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CRUX AUSTRALIS MONTHLY LETTER FOR JANUARY AS XXVII (1993)

Unto all those who receive these letters, greetings from Peter the Uncertain, Crux Australis Herald. Decion has found a bunny to replace him in this office, which is good. Unfortunately for us all, it's me. We are faced with stormy weather heraldically in the near future and I find that I'm tied to the heraldic bowsprit. It will be interesting to see if I go insane quietly, or if I end up doing something creative with Greek fire and calltrops at a coronet event.

To work. The phone numbers and address at the top of this page are correct. You may have different addresses in Pegasus. I had to move suddenly and unexpectedly over Christmas, and I still haven't had time to tell everyone yet. If you've sent something to my old address, don't worry. My mail will be forwarded to me by Australia Post until the end of March. If you need to get something to me urgently you can fax it to me at work. Address your fax to "Queensland Museum, Geology Section, Attention Peter Volk". Please, PLEASE, do not send it to "Master Peter the Uncertain" or to "Crux Australis Herald". It will not get to me, and if it does I will be in trouble. My program head does not have a sense of humour.

We are entering an interesting time for Lochac heraldically. If the formal poll for our change of status to kingdom passes, we are going to get a lot of extra business. We will need to set up a Lochac College of Heralds, write a coronation ceremony for our kings and queens, review all our other ceremonies, revise our order of precedence and advise on revision of the awards themselves, revise the present principality device (already in process), and doubtless do many other things I don't know about yet, while at the same time maintaining our usual standard of heraldic service to the society. Most of this business will be coming through me, and it will be more than I can cope with alone. I NEED YOUR HELP, YOUR SUGGESTIONS, OPINIONS AND ADVICE. I NEED YOUR INPUT! The decisions we make over the next couple of years will shape the way heralds work in Lochac for years to come. I will be printing issues for comment and suggestion in the Camel, and I want you to write and tell me what you think. Your letters will be published to stimulate further discussion and debate. You will all be stuck as heralds with the rules, conventions, ceremonies, procedures and policies we formulate over the next two or so years. The time to do all your wingeing and bitching is NOW, and the place is in the pages of the Camel.

This first letter will be rather brief. I have had the Crux files for less than a week, and as yet I haven't had a chance to sit down and peruse them. Decion sent the files to me over three and a half weeks ago, but they spent ten days sitting in a warehouse in Sydney for reasons the freight company won't explain. The bank has finally set up a new account for S.C.A. College of Heralds, but failed to mail me my deposit and cheque books. If you have sent me a cheque and are wondering why it hasn't been cashed yet, that's why. I hope to be in good order by mid February; until then I apologise for spotty service.

hosted so far by Stormhold, Innilguard and River Haven. If we follow the pattern, the next one is due this year. Is there anyone out there who would like to run it, either on it's own or as part of a larger collegium? Vesper came out for the last such event. If the Crux account has recovered sufficiently we could offer to part pay airfare for the new Vesper, or possibly for Laurel. A big face to face meeting of Lochac's heralds would be an excellent chance to discuss some of those problems I mentioned earlier. I would prefer to hear offers from Rowany, Politicopolis or Mordenvale, as these are new venues and relatively central, but any bids from any group would be welcome.

The latest big news is the poll on the new Lochac device. The first round of polling will appear in the March Pegasus. In this camel is an update on the story so far and a copy of the proposed devices. Feel free to copy, distribute, and colour in these devices. We need as many responses as we can get from as many people as possible.

Our laws require us to change our device, as all kingdoms MUST have a crown as a major feature of their arms, and the present arms of the principality lack such a charge. We cannot go to kingdom without changing our arms.

Over the last two months of last year a design contest for the new arms was run, and many submissions were received. At Twelfth Night in Stormhold all entries received were examined by senior heralds. About half the suggestions were returned at this point, either for poor heraldic style or because they were illegal under the laws of heraldry in the S.C.A. Master Thorfinn has written to all submitters whose ideas bounced to explain why in more detail. The remaining devices were hung publicly and a poll taken of their popularity. There was clearly a first, second and third preference, with about six tied in fourth place. All other devices were clearly less popular.

It is those nine top device submissions that appear this month. The results of this poll will be used to choose the four most popular designs, which will be presented once more in a couple of months for the final poll.

To complete this poll, first colour in each device so that you can see it as it would be in use. If you wish, you may photocopy and distribute the blank form first. Rank your preferences in order from one to nine, with one being the design you like the best and nine the one you like the least. List them on paper with your name, local group and membership number and send your vote to Master Thorfinn, at this address:

Steve Roylance
1592 Malvern Road
Glen Iris
Victoria 3146

You must include your name, your local group and most importantly your membership number in your letter. Non members are welcome to express an opinion by sending in a vote, but their numbers will be tallied separately from members and will not count towards the primary results. Non members opinions may be used to decide ties or close ties if such occur.

Please remember that your response must be in Thorfinn's hands by the 31st of March. Late votes will not be counted.

Master Thorfinn informs me that Free Trumpet Press West has gone through a reorganisation and had a hard look at its prices. As a consequence, the cost of heraldic material through the S.C.A. has just gone through the roof. A complete S.C.A. Armorial and Ordinary with all the updates now costs US\$75.00. That, when converted to our money, comes to about \$118.00. Until the Australian dollar recovers we will be paying through the nose. I will print a complete revised price list as soon as Thorfinn gets one and passes it on.

Sir Haos Windchaser has stepped into Master Gereint's shoes as Canon Pursuivant, the Crux deputy responsible for maintaining Lochac's order of precedence and gentry lists, also known as the Who Ranks Who list and the Who's Got What list. As soon as he gets his files in order we will be able to obtain copies of these files from him. I'll let you know how much he will need to cover his printing and postage costs.

The Honourable Lord Decion ap Dyfnwr Trefnwr is working on producing some of those "Hell's Heralds" tee-shirts that we saw in the November Camel, and I'll let you know when he's ready to go into production and how much the things will cost. Importing them from the U.S.A. would be incredibly expensive; about \$40.00 each. It might take a while for Decion to find a manufacturer, as we would not be looking at a very large production run.

Those of you who read Pegasus, (all of you, I hope), will know that the Crux office is begging for money. You are entitled to know why. Firstly, shifting all the files and the library from Stormhold to River Haven wasn't cheap. The bill isn't in yet, but it will be on the order of \$300.00. Believe me, that's the cheapest deal we could find. These files fill 16 archive boxes at present. It is no longer possible to move the stuff in the back of a car, and the problem will only get worse as the paperwork accumulates. The Principality has lent us the money, but expects the office to pay it back.

Secondly, there has been a major stuffup at Kingdom level. The Vesper Herald maintains an account for the Crux office in the States, through which passes all our submission fees. To avoid excessive bank and currency conversion charges we only send money overseas three or four times a year, when Vesper tells us that the account is getting low. Unfortunately, the previous Vesper suffered a massive burnout, and maintaining the accounts was something that was let slide. The current Vesper informs me that the Lochac account is in the red by about US\$70.00. We must send the sum of about US\$120.00 over ASAP to clear the debt and give us some operating capital. Decion, of course, didn't know about the state of the account. It is managed by Vesper, and Vesper wasn't talking to anyone. Decion had a large sum of money on hand with no expected expenses, so used some of the surplus to buy the office the Complete Oxford Dictionary. This is an incredibly useful reference which gives the history of every word in the English language, with dated examples of documented use, but it wasn't cheap.

So, we have the moving costs, the Vesper account stuffup and the dictionary. Any two of them the office could absorb, but three at once is too much. We need some financial support or we will be in debt forever. Anyone who wishes to make a donation to the Crux office, or run an event with profits donated to the Crux office will receive my most abject thanks. Anyone who wants to renew their Camel subscriptions early will also help with the cash flow. Incidentally, in one month the cost of a camel subscription will rise to \$25.00 per year. Anybody who renews before the next issue comes out may do so at the present \$20.00 rate.

I would like to thank those who have responded with donations so far. The Barony of Stormhold has sent \$61.00 to the Lochac Exchequer to help defray the costs of moving the files. In addition, Her Ladyship Jessica of Fearn Abbey has donated \$50.00 personally to the Crux funds, and Damocles Trueheart has sent me a US\$ 100.00 bill as a donation. Thank you to everybody for your generosity.

One idea I would like to suggest to you for urgent consideration is the possibility of another Lochac Heraldic Collegium. So far these have been held every two years, and have been

A meeting was held at the home of Crux Australis on January 31 AS XXVII (1993) for the purposes of considering submissions received. All submissions had been in the pending pile for more than 30 days, which is a VERY BAD THING. This was due to the difficulties involved in moving the office, and I apologise most abjectly to the submitters. Present at the meeting were Peter the Uncertain, Crux Australis; P.E.s at Large Kyrii Windstrider, Harald of Sigtuna, Jessica of Fearn Abbey and Glynhyvar of River Haven and Cornet Vladimir Erikovich of Kiev.

1. Alexander de Keramaker (*Alexander de Vus*)

change of registered name, new device - both passed.

Argent, on a fess rayonny between two foxes statant guardant gules three jugs argent.

Alexander requires no real documentation, as the name is rather well known, being the name of a famous Macedonian tourist. "de Keramaker" is given as Dutch for "the potter" but no documentation is provided. This gentleman has submitted and paid for a change of a registered name, but has neglected to mention what his previous name was. He appears in the registry membership lists as Alexander the Potter, but I have no file for this name, nor does this name appear in the Gentry of Lochac. I'm therefore assuming that this is in fact a new name submission, and have corrected his forms appropriately.

The device seems to be free of conflict.

Hrothgar of the Raging Brook (*Keith Romanis*)

new name and device - both passed

Argent a tilting lance bendwise sable between two sea dogs rampant gules armed, collared and chained or within an orle wavy azure.

Hrothgar is the name of a character in "Beowulf", and is also the name of a historic Danish king. "Raging Brook" is a typical byname.

The device appears to be clear of conflict. The gold chain has no contrast against the white field, but seeing that it is at best a tertiary charge and we have not used it to generate difference we see no reason to object to its presence.

Elen of Paere Haec Weges (*Sandra Helen Hyde*)

Resubmission of name - passed.

Originally submitted as Elen of the Haec of the Weg, this name was returned in the August Camel, as the mixture of old and modern English was seen as very clumsy. The submitter has followed the recommendation of Crux in this resubmission. The form of Elen with the double "l" seems to be out of period, but the submitter has allowed us to correct the form to the earlier single "l" Elen.

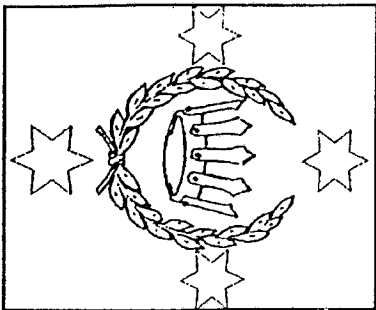
The device will be pulled out of the files and sent up to Vesper along with the new name.

This concludes this letter. Hopefully the next one I write will be a tad more complete and better organised. The cartoon is by the courtesy of Maeva, and I would love to have more of them. In fact, let's make it a contest. The best heraldic cartoon of the year in the Camel wins a prize. All you artistic types, to arms!

Yours in service
Peter the Uncertain
Crux Australis Herald



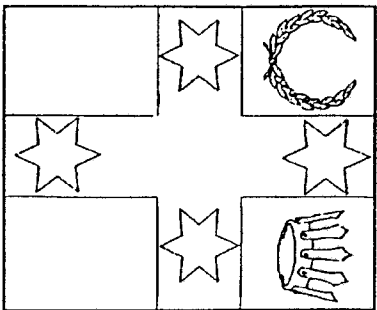
These are the proposed devices for the future Kingdom of Loehac. They are the four most popular of those displayed at the Twelfth Night event (there was a tie for fourth place). Different heraldry for the future Kingdom is mandated by the Corpora and the administrative rules of the College of Arms, which require a Kingdom to have a crown on its device. Please express your opinion on these by filling in this questionnaire. If any person knows of any reason why any of these would not pass the heraldic rules for submission would they please file your argument by the due date with Cruz Australia Herald or Hund Herald. Please ask your local herald for further guidance if necessary. Where white has been mentioned in a description silver can be used in its place and where yellow is described gold can be substituted. You should colour the drawings to get a good idea of the choices.



A

The blazon for the left (A) is Argent, a coronet Gules within a laurel wreath Azure between four mullets Gules. Non heraldically this is a white field with the crown and stars in red and wreath in blue.

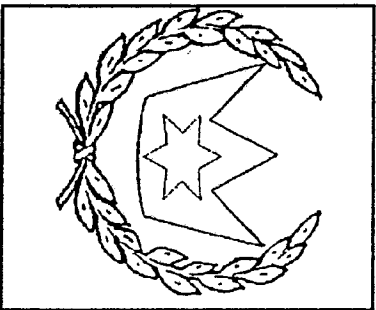
The blazon for the right (B) is Quarterly Azure and Gules, on a coronet of three points Argent a mullet of six points Azure within a laurel wreath Argent. Non heraldically that is the coronet and wreath are white, the star blue and the background blue and red at the top and red and blue at the bottom.



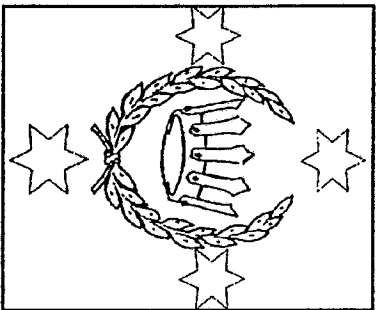
C

The blazon for the bottom left (C) is Quarterly Azure and Argent, on a cross Gules four mullets of six Argent and in dexter canton a laurel wreath Argent and in sinister canton a coronet Azure. Non heraldically this is the current Loehac device with a blue coronet in top right.

The bottom right (D) is Azure, a coronet Or within a laurel wreath Argent all within four mullets in cross Or. For the non heraldic that is a blue background yellow coronet and stars and a white wreath.

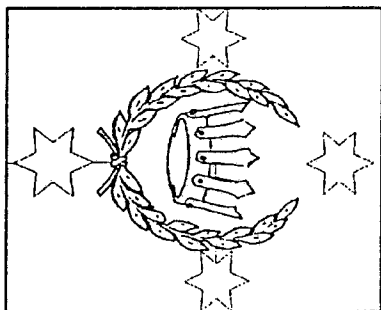


B



D

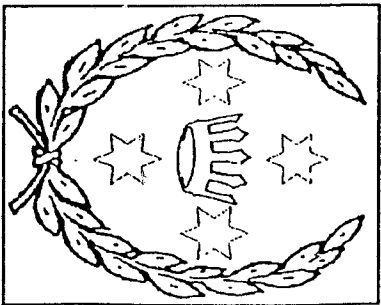
Ask your local herald for further guidance if necessary. Please nominate your preferred device and give your name, group and membership status. Return either by mail direct or through your local herald to reach me no later than 31 March 1993. A second poll will then take place with the most popular. Stephen Roylance, 1592 Malvern Road, Glen Iris, Victoria 3146



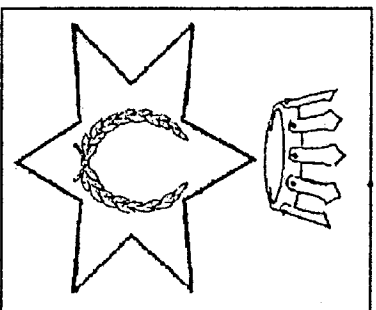
E

The top left one (E) is Quarterly Azure and Gules, a coronet within a laurel wreath, all between four mullets in cross Argent. Otherwise stars, coronet and wreath in white and background in four parts of blue and red then red and blue.

The upper right (F) is Argent, a coronet between four mullets in cross Gules within a laurel wreath Azure. This is a white field, red coronet and stars and blue wreath.

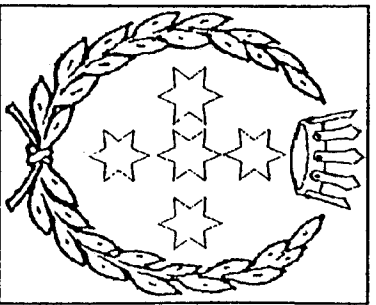


F



G

The middle left (G) is Azure, on a mullet of six Argent a laurel wreath Vert and in chief a coronet Or. Non heraldically that is a blue background white star, green wreath and yellow coronet.



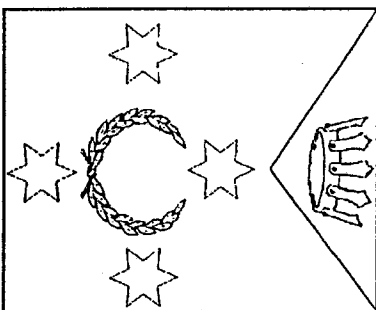
H

The lower right (H) is Argent, five mullets in cross Gules within a laurel wreath and in chief a coronet Azure. As a plain description the background is white the stars are red and the wreath and coronet are blue.

The bottom left (I) is Azure, a laurel wreath between four mullets in cross and on a chief triangular Argent a coronet Azure. That is the field and the coronet in blue and everything else white.

The device for the queen will be based on the device chosen, the laurel wreath is removed and usually roses or a wreath of roses is put in its place. Care will be used in the choice of colours for the roses (a blue wreath does not mean roses necessarily) and will be included in the next petition.

Each device is shown with a crown palliardo as this received a majority of recommendations of those displayed at Twelfth Night. The source of the art is Draconarius and Alxgawa, A Pictorial Dictionary of Heraldry as used in the SCA (first ed.).



I

Unto Peter the Uncertain, Crux Australis Herald comes greetings from Thorfinn, Keeper of the Royal Regalia

This is the full list of the blasons submitted at Twelfth Night for the perusal of the populace for the proposed device of the future Kingdom of Loehac. The "Kingdom Committee" would like these printed in the next Camel. Letters of return will be written to all persons who submitted devices explaining why they were not acceptable.

Submitted for further consideration in March Pegasus.

Argent, a coronet Gules within a laurel wreath Azure between four mullets Gules.

Quarterly Azure and Gules, on a coronet of three points Argent a mullet of six points Azure within a laurel wreath Argent.

Quarterly Azure and Argent, on a cross Gules four mullets of six Argent and in dexter canton a laurel wreath Argent and in sinister canton a coronet Azure.

Azure, a coronet Or within a laurel wreath Argent all within four mullets in cross Or.

Quarterly Azure and Gules, a coronet within a laurel wreath, all between four mullets in cross Argent.

Argent, a coronet between four mullets in cross Gules within a laurel wreath Azure.

Azure, on a mullet of six Argent a laurel wreath Vert and in chief a coronet Or.

Argent, five mullets in cross Gules within a laurel wreath and in chief a coronet Azure.

Azure, a laurel wreath between four mullets in cross and on a chief triangular Argent a coronet Azure.

These devices did not receive enough public support for further consideration.

Argent, a bend sinister Sable mulletry Argent, between two coronets each within a laurel wreath Sable.

Azure, a coronet Argent, between four mullets in cross Or and in the chief points two laurel wreaths Argent.

Ermine, a coronet within a laurel wreath Gules all within four mullets in cross Azure.

Argent, a coronet Gules within a laurel wreath Azure all within four mullets in cross Gules.

Argent, five mullets in cross Azure within a laurel wreath and in chief a coronet Gules.

Argent, a coronet between four mullets in cross Azure within a laurel wreath Gules.

Per bend sinister Gules and Azure, in bend a laurel wreath Or and a coronet Argent.

Per bend sinister Or and Vert, in bend a laurel wreath and a coronet counterchanged.

Azure, a coronet Or within a laurel wreath Argent.

Gyromy Argent and Azure, a coronet Gules within a laurel wreath Or.

Gyromy Argent and Azure, a coronet within a laurel wreath Gules.

These devices found to be heraldically flawed and were not displayed at Twelfth Night.

Vert, a fess between a coronet and a laurel wreath Or *(conflict)*

Azure, a chevron Or between two coronets and a laurel wreath Argent *(conflict)*

Per bend sinister wavy Argent and Purpure, a coronet within a laurel wreath Or in chief and four mullets in cross Argent in base *(metal on metal)*

Argent, on a cross Gules, four mullets Argent, and on a chief Azure a coronet between two laurel wreaths Argent *(complexity)*

Gules, a sword inverted proper the hilt piercing a coronet surmounted at the tip by a laurel wreath between four mullets in cross Or *(complexity and non significant coronet)*

Azure, a sword inverted proper the hilt piercing a coronet surmounted at the tip by a laurel wreath Or between four mullets in cross Argent *(complexity and non significant coronet)*

Per pale Gules and Azure, a sword inverted proper the hilt piercing a coronet surmounted at the tip by a laurel wreath between four mullets in cross Or *(complexity and non significant coronet)*

Gules, a mullet and in dexter chief a coronet and in sinister chief a laurel wreath Or *(non period style - slot machine)*

Argent, a bend Azure, between in chief a coronet Azure between four mullets in cross Gules and in base two mullets in pale Gules within a laurel wreath Azure *(complexity and non period style)*

Quarterly Azure and Argent, in the second a coronet between four mullets Gules and in the third a laurel wreath Gules *(quartered arms)*

Quarterly Azure and Argent, on cross counterchanged a coronet Gules between four mullets counterchanged of the cross and overall a laurel wreath Gules *(excessive counterchanging)*

Azure, a laurel wreath Or between four mullets in cross and on a chief triangular Argent a coronet Gules *(complexity - too many colours and charges)*

Azure, a pegasus segreant Argent pizled Gules gorged of a coronet Or and in canton a laurel wreath Or *(non significant coronet)*

Argent, a pegasus segreant Azure pizled Gules gorged of a coronet Or and in canton a laurel wreath Gules *(non significant coronet)*

Gules, on an eagle statant displayed crowned Or four mullets in cross Azure and in base a laurel wreath Or *(non significant coronet)*

Argent, on an eagle displayed Azure crowned Gules four mullets in cross Argent and in base a laurel wreath Gules *(non significant coronet)*

Quarterly Azure and Argent, on a cross Gules four mullets of six Argent and in dexter canton a coronet within laurel wreath Argent *(late and non significant coronet)*

Quarterly Azure and Argent, on a cross Gules four coronets and in dexter canton a laurel wreath Argent *(late)*

Quarterly Azure and Argent, on a cross Gules four mullets of six Argent and in dexter canton a laurel wreath Argent and overall a coronet Or *(late and excessively complex - too many colours and charges)*

I remain, as always, your servant

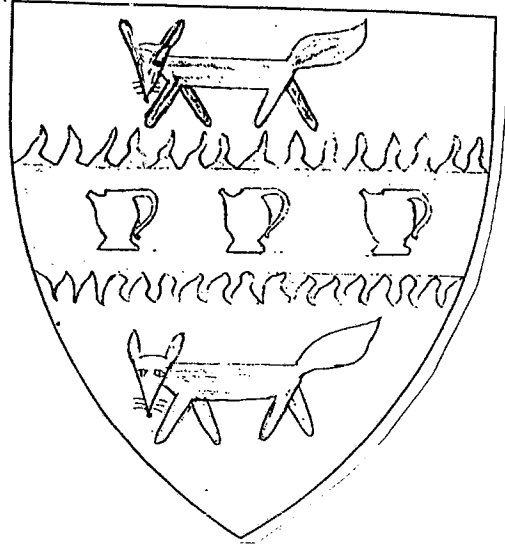
Thorfinn, Keeper of the Royal Regalia

Signature of Thorfinn, 3322 Humber Road, Camille 3rd, La Crosse, Wisconsin 54601

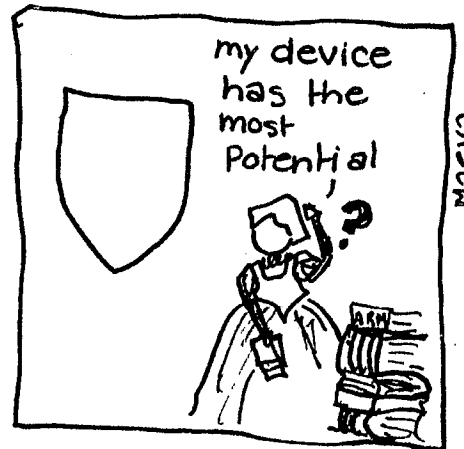
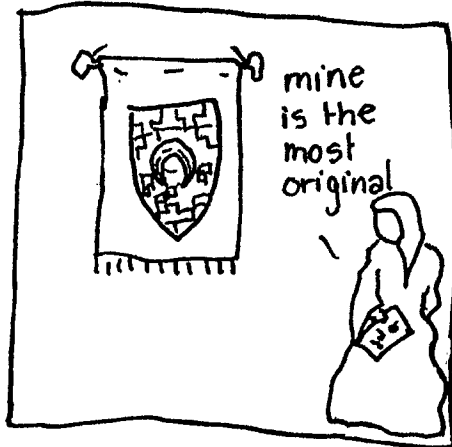
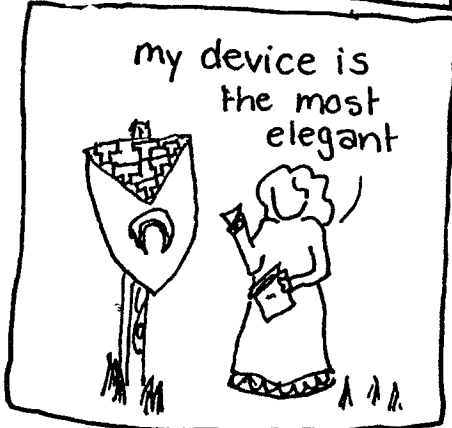
HROTHGAR



ALEXANDER



The Basics #



LAUREL PRECEDENTS

(October 25, 1992 LoAR, Mailed December, 1992, Received January 7, 1993)

Baby Animals

"As a rule, baby animals are not used in SCA heraldry: they're visually indistinguishable from adult animals, and period examples of their use are rare. Lambs appear to be an exception: not only is the Paschal lamb often found in period armory, but lambs were used for canting purposes (e.g. the arms of Lambert ...)."

Beast Heads, Conflict

[*Per chevron argent and sable, two bear's heads erased sable, collared Or, and another argent, collared azure.*] "Rule X.2 applies between most types of beast head, just as it does between most types of beast. This is clear of such armories as Buckfould (Papworth 927), *Per chevron argent and sable, three buck's heads erased counterchanged, attired Or.*"

Charged Gyrons

"There are period examples of gyronny fields, where alternating gyrons were charged: e.g. the arms of Stoker, Lord Mayer of London in 1484, *Gyronny of six azure and argent, each argent gyron charged with a popinjay proper.*"

Comics Culture Conflicts (from the Cover Letter)

"Some of the conflict calls this month (e.g. Order of the Black Widows, Order of the Opus) were against fictional characters in our popular culture -- specifically, comic strip characters. I dislike having to call conflict against such ephemeral characters; on the other hand, if someone submitted the name *Clark Kent*, I'd almost certainly return it for conflict. On what basis, then, should we judge such conflicts?"

"There are two categories in the List of Protected Items (Administrative Guidelines, pp. 2-3) that would cover such conflict calls: Category D, Famous Characters in Literature, and Category H, Trademarked Items. Most comic book characters' names are copyrighted these days, as a matter of course, and many are trademarked as well: Marvel and DC are said to be particularly trademark-happy. Our problem lies in the fact that most superhero names are of exactly the same nature as many SCA Order and household names: an epithet or descriptive, taken as a personal noun. *Storm, Valor, Swordsman, Ice, Guardian, Phoenix* are typical superhero names -- and some of them, as you see, are direct conflicts with registered SCA names. (Heck, Marvel even managed to copyright *Meggan*, a common given name!)

"If I understand rightly, the purpose of trademarks is to keep competitors in a field from manipulating or benefitting from one another's reputations. Trademarks don't infringe when the intended use of the products is so different as to make the chance of confusion negligible. Thus the Excel (the car from Hyundai) doesn't infringe on Excel (the software from Microsoft). The Apple Music Company had no object to Apple Computers using their name -- until the latter started manufacturing music-making Macs.

"If that's the case, then we only need to worry about infringing on copyrights or trademarks when the intended use of the SCA-registered item is too close to the use of the trademarked item. In practice, I suppose this means fighting groups can't call themselves the *West Kingdom Avengers* or the *Justice League of Atlantia* -- but I don't see that the Shire of the Storm really infringes on the superheroine *Storm*.

"That leaves protection as Famous Literary Characters, and this is more subjective. I don't want to get into a debate as to whether comics are Literature-with-a-capital-L; it's the fame of the characters, not the quality of their scripting, that concerns us. Infringement requires the character's name to be well-known; unknown names, by definition, won't be recognized as comic book characters. (The issue is related, in a way, to that of intrusive modernity: if people recognize a name as a comic strip character, they automatically know it's not medieval.) Most people haven't heard of most comic book characters; and even well-known superhero names (*Captain America, Wonder Woman, Batman, Spiderman*) are usually returnable for non-period style as well.

"There are thus few comic characters that need to be protected: the aforementioned *Clark Kent*, *Bruce Wayne*, possibly *Mary Worth*, *Bart Simpson*, *Charlie Brown*, perhaps a handful of others. Those conflicts are, unfortunately, valid -- but they will, in all cases, depend on whether the character's name has seeped into the public consciousness. We can't depend on finding these items in general references, our usual standard for importance. I'll try to be as objective as I can, but it'll still boil down in most cases to polling Yeomen on the Road to see who's heard of the name."

Complex Lines for Chaussé and It's Kind (from the Cover Letter)

"Over the last couple of months, we've received a few submissions that used *chaussé*, *chapé* and *vêtu* field divisions, with complex lines of partition added. (For example, *Vert, chaussé raguly argent.*) The question has been raised whether these field divisions may use any complex line other than *ployé*.

"*Chaussé* and *chapé* made their appearance very late in our period. As nearly as I can tell, *chaussé* began as a French depiction of a *pile* (and was even blazoned *Per pile* by the English armorists who described it). *Chapé*, or *mantelé*, seems to have been the French description of the German rendition of *Per chevron*; the examples in Siebmacher shows that the Germans depicted their chevrons as *ployé* and throughout, and their *Per-chevron* fields would have followed the same convention.

"If *chaussé* is a variant form of a *pile*, and *chapé* a variant form of *Per chevron*, then in theory there's no reason they can't use complex lines of partition. On the other hand, derivation isn't necessarily identity: new conventions might have evolved with the new fields. For instance, while a *Per chevron* field can have three charges, a *chapé* field properly only has one, in base.

"For now, I will continue to permit *chaussé* and *chapé* fields to use complex lines. However, I would welcome research on this topic; in particular I'd like to see what period examples exist for complex *chaussé* and *chapé*. If any of the evidence suggests that these fields evolved without complex lines, we may have to disallow them in SCA heraldry. If you have anything to contribute on this topic, please present it within the next few months."

Field Divisions

"This was blazoned on the LOI as *Per fess gules and Or, on a pale counterchanged between two bells, a bell Or*. That would be the normal modern blazon, but not the period blazon. In period, this was considered a field division, not a counterchanged pale. It appears to have been considered a field division from its invention, mid-15th Century, to the end of our period: the arms of the Worshipful Company of Girdlers, granted 1454, were blazoned on the grant as *a schucheon of .vi. points of Azure & gold with .iii. gredyron [gridirons] of that same*, while the arms of Thomas Cromwell, Earl of Essex, were given in the Parliamentary Roll of 1540 as *Party of six pieces or and gules three fleurs de lys azure and three pelicans or*. It wasn't until Bossewell's *Armorie* of 1572 that the field began to be blazoned as a counterchanged pale -- and Bossewell makes clear that this is an alternate blazon, not the recommended style. The "official" blazon is still as a six-parted field: *Partie per fes, countercolored in 6. quarters ... and the same I do commende, for that he which used hys blazon was an Heraulte, and wel learned in their mysteries.*

"There was some feeling that the College has a long-standing tradition of regarding this as a counterchanged pale, not a field. I couldn't find any precedent or ruling supporting such a tradition. Quite the contrary: our policy is that we register the emblazon, not the blazon, and a conflict found under any valid blazon is a real conflict. We try not to equate charges with field divisions, but occasionally we must -- witness how often we must call conflict between a *pile* and *Chaussé* -- and based on the new research presented, this is such a case. Any change that would distinguish this as a counterchanged pale (e.g. tincture, complex line) would bring this clear ..."

Flames

"The main charge was blazoned on the LOI as a *sword Or enflamed proper*. However, the flames were not equally gules and Or, but almost entirely gules with Or fimbriation. Such complex fimbriation is not permitted. (I might note that, if the flame were equally gules and Or, the sword Or in its center might be too visually confusing to be registered. The submitter would be better advised to choose different colors altogether.)"

Green Trimounts and Color Fields (from the Cover Letter)

"One of the submissions considered this month (*Ördög Magyar Béla*) engendered considerable discussion among the commenters, and at the Laurel meeting. The submission used a green trimount on a blue field, which violates the SCA's Rule of Contrast, outlined in Rule VIII.2.b.i. However, there's ample period evidence that green mounts and trimounts were routinely used on colored fields, usually gules or azure. The LOI cited only a couple of examples, but the former Lord Codex has written a monograph showing several dozen period examples, from English, Portuguese, Italian, Hungarian, Austrian and German heraldry.

"At what point, then, should we permit a documented period usage that violates our Rules? On the one hand, it is a documented usage; on the other hand, there are other documented usages we explicitly disallow. Ideally, we should be promoting period style; equally ideally, we should have a uniform set of Rules that heralds at every level can use. "Every Rule has its exception"; but too many exceptions destroy the Rules. There is no right answer. At best, we can only strike a balance between competing principles."

"The issue of 'regional style' doesn't obtain here: green mounts were used on color fields across Europe. It's purely a question of the usage we wish to encourage, without making our heraldic system too unwieldy to use. My own thought (voiced independently by Lady Harpy) was that green trimounts on blue or red fields could be specifically designated an exception to our Rule of Contrast. There's some precedent for this, mostly from the names rules: e.g., Rule III.2.a forbids mixing prepositions in one language with placenames in another -- yet we routinely permit the French *de* to be used with English placenames, on the basis of extensive evidence.

"Much of the commentary on Léa's submission had an undercurrent of "Well, I *wish* we could pass this, but the Rules say" If that's the feeling of the College, this issue could be addressed to Lord Palimpsest for further discussion, leading to a possible Rules change. Remember that any Rule we devise must be easy to use, must not consider persona, and should approximate period style. Alternatively, we could simply define exceptions to the Rule, such as the green trimount, and let precedent deal with the problem. Or, finally, we could leave the Rule as it stands, and note that the loss of perfect authenticity is the price we pay for usable Rules.

"Please give some thought to these issues, so we'll be able to deal with them when they rise again -- for I feel certain they *will* rise again."

Household Names

[Ursus Imminere] "The household name lacks a designator (*House, Domus, etc.*), required per Rule III.1.b. Even were such a designator added, the name would be incorrect grammar: "(House) Bear to Be Imminent" makes no sense, in English or Latin. Without knowing the submitter's exact intention, I cannot suggest a correct Latin construction."

[House RamSword] "*RamSword* does not appear to be a valid construction for a household name: the internal capitalization is implausible, and the word seems to have no meaning. By our rule of thumb on such names, if we wouldn't accept *John Ramsword* (and we wouldn't!), we shouldn't accept *House Ramsword*.

"Moreover, if *Ram* is considered a modifier to the substantive element *Sword*, this conflicts with the Order of the Sword, a Swedish order of knighthood founded in 1522 (Franklyn & Tanner, p. 322). The designator (*House/Order*) is transparent, and carries no difference; and the addition of the modifier is insufficient, per Rule V.2."

Jessant-de-lys

"After much thought, we decided that the *leopard's head jessant-de-lys* was common enough in period armory to be considered a single charge, in the same way a *penner and inkhorn* would be. It could equally well be considered a single group of conjoined charges."

Monster, Phoenix

"The phoenix was blazoned on the LOI as *proper*, with the 12th Century Cambridge Bestiary cited as the authority (via Denny's Heraldic Imagination). While the Bestiary describes the phoenix as "reddish purple", I would hesitate to define that as its heraldically proper tincture. As it turns out, there's at least one period heraldic example of a *phoenix proper*: the crest of the Worshipful Company of Painters, granted 1486, is blazoned *a Fenyx in his propre nature and coloure*. That phoenix is colored mostly gold, with red highlights and details. (Bromley & Child, Armorial Bearings of the Guilds of London, p. 184 and plate 39).

"As the phoenix in this submission is not tinctured like the *phoenix proper* in the Painter's crest, I have reblazoned it *gules*."

Octofoil vs. Cinquefoil

"Legh, 1568, mentions the *octofoil* ("double quaterfoyle"), though citing no examples of its use. Given that it was described in period, I'm willing to grant a CD between it and a *cinquefoil*."

Reserved Titles

[... Braumeister] "Until such time as the Board of Directors releases the title *Master* for use by the populace, it must be considered a title of peerage in the Society; we will not register any name that claims to be a "Master [anything]". In the case of the *Master Bowmen of the East* (LoAR of July 90), it was ruled: "We cannot, in good conscience, register a title reserved by Corpora to peers to any non-peerage group, no matter in what form they propose to use it." The same argument applies to individuals."