be on the potential impact of his words and on the shape of the actions before him. To the utmost extent of his abilities he must bend his attention to maintaining the magic of the moment.

While all the functions of the Court herald are important, it is this aspect of Court which I feel is the most important. It is also this function which is the hardest to practice or to learn, and which is the most subject to natural variation in talent in the herald. At the same time, it is the one which gives the most internal reward to the herald who does it well. It is this creation of the magic of Court which gives me the greatest pleasure and the greatest feeling that I have been of service to the Crown and Kingdom. It is the the creation of this magic on a regular and consistent basis that every Court herald should strive, no matter what the event or Court.

Really Stupid Mistake Department, or "Submissions Revisited"

At the October meeting we actually considered heraldic submissions from *seven* submitters. Lord René du Bon Bois brought with him the device submission for the College of Saint Christina the Astonishing. But, in the relative chaos of the meeting, I forgot to file it with the submissions that had arrived beforehand. The result? I complete the *Camel* right down to the final proofreading stage before finding the submission.

Oh well...

7. Saint Christina the Astonishing, College of (new device; SUBMITTED) [HID557]

Argent, a sea serpent nowed and in base a laurel wreath vert within a bordure embattled gules.

The College's name is currently pending at the Laurel office. The device appears free of problems, and is even accompanied by a correctly-prepared petition from the populace.

Consulting herald: Aidan of Sicily.

And here's a picture:

Saint Christina the Astonishing

