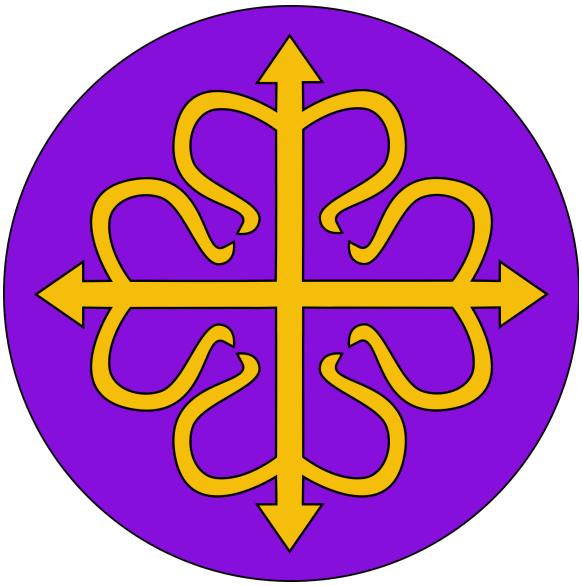
Kingdom of Calontir

calontir.org

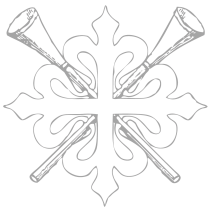
Calontir Herald's Handbook



Last Updated: 10.23.2026

Office of the Gold Falcon Principal Herald
goldfalcon@calontir.org

With heartfelt thanks to Alexandra Vazquez de Granada, Gotfrid von Schwaben, Clara Mason, Istvan of Mag Mor, and the many others who gave their time, knowledge, and care to bring this handbook into the future. Their work ensures that the heralds of Calontir, present and yet to come, will have a guide worthy of the College and the Kingdom we serve.



Copyright 2026 by the Office of the Herald of the Kingdom of Calontir, a regional group of The Society for Creative Anachronism, Inc. All Rights Reserved. Members of The Society for Creative Anachronism, Inc., may copy this work in whole or in part for SCA use provided copyright credit is given and no changes are made to the content.

This handbook is an official publication of the Kingdom of Calontir. It is not a corporate publication of the Society for Creative Anachronism, Inc., and does not delineate SCA corporate policies. Copies of this document can be downloaded from calontir.org. The online version of this document is the official version. Any discrepancy between the online version and any print version will be decided in favor of the online version.

Calontir local groups and interested parties are encouraged to include a link to this document on their website; however reproduction of this document on any other Internet sites is expressly forbidden.

The Society for Creative Anachronism, Inc. is a nonprofit organization dedicated to research and recreation of pre-17th century European history.

Table of Contents

Table of Contents 2
Section I: Calontir College of Heralds Overview 4
- Introduction 4
- Calontir College of Heralds 4
- Branch Heralds 7
- Herald-at-Large 8
- A Note on Heraldic Rank in Calontir 8
- Calontir College of Heralds Organizational Chart 10
- Calontir Heralds Contact Information 11

Section II: Duties of a Local Herald 12
- Introduction 12
- Notifying Your Kingdom Superiors 12
- Group Records to Retain 14
- Use and Display of Branch (Group) Arms 15
- Deputies and Volunteers 15
- Suggested Additional Duties 16

Section III: Reports and Administrative Duties 17
- Quarterly and Domesday Reports 17
- Court Reports 18

Section IV: Voice Heraldry 20
- Introduction 20
- Voice Heraldry Overview 20
- General Principles of Voice Heraldry 20
- Event Heraldry 21
- Field Heraldry 22
- Court Heraldry 27
- Feast Heraldry 30

Section V: Book Heraldry 32
- Introduction 32
- Overview of the Submission Process 32
- Consulting with Clients 34
- Documenting Names 36
- Documenting Armory 37
- Conflict 38



Name Submission Checklist 42
Armory Submission Checklist 43
Filling Out Name Submission Forms 44
Filling Out Armory Submission Forms 45
Commentary 47
How to Use OSCAR 49
Section VI: Protocol and Etiquette 53
Introduction 53
Crowns and Coronets 53
Peers' Medallions and Heraldic Clothing 55
Other Gentles 56
Order of the Founding of the SCA Kingdoms 59
Order of the Founding of Calontir's Baronies 59
Protocol and Etiquette References 60
Section VII: Sign Heraldry 61
Introduction 61
Arranging for a Sign Herald 61
Vocal Herald's Relationship with the Sign Herald 61
Sign Herald's Responsibilities 62
Who Can Be a Sign Herald? 63
Section VIII: Appendices 64
Heraldry FAQ 64
Glossary of Terms 71
SCA Heraldry Resources 73
Armory of Calontir 77

Section I: Calontir College of Heralds Overview

Introduction

There are two classifications of Heraldic Colleges within the SCA. At the Society level there is the College of Arms (CoA). The Laurel Sovereign of Arms (Laurel) is the principal heraldic officer of the Society and the head of the CoA. Laurel handles the administrative duties of the Society Heraldic Office and is responsible for fostering the study and practice of heraldry, establishing rules and making determinations regarding names, armory, titles and geographical designations for use in the Society. Assisting in this endeavor is the Pelican Sovereign of Arms (Pelican) who handles name submissions and the Wreath Sovereign of Arms (Wreath) who handles armory submissions. The CoA is further comprised of the Principal Heralds of all the kingdoms, staff heralds and commenters appointed by Laurel, as well as other heralds recommended by the Principal Heralds. The purpose of the CoA is to assist Laurel in studying medieval heraldic usage, developing heraldic rules for the Society's use and reviewing items submitted for registration.

Each Kingdom has its own College of Heralds (CoH). These Colleges are composed of each Kingdom's Principal Herald managing individuals within the kingdom who serve as heralds and pursuivants for the local groups and the kingdom.

Calontir College of Heralds

The Calontir College of Heralds is comprised of the Gold Falcon Principal Herald who is head of the College, various kingdom-level deputy and staff positions, all group heralds along with a variety of senior-level heralds and heralds-at-large. The purpose of the Calontir College of Heralds is to meet the heraldic needs of the kingdom and its populace, advise the SCA College of Arms on heraldic matters and to promote the pageantry of the medieval age within the SCA through ceremonies and heraldic display. A listing of the titled positions within the Calontir CoH with a brief description of duties involved follows.

Gold Falcon Herald: Principal Herald of Calontir

Oversees all other kingdom heraldic staff and all group heralds/pursuivants within the kingdom as well as the heralds-at-large/pursuivants-at-large. Responsibilities include overseeing the area of Court Heraldry for the kingdom; normally heralds Coronation Court and Crown Tourney Court;



organizes any Grand March as required; heralds the finals of Crown List and is in charge of seeing the kingdom's heraldic needs are met.

Purple Falcon Herald: Emergency Deputy to the Gold Falcon Herald

Herald designated to step into the principal herald position if the Gold Falcon Herald has to step down unexpectedly.

Saker Herald: External Submissions Deputy

Oversees the kingdom submission process, is an external liaison to the Society CoA. With the help of commentary in OSCAR and those attending the monthly decision meeting (in person or virtually), they collate and publish External Letters of Intent to Laurel, advise individuals whose submissions require more work, and maintain the kingdom submission archives. These duties may be performed by this herald or a member of their staff.

Eyas Herald: Internal Submissions Deputy

Internal liaison to the kingdom populace regarding the submission process; ensures the correct and complete collection of submission fees; collates and publishes Internal Letters of Intent for initial QA/QC before submissions are sent on to Laurel. Eyas is also designed as a fail-safe backup in the event Saker has to step down unexpectedly. If they choose to do so, they may take over as Saker at the end of Saker's tenure.

Habicht Herald: Heraldic Education Deputy

In charge of heraldic education; oversees the instruction of members of the College of Heralds of Calontir and ensures the minimum expected knowledge levels are met; coordinates with Royal University of Scir Hafoc (RUSH) for inclusion of heraldry classes in their curriculum. These duties may be performed by this herald or by a member of their staff.

Battleur Herald: Field Heraldry Deputy

Responsible for field heraldry; arranges List heralds for Crown List, arranges field heralds and camp criers for Lilies War and other Crown events "as needed". These duties may be performed by this herald, a member of their staff or another designated herald as is often the case for Lilies War.

White Hawk Herald: Personal Voice Herald for the Sovereign and Consort

Provides vocal/court services to Their Majesties and arranges for court heralds when unavailable. Responsible for ensuring a Court Report from each of Their Majesties' courts is

provided to the Clerk of the Precedence and the Gold Falcon Herald (even if White Hawk does not do the court).

Falconet Herald: Personal Protocol Herald for the Heir and Heir's Consort

Acts as advisor to the Heir/Heir's Consort. Responsible for providing heraldic and protocol information to the Royal Heirs. This position has been created to assist first-time Royalty.

Lanner Herald: Ceremonies and Protocol Deputy

Herald responsible for maintaining the ceremonies used throughout Calontir, primarily for creation of peers and the coronation of sovereigns and consorts; but may archive any formal ceremony used in an official capacity; provides protocol information. These duties may be performed by this herald or a member of their staff.

Red Hawk Herald: External Commenting Deputy

Official Calontir commentator on other kingdom's submissions within OSCAR. Commentary of this type is a requirement by the Society Herald's Office for a kingdom to stay in good standing. These duties may be performed by this herald or a member of their staff.

Blue Hawk Herald: Clerk of the Precedence Deputy

Maintains a record of all awards, titles, and court proceedings, and publishes the online Kingdom Order of Precedence.

Vert Hawk Herald: Armorial Deputy

Maintains the online Kingdom Armorial (images of all registered armory in the kingdom).

Good Hand Herald: Sign Heraldry Deputy

Organizes Sign Heraldry volunteers (persons proficient in sign language willing to do courts and other activities). Knowledge of sign language is not required but is helpful.

Kestrel Herald: Publications Deputy

Responsible for heraldic publications; responsible for maintaining, updating and publishing the Herald's Handbook, administrative forms (other than submission and reporting forms), functional aids and other publications relevant to the conduct of heraldry.

Purple Quill Herald: Assistant to the Principal Herald

Staff Assistant to the Gold Falcon Herald. Duties and responsibilities vary from each Principal Herald's tenure.

Historian: Kingdom History Deputy

Person responsible for maintaining the Kingdom Histories.

Currently unused Heraldic titles registered to the Kingdom reserved for future use:
Kite Herald, Sparrow Hawk Herald, Harrier Herald, Buteo Herald, Gerfalcon Herald

NOTE: Some of these positions, such as Kestrel, Lanner, Good Hand, Battleur, Purple Quill, etc. may not be filled at certain times, depending on the desires of the current Gold Falcon Herald in assigning responsibilities among the Heraldic Staff. The position of Falconet Herald may not be filled if the Heir and Heir's Consort prefer not to have or do not need a personal heraldic advisor. White Hawk may also be left vacant if the Royalty prefers to handle Royal Courts with local heralds rather than having a specific personal herald.

Branch Heralds

These are the heralds who hold the office of herald for a SCA group. Their job is to assist local members with obtaining names and armory and providing the local group with service in the areas of event heraldry, field heraldry, court heraldry, etc. A branch herald may have a title as Calontir allows a group of any size to register a title for their herald or they may likewise simply have their herald use "<Group Name> Herald."

By tradition in Calontir, baronies have titles with the designator Pursuivant (see notes on heraldic rank below). The current list of groups with registered heraldic titles is:

Baronies

Hippogriff Pursuivant	Three Rivers Baronial Herald
Fountain Pursuivant	Forgotten Sea Baronial Herald
Caltrop Pursuivant	Vatavia Baronial Herald
Cabochard Pursuivant	Coeur d'Ennui Baronial Herald

Anser Pursuivant	Lonely Tower Baronial Herald
Gemshorn Pursuivant	Mag Mor Baronial Herald

Shires and Cantons

Talon Herald	Cúm an Iolair Group Herald
Sea-Sheep Herald	Aston Tor Group Herald
Sinister Herald	Axed Root Group Herald

Herald-at-Large

This is a term used in Calontir to refer to any active herald who does not hold a heraldic office for a group, their kingdom or the Society. It is used interchangeably with the former term pursuivant-at-large. It is the job of heralds-at-large to assist local groups and the kingdom offices with service in the areas of book heraldry, event heraldry, field heraldry, court heraldry, etc. Heralds-at-large do not have to submit reports. If they choose to do so, they report directly to Gold Falcon.

A Note on Heraldic Rank in Calontir

Once upon a time, Calontir followed the practice of using the title Pursuivant for lower-ranking heraldic offices (basically, all group heralds), and used the title of Herald for higher ranking heraldic offices (the kingdom-level heraldic deputies). Baronial heraldic titles were all registered when that was still the practice, hence all the baronial heralds are Pursuivants.

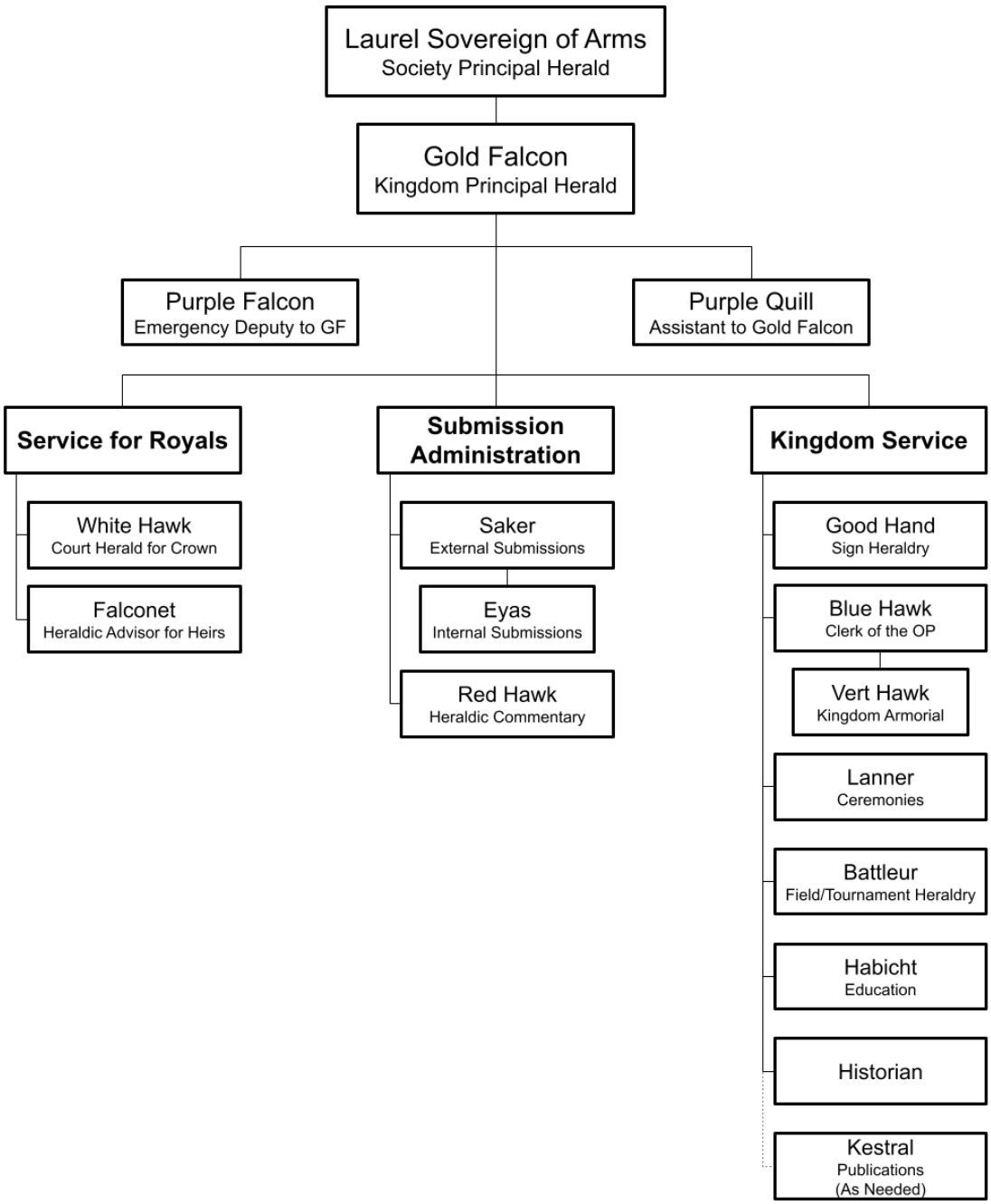
Over time it became apparent that many of the populace didn't understand that a Pursuivant was a type of herald. Others mistakenly assumed that a Pursuivant would be less knowledgeable than a Herald. Calontir practice moved away from the use of the Pursuivant title, and when shires/cantons began to register titles for their branch herald, they used Herald instead of Pursuivant.

The rank of Herald Extraordinary is the highest rank of herald and it is a permanent title bestowed by the Kingdom Principal Herald (Gold Falcon for Calontir) or the Laurel Sovereign of



Arms. Historically, a Herald Extraordinary was merely a herald who was “not in ordinary”, i.e. not holding a heraldic office, i.e. the same as what we call a herald-at-large. However, in the SCA, the title is bestowed to recognize advanced skill and long service in the heraldic community. A list of the current Heralds Extraordinary in the SCA can be found here: https://heraldry.sca.org/extraordinary.html

Calontir College of Heralds Organizational Chart





Calontir Heralds Contact Information

Gold Falcon Herald (Principal Herald of Calontir)	GoldFalcon@calontir.org	Gold Falcon Herald page: https://www.calontir.org/heralds/
Purple Falcon Herald (Emergency Deputy)	PurpleFalcon@calontir.org	
Saker Herald (External Submissions Deputy)	Saker@calontir.org	Saker Herald page: https://www.calontir.org/heralds/submissions/
Eyas Herald (Internal Submissions Deputy)	Eyas@calontir.org	
Red Hawk Herald (External Commenting Deputy)	RedHawk@calontir.org	
Lanner Herald (Ceremonies and Protocol Deputy)	Lanner@calontir.org	
Blue Hawk Herald (Clerk of the Precedence Deputy)	OPClerk@calontir.org	Order of Precedence page: http://op.calontir.org
Battleur Herald (Field Heraldry Deputy)	Battleur@calontir.org	
Habicht Herald (Heraldic Education Deputy)	Habicht@calontir.org	
Vert Hawk Herald (Armorial Deputy)	OnlineArmorial@calontir.org	Armorial page: http://armorial.calontir.org
White Hawk Herald (Personal Voice Herald for the Sovereign and Consort)	WhiteHawk@calontir.org	
Good Hand Herald (Sign Heraldry Deputy)	goodhand@calontir.org	Sign Heraldry: https://www.calontir.org/heralds/silent-heraldry/
Historian (Kingdom History Deputy)	Historian@calontir.org	History of Calontir: https://www.calontir.org/history-of-calontir/

Section II: Duties of a Local Herald

Introduction

Local heralds have many duties under their purview. They are the local liaison between their local group members and the rest of the College of Arms and Calontir College of Heralds. While they do not have to do all the activities below, they are the main coordinator of their group. They are directly responsible for all heraldic reporting for the group, including quarterly and year-end reports directly to Gold Falcon, and in the case of cantons, to their local baronial herald. In the event of Royals holding court at a local event, they submit court reports to Blue Hawk herald.

Additionally, they coordinate to make sure that the following happens within their local group.

They help the members of their local group with submissions of names, devices and badges. Additionally, they perform voice heraldry for events, tournaments and local courts. They should teach, or at the very least coordinate, periodic classes on heraldry for their local group. These classes should be introductory in scope, but are not limited to such.

This may seem intimidating, but there are many resources to help. This handbook you are reading is designed to walk you through the basic requirements of the many tasks of a herald in this Kingdom and provides the references to learn more. In addition, Gold Falcon, Principal Herald and Habicht Herald, the Kingdom education deputy are always available to answer any questions.

Notifying Your Kingdom Superiors

The first duty of any local officer is to contact their Kingdom superior.

As soon as you accept the job of local herald, complete the Agreement to Serve form located online at https://www.calontir.org/heralds/ under ‘Resources for New Heralds’.

Also include a little information about yourself and your resources. Have you been active in heraldry before? Do you have local access to heraldic resources (books, Crayola markers, and so on)? Do you know where to find SCA heraldic information online? Is there an area you’d like help with?

Voice Heraldry

You may be responsible for coordinating the following voice heraldry duties:



- Herald local meetings, events and feasts. This involves making verbal announcements to the populace. See Section IV: Voice Heraldry for ideas on how to project – and protect – your voice.
- At feasts your duties involve announcing which course is next and what dishes will be served. Introduce the performers, if your feast has any. If a Baronage or Royalty want to present awards during feast, treat the award announcement as you would in court.
- Herald local courts. If Their Majesties (or Their Highnesses) hold court and do not bring a personal herald with them, it is your job to herald court or find someone to do so. Likewise, if you live in a barony, you are expected to herald Baronial Court. Again, see Section IV: Voice Heraldry for information on how to herald courts. Whether or not you herald the court, you are still responsible for a court report.
- Herald local tournaments. As field herald you announce to the populace who is to report to the list field, who should prepare for the next round and who should prepare for the round after that. More information on heralding tournaments is in Field Heraldry.

Book Heraldry

Helping members of your local group submit SCA names, heraldic devices and badges is often referred to as book heraldry. It involves helping members choose names and devices that can be approved by the College of Heralds.

- Submissions. As local herald you work with members to design arms and create persona names and help submit them, while keeping proper account of the fees paid. In order to do this, you must understand the Standards for Evaluation of Names and Armory (SENA) and the relevant portions of the Administrative Handbook. See Section V: Book Heraldry for information on conflict checking and the submissions process.
- Branch Order of Precedence. As local herald you maintain the local Order of Precedence (OP), a list of which members of your branch have received which awards and the dates they were received. Keep these in the order you receive them. If possible, keep your local OP on your group's website. See Section VI: Protocol and Etiquette, and the Kingdom Supplement, for more about the local OP.
- Branch resources. You are responsible for the local group's heraldry books and other supplies. Depending on your group, this may be a few items or a several tubs of books. House these resources, use them and make them available when needed.

Reporting

- Quarterly and year-end reports. As local herald you must make regular quarterly reports to Gold Falcon Principal Herald regarding heraldic activity in your group. At present these reports are due on April 15 (on activity from January 1 to March 31), July 15 (on activity from April 1 to June 30), October 15 (on activity from July 1 to September 30) and January 15 (for activity from October 1 to December 31).

- In addition, depending on the Gold Falcon's direction, you must make a year-end report on heraldic activity in your branch (covering January 1 to December 31), commonly referred to as the Domesday report. For local heralds, this report is due January 31st. See Section III: Reports and Administrative Duties for information about report content. The Forms section near the end of this handbook includes Quarterly and Domesday report forms.
- Court reports. If you herald a court at which Kingdom-level awards are given, coordinate with White Hawk to ensure that the Court Report is appropriately filed. Use the CALON system on the Calontir website https://www.calontir.org/wp-admin/admin.php?page=calon_user_panel When you send an online court report, it is automatically delivered to Their Majesties, Their Highnesses, Gold Falcon Herald, and Blue Hawk Herald, the Clerk of the Precedence. If you must send paper copies, see "Where to Send Court Reports."

Group Records to Retain

Local heralds should retain records of heraldic activities that have gone on in the group. Records may be in electronic form. (During times when the group does not have a herald, the seneschal should retain the records until a new group herald is found.) These can be kept on paper or electronically (see if your group has access to a free Google Drive via the Kingdom).

The files should include:

- A copy of every heraldry report filed/sent to the regional or kingdom herald offices.
- A copy of the group's Order of Precedence (OP) updated at least yearly.
- A full copy of the submissions paperwork for every submission the group herald has sent in. Keep a separate file folder with this paperwork for each group member.
- A copy of each piece of armory registered by a group member and a notation of name registration for each member who has registered a primary name, alternate, household name, etc. (This paperwork may be a photocopy from the kingdom armorial, a copy from the appropriate LoAR, or a copy of the submission forms given to the local herald by a member who has sent in his/her own forms.)
- A copy of every piece of correspondence received about group submissions (this may be printed copies of emails).
- Copies of any financial forms, reports, etc. utilized by the group herald's office.
- An up-to-date list of the heraldry and name books that are owned by the group, if any.

Files with Personal Identifiable Information, whether digital or paper, must be kept in a reasonably secure fashion.



Use and Display of Branch (Group) Arms

Local groups may display their arms when hosting an event. A group of local members may carry the arms during a presentation or when marching together.

The head of the group (seneschal or baronage) may display the group arms at other events to indicate the group's presence at those events. For example, some groups camp together at Lilies and display the group arms at their encampment. Traditionally, if the seneschal, baron or baroness is not present at that event, other group members may not display the group's arms. (This rule is often fudged, with groups at large events like wars displaying the group arms to identify their camp even if the head of the group isn't present. Technically, the group should be using the group's populace badge for this purpose, but many groups do not have a badge. Fixing this is a good task for the group herald.)

The seneschal or other local group members cannot display group arms as if they were personal arms. That is reserved for landed nobility (this includes Crowns, Royal Heirs and Baronages).

Landed nobility (Crowns and Baronages in this case) may bear the arms of their branch on a shield in battle as if it were their own personal arms, but only while they hold office. Royal Heirs would use the kingdom arms differentiated with a label, or the Heir Consort's arms as appropriate.

For more about this, see "Use and Display of Branch (Group) Arms" in the Calontir Herald's Companion.

Deputies and Volunteers

Even the local herald of a small branch can use a deputy. A useful deputy is someone who can take over for you if you cannot continue in office for some reason, often known as an emergency deputy. Many groups encourage their officers to have emergency deputies.

Other volunteers can help with parts of the job. Some are more interested in book heraldry, while others prefer voice heraldry. Try to match the skills and interests of volunteers with the jobs you have available.

For example, if your branch hosts an event with a large tournament, ask a few other voice heralds to help with the event. If your group doesn't have enough local heralds, ask heralds in other groups to help. Perhaps you can return the favor when attending one of their events.

If you want to run a consulting table at an upcoming event, ask a few book heralds to help. Again, reach out to other groups if you do not have many book heralds in your branch.

And if you can get a local member to volunteer to help at an event, perhaps that member would be interested in being a permanent deputy. It never hurts to ask.

Suggested Additional Duties

- Set up a consultation table at group events. Invite heralds from other groups to assist you. Offer to help run a consulting table at their events, if you are attending.
- Promote heraldic display and pageantry. This can include organizing and/or assisting in the construction of armorial regalia, such as banners, baldrics and tabards. This should be done in conjunction with your Arts and Sciences officer.
- Volunteer as a field, court or book herald at other events you attend. This courtesy will assist you in finding volunteers to help you at your group's events.
- Educate others about vocal heraldry and/or book heraldry. This can be for members of your own group, or of other groups. (This will hopefully give you a pool of people to add to your heraldic staff.) This education can be by one-on-one discussions or more formal classes.
- Write heraldic articles for your local newsletter. Or create a heraldic Word search game or find heraldic trivia to submit to the local newsletter. Find fun ways to get members of your group thinking about heraldry.

Section III: Reports and Administrative Duties

Quarterly and Domesday Reports

The reporting schedule for heralds in Calontir is:
Local heralds and Kingdom Deputies have quarterly and year-end reports due on the following schedule:

- 1st Quarter – 15th of April
- 2nd Quarter – 15th of July
- 3rd Quarter – 15th of October
- 4th Quarter – 15th of January
- Year-End – 31st of January (This is separate from your 4th quarter report.)

Local heralds should retain a copy of all reports in their files and copy them to their Seneschal and/ or Baronage.

Local heralds should use the Herald's Quarterly Report Form for their quarterlies and the Herald's Domesday Report Form for their end-of-year reporting. There is a highly recommended on-line form for the Quarterly Report (https://forms.gle/xzvykxopdryytE7K6) and other formats and the Domesday Report Form can be found online at https://www.calontir.org/heralds/.

A quarterly report is an overview of the last quarter's activity of the office. The year-end report is an overview of the last year's activity (usually compiled from the quarterly reports) along with a general assessment of the state of the office and any hopes/plans for the next year.

Heralds-At-Large (not holding an office, but active in heraldry) are not required to report, but may make semi-annual overview reports of their office's activities during the previous months. These reports should be in writing directly to Gold Falcon.

Gold Falcon has quarterly and Domesday reports due on the following schedule:

- The end of May
- The end of August
- The end of November
- The end of February
- Year-End – February 15th

These reports are sent directly to the Laurel Sovereign of Arms, who is the Officer in charge of Heraldry at the Society level. Quarterly reports should include a current warrant roster of heralds

in the Kingdom, as well as an overview of activity in the Kingdom. The Domesday or Annual report is an accounting of all heraldic activity in the Kingdom for the previous year as well as plans for the upcoming year and should include a current warrant roster. Copies of these reports are also sent to Their Royal Majesties, Their Royal Highnesses (if applicable) and the Kingdom Seneschal. Since all heraldic funds in Calontir are handled through the Exchequer's Office, all financial reports come from there.

Court Reports

A court report is a listing of the presentations (both from the Crown to members of the populace and from the populace to the Crown) done at a particular court.
Court reports should be submitted to the Kingdom Clerk of the Precedence by either:

- the Royal Chamberlain or White Hawk Herald on behalf of Their Majesties and
- the herald doing court (if different from the above).

The herald does not have to take the Court notes themselves, but should make sure that someone is taking notes, so they can send in their report.

Court Reports should be filed within the week following the Court, if at all possible.

Court Report Forms

The Kingdom's officers prefer that you use the online court report form on the Kingdom of Calontir's website at https://www.calontir.org/wp-admin/admin.php?page=calon_user_panel.
It will prompt you to provide the information needed. Also, it will automatically send the report to everyone it should go to, including sending a copy to you for your records. However, a court report does not have to be done on an official form. Either way, it must include:

- Name of event.
- Name of hosting group.
- Modern location name.
- Date of event.
- Names of Royalty present.
- Name of each individual receiving an award, the individual's local group, the award received and the reason why (if known).
- Name of each individual (or group) receiving or giving a presentation and the individual's local group.
- What the presentation is, reason for presentation (if noted) and if it is to the Crown, whether it is a personal gift to Them, regalia, largess or donation to a Kingdom fund, etc.



Where to Send Court Reports

Once the Court Report is created, copies of it need to be sent to:

- Principal Herald of Kingdom (i.e. Gold Falcon Herald in Calontir)
- Kingdom Clerk of the Precedence (i.e. Blue Hawk Herald in Calontir)
- Their Royal Majesties
- Their Royal Highnesses (if currently applicable)

(Again, the on-line form sends all the necessary copies automatically.)

Keep a copy for the local group's records.

Additionally, if items of value or monies are presented to the Kingdom, a copy of the report should also go to the Kingdom Exchequer/Treasurer.

Section IV: Voice Heraldry

Introduction

Voice heralds share information with the public by crying the camp, narrating a tournament or announcing the will of the Crown during court. They also add to the medieval experience at SCA events and are among the most visible participants.

Voice Heraldry Overview

There are several types of voice heraldry:

- Event Heraldry – used to communicate event information to the populace. This includes site heraldry, announcement heraldry, camp cries – being the voice of the event steward.
- Field Heraldry (List Heraldry) – used to communicate the flow of combat to fighters, observers and other tourney staff. This means being the voice of the fighter marshal and list minister.
- Court Heraldry – being the Voice of the Royals (or Baronage) in court, the master of ceremonies.
- Feast Heraldry – involves being the voice of the feast/hall steward, announcing the courses and entertainments, acting as master of ceremonies.
- Sign Heraldry – makes all of the above accessible to persons with difficulty hearing, whether because of physical disability or poor acoustics.

General Principles of Voice Heraldry

As you can see, the job of a voice herald is all about communication so:

- Take notes! Have a notebook, note cards, pen, pencil, etc. with you and a way to keep any confidential notes secured. And be organized. Have a pouch or some other way to keep everything handy. You may need to write down the names and awards of many different people.
- Ask questions! Get the details – talk to those you are working with.
- Stay healthy! Prepare your voice, protect your voice and stay hydrated. See the section below on ways to protect – and project – your voice.

Voice of the Crown

All heralds are, fundamentally, the Voice of the Crown. For example, if you're making site announcements, you are speaking for the event steward, who is an officer of the Crown.



- Comport yourself accordingly. Your job is to make the Crown, the event steward, the fighter marshal, etc. sound good, not yourself.
- Don't editorialize, don't manipulate the facts, and don't trust your memory for the details. Keep notes, and double check information.
- The importance of confidentiality should be obvious. Make sure if you're taking notes about court that you can secure the notebook from unauthorized view. Talk about court only with those who already know about court.
- Do not show favoritism. You're not there to cheer on your best friend or disparage someone you don't like.

Protecting and Projecting Your Voice

- Projection: Stand tall, tip your head up and speak from the diaphragm. Face the main group of people. Project, don't yell. It's often helpful to pitch your voice slightly lower. Your voice will carry farther and it will counteract the nervous tendency to raise one's voice.
- Enunciation: Open your mouth widely and slow down to say every sound more distinctly to maintain clarity to the back of the audience. It doesn't do any good to be heard if you can't be understood.
- Pronunciation: Do some homework to find out how names are pronounced and take notes phonetically. Ask others around the list table or Heralds Point. If the names are to be announced in court, ask during the pre-court meeting or ask someone who already knows about the awards, such as the chamberlain. Also don't try to use foreign accents. Your audience isn't used to them, and unless you're really good at the accent, it will sound muddled.

Event Heraldry

This is the term for heralds making any sort of announcement during an event, usually having to do with the event schedule or safety issues. Essentially, the event herald is the voice of the event steward and other event staff.

The duties of the Event (Announcement) Herald-in-Charge:

- Coordinate, plan and act as the point of contact for announcements at an event.
- Think about the key activity areas of the event and the best vantage points to make announcements to the populace (or to be visible for the sign heralds).
- Recruit assistance as necessary.
- Coordinate with the court herald (at least be able to point him/her out if people have announcements that they want made in court).

- Coordinate with White Hawk Herald (or the Royal Chamberlain) before the event to find out if you will need to supply a court herald. If so, recruit court herald/s as necessary and make sure they are ready on the day.
- Coordinate with sign heralds if available.

Heralds' Point and Consult Tables

It's nice to have an area for announcements separate from the consulting table, but this is not always practical. At minimum there should be an obvious place where people can find a notebook and writing utensils to record announcements. If the notebook is labeled with columns for activity, time, place and point of contact, it will help people remember to include all the relevant information. If there are times when cries are scheduled, it's nice to have a sign indicating the times when announcements should be submitted.

Important Note: Smaller or newer groups may not have heralds available to staff a Heralds Point. Still, it is imperative to coordinate with the event staff and other local heralds BEFORE setting up shop. This helps event staff and local group members know to set aside space for you, and potential customers can be pointed in your direction.

Timing, Types of Announcements

Larger events such as Lilies will have set times for camp cries and those in charge will recruit teams of heralds to help. Some announcements cannot and should not wait for the set times, for example, lost children or imminent storms. If Their Majesties are requesting an announcement, and you're not sure about the timing, ask if it can wait until the scheduled cry or if They want it announced right away. Smaller events tend to make announcements as they come in.

Field Heraldry

Field heralds make announcements at tourneys. They let both the populace and the fighters know who is about to fight, who has won, and other information.

The Duties of the Field Herald-in-Charge:

- Coordinate with the fighter marshal-in-charge regarding scenarios, if "byes" will be fought, who will call the honors, who will announce the winners and related information.
- Coordinate with the list table to request phonetic pronunciations on fighter cards, determine locations to stand and how to communicate the outcome of bouts.
- Recruit heralds to help and make sure they are prepared, and runners to help communicate with the list table.
- Stay safe – protect the voice, stay hydrated and don't get hit.



Someone at the list table will give you three pairs of index cards to indicate the next combat pairings. Do not take cards off the table before they are ready. Be sure to keep them in order. When a fight is over, return the finished pair of cards to the list table as quickly as possible, with the winner on top or otherwise marked as the list table requests, so that the results can be recorded and the next round drawn up.

Find out which fighter is which (and how to pronounce their names) before you start to announce the fight, because at the end of the fight, you need to point out the winner. Ask the marshals, those at the list table or the fighters.

When a fighter does not answer a call to the field, a second call may be needed, but ask the marshals or the list table before giving a second call to the field. There may be rules regarding how many calls to the field will be given before a fighter is disqualified.

When heralding a tournament, keep in mind the following:

- Field heralds should be familiar with the rules of combat.
- Remember that the marshal and the list minister are in charge of the tourney, including the heralds. Make a note of their names in case you need their attention later and do as they instruct.
- Be on the field only for heraldic duties. Otherwise you should be just off the field.
- Do not block the list table's view.
- Make sure the fighters can hear the calls to arms. Be extra clear and articulate for them.
- Pay attention to what is happening on the field.
- Always wait for the marshal to indicate the victor before announcing the outcome.
- Never show bias to the course of combat. Do not make judgmental comments.
- Only cry "hold" to prevent true disaster. In most cases, such as a broken piece of armor, just bring it to the attention of the marshals.
- If there is more than one field being run at the same time, don't make your announcement while another herald is speaking. Wait until they are finished.
- Learn the names of the marshals and list ministers. If the marshal forgets to point out the winner, trying to get that information from "hey you!" is not very effective.

Common Tourney Scenarios

- Single elimination: This is the simplest form of list. In this style, the fighters are paired off in twos, the victor from each pairing going on to the next round and the loser is eliminated. This continues until only one fighter remains.
- Double elimination: Similar to single elimination, except that the loser of each pairing is given a second chance, generally in a separate "loser's bracket." When a fighter has lost two fights, that fighter is eliminated from the tournament.

- Round Robin: In this style, each fighter is paired once against every other fighter in the list.
- Two out of Three: This can be a modification of any of the above styles of list. Instead of the winner of each contest being determined by winning once, the winner is determined by taking the best two out of three.

Examples of How to Cry a Tourney

Opening of the tourney:

Example: “Oyez, Oyez, Good Gentles, here begins the Golden Falcon Tournament.”

Be sure to address the royalty or ruling nobility first, if such are present.

Then call all the fighters to the center of the field and announce all the pairings for the first round. Take your time and enunciate clearly, pausing between each pairing for clarity.

Example: “Oyez, Oyez, Good Gentles and Combatants pray attend. The matches for the first round of the Golden Falcon Tournament are as follows:
“First match, Sir A. versus Her Ladyship B. (pause).
“Second Match: His Lordship C. versus Lord D. (pause).
“Third match: Lady E. versus the Gentle F.”
“This round will be fought with <name the weapons form>.”

Calling up the current combatants and warning of future pairings, example:

- Fighters in the immediate combat: “Now to the Field, A and B.”
- Fighters preparing to fight next: “Arming, C and D.”
- Fighters two fights away: “Preparing to arm, E and F.”

When the two fighters meet on the field, say, for example:

“In this match Sir A. (indicate the fighter) doth meet Her Ladyship B. (indicate fighter).” Introduce the fighter of higher rank first.

If the fight is a Bye fight, it is advisable to announce which fighter is fighting “in earnest” and will advance, and which is fighting as the “bye.”

In a Crown Tournament, the combatants listed on the index cards will have the names of their consorts listed as well. During the first round of the Crown Tournament, it is traditional to read the names of both the combatants and the consorts. After the first round, you can simply say the combatants’ names. (Unless it has been decided otherwise.)



Example: “Come now to the field, Sir John Smith of Smythe fighting for Lady Jane Doe, versus Honorable Lord Hengest Hackenslash fighting for Lady Mary Shelley!”

Calling the Honors:

Usually the herald is responsible for this, but the marshal may do it. Check beforehand to find out how the marshal wants to handle this.

Example: “Do both combatants stand ready?”
“Then salute the Crown of Calontir <bow to the thrones or the direction where Their Majesties are believed to be>.
“Salute the one who inspires you this day” (pause for the fighters’ gestures of honor).
“Salute the populace here assembled (pause).
“Salute your most noble and worthy opponent (pause).
“Now Heed the Words of the Marshal!” (Get off the field!)

After the initial round/s, the Marshal may wish fighters to only be reminded of their honors:
“Remembering your previous honors, <pause for brief gestures of honor> now heed the words of the Marshal!”

This formula will often be used until the final rounds, when the full form may be resumed, at the Marshal’s discretion.

It was once traditional to announce when a fighter committed “an act of chivalry,” such as voluntarily giving up the use of a shield when the opponent has lost one arm. There have been many arguments about this. Therefore, it is best to not announce such actions, except if the ruling noble requests it. In such a case, say something like:

“Sir John the Smith has voluntarily relinquished the use of his shield.”

This conveys the facts without making a judgment about what is a “chivalric” act.

For the victory:

“Victory to <name>.”
If it is a bye fight, it is proper to announce who won and who will advance, especially if they are not the same person.

Processionals:

In Calontir, processionals are done at the more formal tourneys such as Crown Tourney, where the entrants and their consorts are presented to the reigning Crown by a herald (and also when ruling nobility process into court).

Similar heraldic involvement is needed for other tourneys that call for heraldic boasts, such as a Pas d'Armes.

If there is a shortage of heralds, a vocal herald might find themselves presenting several different entrants with little advance notice.

Get with your patron/s and write down the following information (index cards work well):

- Name and titles (spell phonetically as needed).
- Awards.
- Blazon of their device. If they do not have a device, skip this.
- If there is to be boasting, note any specific traits they'd like emphasized.
- The consort's name and titles
- Awards of the consort
- Blazon of consort's device
- If there is to be boasting, note any specific compliments they'd prefer.

During a processional, wait until the group ahead of you has made their bows to the Crown/Ruling Noble and completed their turn before beginning your speech. Remember, to make your patron sound important through your posture, voice, pacing, dress and general presence.

Sample phrases:
"Here now comes <name and titles>... <awards> ... <blazon of device>... <short boast>."
"Carrying the favor of <consort name and titles>... <awards>... <blazon of device>... <short complimentary description>." OR
"Fighting for <consort name and titles>... etc."

Most awards begin with: "Companion of the Order of" (the Laurel, the Pelican, the Calon Cross, etc.) while a knight is a "Knight of the Society."

For the blazon, say something like "Bearing the arms <heraldic description>."



Court Heraldry

Duties of the Court Herald-in-Charge (White Hawk Herald for Their Royal Majesties, the baronial herald for baronies, or their local substitute) This list is not exhaustive, and may flux with the need of the crown:

- Coordinate with Royalty or Their representative to start preparing the order of ceremony as soon as possible, ideally before the event.
- Find out if anyone else will be holding court (Baronies, visiting Royalty) and coordinate with them.
- Coordinate with the Sign Heralds so they have time to prepare how best to sign names, special award terms, etc. and where to stand for best visibility.
- Coordinate with the event herald or Heralds Point to collect populace announcement requests for court and share them with Their Majesties or Their representative.
- The court herald should bring a covered notebook or clipboard, weather-proof writing utensils, satchel, tabard, appropriate clothing, comfortable shoes and a non-alcoholic beverage.
- On the day of the event, check in with Royalty early in the day and make sure They know how to find you.
- Identify and speak with the Sign Heralds for that day's court.
- A couple of hours before court, check with Royalty again to get the "final" list of business and any special requests for order of events.
- Review the scrolls to make sure you can read them and double-check that they are correct and properly signed. Prepare a plain-copy of hard-to-read scroll texts if not already provided.
- Review pronunciation of names and make phonetic notes. If unsure how to pronounce a name, send someone to "spy" for you, someone who can ask others how to pronounce the gentle's name without giving away the reason why. Members of the gentle's local group are good sources.
- Clarify if Royalty will be making Their Own proclamations or if you will do it.
- Sort through any populace announcements and make sure you have enough information to make sure the announcements are appropriate for court. You may have to prioritize and edit, especially if court is going to be long.
- Make sure you know how to address those coming up to make announcements. Ask them.
- Write a "final" order of business, generally from items of lesser importance to items of greater importance, but mixing things up a bit to keep it interesting.
- Clarify what sort of procession into/out of court there will be with Their Royal Majesties or Their Chamberlain.
- Verify that the scripts for award ceremonies and court shtick are handy.

- Confirm the final time for court and make sure it gets announced.
- Coordinate the final agenda with the Sign Heralds with sufficient time for them to review the scroll texts and work out any English-to-sign translation difficulties.
- Shortly before court, double-check the order of court with the Royalty.
- Collect any assistants who will be helping call court and manage the other items (scrolls, medallions, etc.).
- Plant your non-alcoholic beverage behind the thrones where you can easily reach it.
- Remember your good vocal practices.
- If more than one set of Royalty is processing in, make sure that each set of Royalty has settled in Their places before calling in the next set.
- During court, pay close attention to the wishes of Royalty who may wish to alter the agenda for various reasons.
- Do not speak over conversations between the Royalty and awardees/presenters, and allow crowd response to fade enough that you can be heard before starting the next item.
- Give lesser awards such as AoAs full reverence, since that may be the only award that gentle will ever receive.
- When you have finished the list of court business, be sure to ask the Royalty if they have any additional business to add before you close the court.
- After court, request feedback from the Royalty in order to improve your future performance.
- Send in a full Court Report in a timely manner. Use the online form at https://www.calontir.org/wp-admin/admin.php?page=calon_user_panel.

Standard Phrases

Calling in the opening procession:

“Oyez! Oyez! All rise and pay honor to Their Royal Majesties ____ and ____, Crown of Calontir!”

Once Their Majesties are in place, They may ask you to call others. For example, you may announce the Heir and Heir’s Consort, the hosting baron and baroness, or if foreign royalty are present, the Sovereign and/or Consort of <kingdom>.

Note: If more than one kingdom’s royalty are present, announce them in the order that the kingdoms were created. The same is true for Calontir’s baronies. See “Order of the Founding of the SCA Kingdoms” and “Order of the Founding of Calontir’s Baronies” in Section VI.

Opening the court:

“Here opens the court of Their Majesties Calontir!” (or Their Excellencies <barony name>).



"Their Majesties bid the populace to take their ease" (after asking Their Majesties).
At this point Their Majesties (or Baronage) may make opening remarks.

During court:

"Their Majesties call into Their Presence…" or
"Their Majesties summon into Their Court…" or
"Their Majesties require the presence of…" or
"The Majesties grant the petition of…."

Closing court:

"There being no further business, this closes the court of Their Majesties Calontir."
"Long live the Sovereign!"
"Long live the Consort!"
"Long live the Heir and Heir's Consort!" (if applicable)
"Long live Their Majesties <foreign kingdom>" (if any foreign royalty are in attendance)

Again, if more than one kingdom's royalty are present, announce them in the order that the kingdoms were created. See "Order of the Founding of the SCA Kingdoms."
"Long live <barony>" (if event is held in one of the baronies). See "Order of the Founding of Calontir's Baronies" for multiple baronies.
"Long live these sovereign lands of Calontir!!!!!!!"

Components of a Basic Award Ceremony

The components of an award ceremony include the history and purpose of the award (mostly for the peerages), the name of recipient and an explanation of how they have earned the award. Other components are any regalia or badges allowed and any lands/privileges awarded, placing an award medallion around the recipient's neck, and admonitions to teach, continue to learn and to honor oaths of fealty. Then the Sovereign and Consort give the recipient the award scroll, present him/her to the populace, and, when warranted, guide him/her out of court.

In Calontir, many of the above components are incorporated in the text of the award scroll, so the ceremony simply consists of:

1. Calling the candidate into court.
2. Giving the Crown time to speak of the recipient's worth.
3. Reading the award scroll while the Crown places the medallion around their neck.
4. Handing the Sovereign or Consort the award scroll to give to the recipient.
5. Presenting the recipient to the populace and ushering them out of court with lesser or greater ceremony depending on the award and the whim of the crown.

For most AoA-level awards, the recipient simply backs themselves out of court while the populace applauds.

For polling orders (Fyrds, GoAs and PoAs), the members of that Order escort their newest member from the court.

The timing of when an Order is called into court is part of the shtick of an award. Sometimes the Crown will wish to have the Order called up first to increase the shock value for the recipient. At other times, They will wish to have the award recipient called up first to prolong the suspense and better enjoy the recipient's reaction.

Feast Heraldry

Duties of the Feast Herald:

- Coordinate with the Feast Steward to find out the menu (and how to pronounce it) and order of service, and set up signals so you know when to announce the next course.
- Coordinate with the bards and musicians, and help them determine the best times for their performances,
- Coordinate with the Royal Chamberlain or the presiding baronage if there will be any official business during feast. (See Court Heraldry above.)
- Make sure the ranking nobles are sorting out who is going to make the toasts. If you're unsure, you may ask a higher-ranking noble from your group to help find out.
- Good vocal practices are particularly important in noisy feast settings.

Order of Standard Toasts

- First Toast: "To the Crown of Calontir" (whether in attendance or not). This toast is made by the highest ranking gentle in attendance who is not Royalty.
- Second Toast: "To the Heir and Heir's Consort" (if any). This toast is made by the next highest ranking gentle (and so on for subsequent toasts).
- Third Toast: To any visiting foreign royalty.
- Fourth Toast: "To Their Excellencies of <hosting barony>" (if event is held in a barony).
- Near the End of Feast: "To the cooks and servers." This toast is often done by the presiding nobility (Royalty, baronage or other guests of honor).

Supplementary Articles in the Calontir Herald's Companion

- "Calontir Field Heraldry" by Baron Christopher Amber, OP.
- "How to Be Heard and Understood or Projection 101 for Field Heralds" by Countess Lyriel de la Foret.



- “Processionals,” compiled by Modar Neznanich, Jadwiga Marina Majewska & Briana Etain MacKorkhill.
- “Tournament Heraldry” by Countess Lyriel de la Foret.
- “Vocal Heraldry” compiled by Modar Neznanich, Jadwiga Marina Majewska and Briana Etain MacKorkhill.

Other Useful References

- “Court Heraldry, a Checklist for Success” by Richard Coleman, https://heraldry.sca.org/voice/heraldrychecklist.html
- “How to Herald a Tournament” by HL Johann Steinarsson - http://calonsong.org/How%20to%20Herald%20a%20Tournament.pdf
- “Philosophy of Court Heraldry” by Richard Coleman, https://heraldry.sca.org/voice/philosophyonherald.html
- “Vocal Heraldry: a General Overview,” a collection of articles on http://www.modaruniversity.org/vocal.htm
- “You want me to do what??? or Doing Court Heraldry without a Nervous Breakdown” by Natasha Orionova Zateeva, http://legacy.antirheralds.org/education/voice/court_heraldry_wo_nervous_breakdown.html

Section V: Book Heraldry

Introduction

Book heraldry is also known as consulting heraldry or submission heraldry. Book heralds help members of the SCA find appropriate plausibly historic names and armorial designs, and get them submitted for registration with the College of Arms.

Divisions of Book Heraldry

Most of a book herald's work falls into four categories:

- Names: Researching and documenting appropriate names.
- Armory: Researching and documenting appropriate heraldic devices and badges.
- Art: Drawing and coloring armorial designs, by hand or by computer.
- Administration: Managing submissions paperwork, consult tables and education.

Goals of the Submission Process: In a nutshell, your goal is to submit names and armory that are reasonably historic, not offensive and not too much like someone else's while making happy clients.

In 2012, heralds received new rules for submissions, called the Standards for Evaluation of Names and Heraldry (SENA). The new standards relax the rules of conflict for names and devices quite a bit. So if someone had something returned for conflict before 2012, it is a good idea to take a second look and see if it would be "clear" now.

The new rules are a good simplification of the old Rules for Submission, but they can be intimidating. You don't have to read SENA cover to cover (although it may be helpful to skim over it once to get some idea of what's there). You can just go through individual topics as they're needed. Gold Falcon Principal Herald, Saker Herald, Eyas Herald or any herald within the Calontir College of Heralds will be happy to answer any question. (It's part of their job.)

Overview of the Submission Process

Pre-Submission Consulting

Ideally, before a client submits anything, they have been working with a herald. Calontir has a dedicated group of heralds who volunteer to run consult tables at most events. However, in Calontir, clients are allowed to submit directly to the Kingdom Submissions Herald, bypassing any consulting or local heralds.



Local Herald/Pursuivant

When a group's local herald (known in baronies as a pursuivant), receives a submission, they:

- Performs a basic check to ensure that the submission follows the rules, has no obvious conflicts and has proper documentation.
- Makes sure forms have been completed properly and there are enough copies (for paper submissions).
- If submitting electronically, follows the proper format (local heralds can submit either on paper or electronically).
- Makes sure the proper payment for all submissions is received by Eyas, either via ePay (preferred) or that the funds were received by Eyas at the address listed on the Submissions page: https://www.calontir.org/heralds/submissions/
- Monitors the submissions as they go through the process and keeps submitters properly informed.

Kingdom Submission Heralds (Eyas & Saker Heralds)

Calontir's Eyas and Saker Heralds review all submissions before either sending them on to the SCA College of Arms (Laurel) for review or returning them to the submitter for further work.

Eyas:

- Preserves an electronic copy (so both the local herald and Kingdom have back-up copies).
- Deposits the payments and works with the Kingdom ePay Deputy to collect information needed for the ePay Deputy to invoice for electronic payments.
- Prepares an Internal Letter of Intent (ILoI) from the submission forms for in-Kingdom commentary.
- The Internal Letter of Intent is a list of items Eyas intends to register along with their documentation. The ILoI is distributed on OSCAR (the "Online System of Commentary and Response"; see How to Use OSCAR).
- The Calontir College of Heralds has about one month to provide comments on an ILoI. They check the items again for rules, conflicts and documentation.
- Returns unregistrable items to the submitter for further work with clear information about what needs to be changed.

Saker:

- Prepares an External Letter of Intent for items that appear registrable.
- Sends the External Letter of Intent to Laurel via OSCAR Publication.
- Notifies submitters of registered items.

Laurel Sovereign of Arms

The SCA "College of Arms" (see the Section I Introduction) reviews items on the External Letter of Intent on OSCAR. Often, new problems are found, but every attempt is made to fix what can be fixed.

Commentary on the ELoI at Laurel is allowed two months. After commentary closes, the ELoI is discussed at the next SCA College of Arms monthly decision meeting.

Publishing the Decision

Once the decisions are made, they have to be written up and proofread. This generally takes two months. The results are published in a Letter of Acceptances and Returns (LoAR). Any pended items (items that might pass with a little more work or research) are also listed on an LoAR.

The LoARs are publicly accessible on the SCA Heraldry web page and are also distributed via email.

Saker is officially responsible for informing submitters of the decisions. However, by staying on top of their clients' submissions, local heralds can help a lot.

Consulting with Clients

Essential References and Supplies

- SCA Administrative Handbook – https://heraldry.sca.org/admin.html
- SCA Standards for Evaluation of Names and Armory (SENA) - https://heraldry.sca.org/sena.html
- SCA Ordinary and Armorial – http://oanda.sca.org/
- Calontir Herald's Handbook (and Calontir Herald's Companion)
- Calontir Submissions Page – https://www.calontir.org/heralds/submissions/
- Calontir Armorial – http://armorial.calontir.org/
- Blank forms, scratch paper, primary colored markers (e.g., Crayola or other equivalent), etc.

General Guidelines and Principles of Consulting

- Remember that the Herald is the only officer in the SCA to whom a gentle pays a fee for a specific service. Thus people expect and deserve our best efforts in the processing of their names and armory.



- Be pleasant and respectful. Many submitters have heard (or experienced) horror stories of the dreaded “College of Arms.” Don’t add to the pain.
- Be welcoming. Heralds love to “farble” with each other at consult tables, but make sure that the way you’re interacting isn’t forming a barrier to potential clients.
- Don’t impose your tastes on the client. Everyone has different interests and levels of authenticity. Choosing a name and arms is a very personal decision – for them, not you. While authenticity is good, only adherence to the rules is mandatory for submissions.
- Be patient. It can take time and multiple consultations for a client to “find themselves.”
- Ask questions. “What do you like best about this? What does it mean to you? How important is authenticity to you?” Carefully listen to the answers and what the client is really trying to say.
- Be a good teacher. Explain what you’re doing and why in terms the client can understand. Keep it at their level. Remember that often the client is less interested in the source of the information, and more in its accuracy and how quickly they can get the answer, i.e. the final result.
- Be diplomatic. How you say things matters. Be non-judgmental and have viable alternatives ready. Often, one can gently guide clients to better alternatives without actually telling them their idea was a problem.
- Be an enthusiastic enabler. Build and expand on the clients’ ideas (also helps with the “persona story” names and “resume heraldry”). Share inspiration for heraldic display. “Wouldn’t this look great on the dags of your tent?”
- Be honest about your knowledge and expertise. No one expects you to know everything, especially since rules and precedents are always changing. It is better to know where to find the information and look it up. If you have to answer a question from memory, it is good to let the client know you will confirm the answer and then follow up accordingly. Acknowledge up that your answer may be inaccurate (unless you're quoting something you just looked up 10 minutes ago). Admit when you don’t know something and find someone who does.
- Never guarantee an item will pass. No one knows all the rules or all the potential conflicts. And don’t tell someone an item won’t pass unless you’re absolutely sure it won’t. Verify before you stridently state that “widgets aren’t historic” or “you can’t combine X with Y.”
- Don’t be overly sensitive. Clients won’t like everything you suggest. Some clients will need to work with multiple heralds to find an idea that clicks. And not everything you submit will pass. Don’t take it personally.
- Be timely. Try to do what you’ve promised to do as soon as possible. The longer you wait, the more likely you will forget.
- Be professional. Don’t play favorites. Don’t bad mouth other clients or heralds. Be organized so you don’t lose paperwork.

Sample questions for consultations

- What time period of history do you like? Why?
- What type of garb/clothing are you interested in?
- Who are your persona's parents?
- Would your persona's religion affect your choice of name?
- What do you like about this name idea you've brought? (sound, meaning, culture...)
- What is the most important to you about this device idea you've brought? (color, symbolism, family arms...)
- Are you interested in how authentic this item is for your time period of focus?
- What dark color(s) do you like best (e.g., red, blue, black, green, purple)?
- What light color/metal do you like best (e.g., yellow/gold, white/silver)?
- What are your favorite creatures or plants?
- What are your favorite medieval objects?
- What activities are you involved in?
- Can we make a pun/cant on your name?
- Have you submitted anything before? What happened?

Documenting Names

Documenting names takes a bit of detective work. Each name must have a dated historic spelling.

You also need to document each part of the name and how it is put together. For a name like Mary Smith, you need to document <Mary> and <Smith> and also the combination of <given name> + <occupational byname> within 500 years of each other in English.

The name combinations can usually be documented from SENA, Appendix A: Patterns That Do Not Need Further Documentation by Language Group – https://heraldry.sca.org/sena.html#AppendixA and SENA, Appendix C: Regional Naming Groups and Their Mixes – https://heraldry.sca.org/sena.html#AppendixC.

If you find a name that someone likes, make sure to write down the source and make copies of it. You want a copy of the title page of the source and also the page with the name information. You must provide photocopies to send with the submission (except for sources on the "No Copy List," Appendix H of the Administrative Handbook – https://heraldry.sca.org/admin.html#APPENDIXH).

Example of name documentation that is *not quite* good enough:



Magdalene of Brandenburg

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

Magdalene of Brandenburg, also Magdalene and Magdalen, (7 January 1582 – 4 May 1616) was the daughter of John George, Elector of Brandenburg and his third wife Elisabeth of Anhalt-Zerbst. She married Louis V, Landgrave of Hesse-Darmstadt.

This example gives the name of a real historic person with dates, but the spelling has been modernized, so isn't quite good enough. (The introduction of a good reference book will explain whether the author modernized the names.)

A good example of name documentation with historic spellings and dates:

Magdalen	**35**	
Magdalen	7	1597 GRE; 1599 EAS; 1601 WHK; 1612 WIT; 1619 CLS, RYT; 1620 GRE
Maudland	6	1541 DSN; 1565 DSN; 1580 DSN; 1583 DSN (2); 1585 DSN
Magdaline	4	1598* DSM; 1605 DSN; 1616 SED; 1617* EAS
Magdalene	3	1591 GRE; 1596* WHK; 1610 DSN
Magdeline	3	1562 BMI; 1564 BMI; 1578 BMI
Madglyne	1	1590 DSM
Madilon	1	1614 WHK
Madylyne	1	1559 DSM
Magdalena [L]	1	1596 WIT
Magdalina [L]	1	1611 CLS

How to write it on the submission form:

> "Madylyne" dated to 1559 under Magdalen in "English Given Names from 16th and Early 17th C Marriage Records" by Sara L. Uckelman – http://www.ellipsis.cx/~liana/names/english/parishes/parishes.html.

Documenting Armory

Devices and badges don't generally need documentation unless you're trying to do something new or it breaks the rules in the Standards for Evaluation of Names and Armory (SENA).
If a charge or motif has been registered in the last 10 years, it shouldn't need documentation unless it was registered as an exception to the rules as an Individually Attested Pattern (new rules) or as a Regional Exception (under the old rules).

Documentation for devices requires examples from historic manuscripts or historic artifacts.

Generally, only one example is needed for something that doesn't violate the rules. For example, there's no rule against claw-footed bathtubs, so you just need to find a single historic example (make sure the submission looks just like the tub of the time).

You need more examples for a motif that violates the rules, such as a black dog on a red background (which violates the Rule of Tincture). This requires doing an Individually Attested Pattern (IAP) relevant to a single heraldic culture (Iberian, German, Anglo-French, Italian, etc.). If you're going German with our example, you'll want one example of a dog in German arms (to show it's consistent with a German pattern), and three examples of complex black charges on red backgrounds that are from unrelated German families (need three because that's the part that violates the rules).

How to write it on the submission form:

- Dog as seen in <date> <German heraldic manuscript>. (You'll need to include copies of the sources.)
- Claw foot tub, historic artifact dated to <date> as depicted in <book about history of plumbing>. (You'll need to include copies of relevant pages with the submission.)

Conflict

We can't register a name, device or badge that's too much like someone else's (i.e., it conflicts), because we all get to be unique.

Conflict Checking Names

The rules for name conflict are in the Standards for Evaluation of Names and Armory, in particular, SENA PN.3 Personal Names Conflict (https://heraldry.sca.org/sena.html#PN3) and SENA NPN.3 Non-Personal Names Conflict (https://heraldry.sca.org/sena.html#NPN3).

The best place to look for potential name conflicts is the Name Pattern Search Form: http://oanda.sca.org/oanda_np.cgi. The type of search should be "broad" and "case insensitive."

The Display Options should be set to "Sort items by name only."
Generally, start the search with just one name. Let's use the example, Maria von Trapp. Start by searching for "Maria" and all the spelling and sound variations you can think of.

Then search for the variations of "Trapp" to make sure the Maria search didn't miss something.

In order to be clear, two names must be substantially different in both sound and appearance. So you'll need to search for names that are spelled similarly AND for names that might be pronounced similarly. (SENA PN.3.C.)



Sound is a little tricky, since pronunciations change over time, and modern SCAdians don't necessarily follow proper pronunciation of the time.

Under SENA, only sound and appearance matter for conflict. So variations and diminutives no longer automatically conflict. Elizabeth and Beth are now clear of each other.

Personal names do not conflict with non-personal names (household names, group names, order names, etc.). So "William of Heraldshill" does not conflict with the "Shire of Heraldshill." (PN.3.B.)

Much like with armory, you need one Substantial Change (SC) or two Distinct Changes (DC), but you need that for BOTH sound and appearance.

Names may be different in sound under one standard and appearance under another standard. (PN.3.C.)

DC to Two Syllables: Names are substantially different if any distinct change (DC) in sound and appearance affects at least two syllables (adding, removing, or reordering them). (SENA PN.3.C.1. has examples)

If the names are substantially different in both appearance and sound by now, then they are clear.

If not, we look for SCs, which are a little more complicated.

SC to One Syllable: A name is substantially different (i.e., "clear"), if a single syllable between two names (excluding articles and prepositions) is substantially changed (SC) in both sound and appearance. (PN.3.C.2. with examples)

Hopefully, by now the two names are clear in both sound (two DCs or one SC) and appearance (two DCs or one SC). But if not, there's one more chance to clear the names.

SC to Comparable Single-Syllable Name Phrases (PN.3.C.3.):

- Single syllable name examples are "John," "George" and "Eve," not "von Trapp" or "de la Mar."
- They must be in the same position in the name, for example John Smithson and George Smithson, not Peter George Smithson and John Peter Smithson.
- Some simple two-syllable name phrases such as Harry or Mary might also be eligible for this rule.

Standards for Relationship Conflict: A claim to be the parent, child, or spouse of a protected person generally requires the use of the entirety of a protected name… Subtracting an element from the projected name or adding a new element is generally enough to [clear]. (PN.3.D.)

Conflict Checking Armory

Prerequisites:

- Good understanding of primary, secondary, tertiary, peripheral and overall charge groups. (SENA Appendix I: Charge Group Theory - https://heraldry.sca.org/sena.html#AppendixI)
- Good understanding of blazonry terms.
- Familiarity with SENA A.5. Armory Conflict.
- Ability to use the Index of the SCA Ordinary.
- Ability to search precedents (Morsulus.org, Compiled Armory Precedents).
- Willingness to be wrong – frequently

Getting Started

Everyone has their own way to do conflict checking, and that's a good thing. And that's why as many people as possible should help with conflict checking in commentary.

- Write out the blazon of the submitted the device to organize the charges into the different groups (primary, secondary, etc.) that compare with each other.
- Read the relevant sections of the Ordinary quickly, but carefully. Sometimes it helps to talk to yourself, especially if you're at a busy Heralds Point. If you start to lose your focus, take a break.
- As soon as you find one substantial change (SC) or two distinct changes (DCs) on an entry, don't read any further. You know it's clear. Move on.

Hunting for SCs

If one device has a primary charge group and the other doesn't, they do not conflict.
If the devices have substantially changed primary charge groups, they do not conflict. Potential SC changes include:

- completely adding/removing the primary charge group
- substantially changing the type of the primary charge group,
- substantially changing the number in the primary charge group (1 vs. 2 vs. 3 vs. 4+),
- substantially changing the arrangement of the primary charge group,
- substantially changing the posture (if they have comparable postures/orientations),
- but NOT tincture.



SENA A.5.E.2-5. has the details.

If neither device has a primary charge group (i.e., both field primary), and they have substantially changed fields (partition or tincture), they do not conflict.

Potential SC changes for comparing field primary armory include:

- completely adding/removing all field divisions
- substantially changing the direction of a line of division

per pale/paly per fess/barry per bend/bendy per bend/bendy sinister per chevron/chevronelly per chevron/chevronelly inverted per pall per pall inverted	gyronny (any number) per saltire quarterly other four equal parts party of six checky lozengy, other grid-like others on a case-by-case basis

- substantially changing tincture

See SENA A.5.F.

If none of the above apply, you need two DCs (distinct changes). See SENA A.5.G.

Hunting for Two DCs

Look in the field, the primary, the secondary, the tertiary, the peripheral and overall charges. You can only get one DC even for multiple changes to the field unless the arms are “field primary.”

You can now get more than one DC for tertiary charges (unlike under the old rules).

Potential DC changes include:

- changes to the field (tincture, direction of partition, style of lines, number of pieces, fieldlessness)
- completely adding/removing a charge group
- changing the tincture of at least half of a charge group,
- changing the type of at least half of a charge group,
- changing the number in the charge group (1 vs 2 vs 3 vs 4 vs 5 vs 6+),
- changing the arrangement of a charge group,

- changing the posture in a charge group if they have comparable postures/orientations,

SENA A.5.E.2-5. has the details.

See also SENA Appendix M: Some Resources for Conflict Checking - https://heraldry.sca.org/sena.html#AppendixM.
Once you are comfortable with these basic principles, you can consider using the Complex Search Form. For that, see "Complex Search Form - Hints" - https://oanda.sca.org//hints_complex.html

Name Submission Checklist

- Is the name too short? A personal name must contain a given name and at least one byname (each of these components is a name phrase). SENA PN.2.B.
- Is the name too weird? Every name as a whole should be compatible with the culture of a single time and place. Different languages should be used together only if there was substantial contact between cultures that spoke those languages. SENA PN.2.C. and Appendix C: Regional Naming Groups. A name should not combine more than three languages. However, each phrase must be grammatically correct according to the usage of a single language. For place names and other name elements frequently used in English in their original form, an English article or preposition may be used. For example, of Aachen might be used instead of the purely German von Aachen.
- Is the name too complex? Most names historically contained no more than three name phrases. So as a rule of thumb, a personal name should not contain more than four name phrases. (A documentable exception is Arabic.) SENA Appendix A: Naming patterns that do not need further documentation.
- Is there documentation? Every part of the name and the method of its construction must be documented. SENA GP.2.B.
- Is the name offensive? Pornographic or scatological, magical or religious terminology that is excessive or mocking, allusions to derogatory stereotypes, terms associated with social, political movements or events that may be offensive. Unfortunately, this is subjective. SENA GP.1.B.3.
- Is the name presumptuous mundanely or in the SCA? A name or piece of armory which expresses or implies claims to powers or status (mundane or SCA) that the submitter does not possess will not be registered. Documentation must be provided to prove the name is not presumptuous. SENA GP.1.B.2.
- Are there enough copies? One copy of forms and documentation to send to Eyas (ideally also one for local herald and one for the submitter). Can be done via email. https://www.calontir.org/heralds/submissions/.



Armory Submission Checklist

- Does the submitter have an SCA name? You cannot register a piece of armory without a name. The name can be registered or in process before the armory is, or it can be submitted at the same time; but there must be a SCA name to attach the armory to.
- Is the submission dark on dark, or light on light? A chipmunk “proper” is brown. Brown is dark, therefore, it must be on a metal (light) field. Caucasians proper are considered metal, and must be on a dark field. (Rule of Tincture)
- Is the submission slot machine? Armory is “slot machine” when there are three or more different charges in the same charge group. For example, “Or, a bell, book and star sable,” is slot machine. “Or, on a bend between a bell and a book azure, a star Or,” is not, because the star is on the bend, and neither it nor the bend are in the same charge group as the others.
- Is it marshaled armory? Marshalling is a historic practice and people are free to use marshaled arms in display, but we don’t register them in the SCA. The rules for marshalling are in SENA A.6.F. https://heraldry.sca.org/sena.html#A6F Hint: Read SENA A6F as a straight-through run. As soon you hit a “has appearance of marshalling” in A6F2 or A6F3, stop checking, because the item isn’t registrable. If you don’t hit a “has appearance of marshalling” by the time you reach the end, you’re good. A6F1 is “things that are not marshalling,” A6F2 is “things that are marshalling” and A6F3 is “things that may or may not be marshalling” – and note that it starts with the phrase “Designs which do not fit into section 1 or 2 above must be considered more carefully.”
- Does it use a forbidden charge or group of charges? They could be either presumptuous (claiming a mundane rank), or offensive. Presumptuous charges include: Tudor rose, crowned shamrock, etc. Offensive charges include: the hand of glory, swastika, triskelion gammadion. These are listed in the Glossary of Terms: Restricted Charges (https://heraldry.sca.org/coagloss.html#restricted).
- Does it use a reserved charge that the submitter is not entitled to use? There are a number of charges that only some people in the SCA can use. For example, to have a crown or coronet on your device you must have been a sovereign, consort, heir or heir’s consort or be a court baron or baroness. Documentation must be provided to prove the submitter is entitled to the charge. https://heraldry.sca.org/coagloss.html#reserved
- Is the submission too complex? If the number of different types of charges plus the number of different tinctures adds up to more than eight, the submission is too complex. “Per bend sinister ermine and gules, a tiger rampant azure and a horse passant Or, a bordure purpure semy of roundels argent ermined vert,” has four different types of charges (tiger, horse, bend, roundels) and six tinctures (ermine, gules, azure, Or, purpure and "argent ermined vert"). Furs count as a single tincture, even "argent ermined vert".

- Are the charges and lines drawn big and bold? Medieval lines of division were not slim or dainty, and charges were drawn to fill the space. Remember, the purpose of heraldry is identification from a distance.
- Are the charges drawn in their medieval form? We register medieval, not modern, heraldry. We use a quill pen, not a fountain pen. All charges used must be items and forms used prior to the year 1600.
- Are there enough copies?
- One colored copy – one for Eyas(but it's a good idea to also have one for the local herald and one for the submitter to keep).
- One line-drawn copy – one for Eyas(again, good to have extras).
- One copy of any documentation – one for Eyas (and of course, extras).

See the forms at the end of this handbook or go to https://www.calontir.org/heralds/submissions/

Filling Out Name Submission Forms

First, make sure you're using the correct, up-to-date form:
https://www.calontir.org/heralds/submissions/

Identifying Information:

Complete the identifying information as follows:

- The Society Name is the new name being submitted unless the submitter already has a name registered. In that case, the old name goes under Society Name and the new name goes on the "Name being submitted" line.
- One or more forms of contact for the submitter, either email address or phone number. Mailing address is not required, but is helpful for identification of submitters.

Type of Action:

If a name is being changed, it is important to specify if the submitter wishes to release the old name (which is the default), or retain the old name as an alternate name.

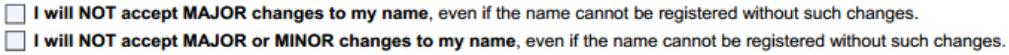
A resubmission is when a name has been returned and the client is submitting something different as a result. If submitted within 5-years, resubmissions do not require additional payment. Contact Eyas with any questions regarding potential payment for resubmissions.

An appeal is when a name has been returned but the client has new justification that the exact original name should be registered.

The information about previous submissions is only needed for resubmissions and appeals.



The "Boxes of Doom":



Marking one of these boxes makes it less likely that a name will be registered. On the other hand, many clients won't be happy with a name registered with major changes. Names are only supposed to be changed if it's absolutely necessary.

Important Note: Remind submitters that they will be contacted about potential changes whether or not they check the above boxes. (This question often comes up at consultations, and has prevented several "boxes of doom" from being checked.)

Preferences:

Lots of people forget to fill out this section, or put in contradictory answers. Make sure that the client hasn't marked "Please change to be authentic" with any "I will NOT accept…. changes…"

Tracking the Money/Submission

Encourage electronic payments as much as possible, as it makes the administrative process of registration easier on Eyas, Saker, and Society level Heralds. A submitter does NOT have to have a PayPal account to complete electronic payments, as they can access the ePay program from the received invoice and pay via a credit or debit card.

Important note: Do not touch money for submissions. Only warranted exchequers (including Eyas and Saker Heralds) are authorized to handle money or checks.

	Amount Received	Date Received	Action Taken	Amount Forwarded	Date Forwarded
Local					
ıgdom					

Filling Out Armory Submission Forms

Make sure you're using the correct, up-to-date form:
https://www.calontir.org/heralds/submissions/.

Identifying Information of the submitter:

- The Society Name is the name either being submitted with this armory, or any previously registered name.
- One or more forms of contact for the submitter, either email address or phone number. Mailing address is not required, but is helpful for identification of submitters.

Type of Action:

If a device or badge is being changed, be sure to specify if the submitter wishes to release the old device/badge or retain it as a badge.

A resubmission is when an item has been returned and the client is submitting something different as a result. If submitted within 5-years, resubmissions do not require additional payment. Contact Eyas with any questions regarding potential payment for resubmissions.

An appeal is when an item has been returned but the client has new justification that the exact original name should be registered.

The Emblazon (Picture):

Make sure the image completely fills the assigned space on the submission form – no gaps, no overlaps. If using the electronic forms, USE THE TEMPLATE, as not having the armory outline be correct is grounds for an administrative return to be fixed.

The Blazon (Description):

Write it neatly and don't worry about getting it exactly right. We register the emblazon not the blazon. Different heralds blazon things differently, and Laurel will adjust the blazon as necessary to match the emblazon. But it's important that the emblazon is "blazonable," and the description helps commenters understand what the emblazon is supposed to be.

Number of Copies:

Note that this has decreased because Kingdoms have shifted to all-electronic submissions to Laurel.

Tracking the Money/Submission

Encourage electronic payments as much as possible, as it makes the administrative process of registration easier on Eyas, Saker, and Society level Heralds. A submitter does NOT have to



have a PayPal account to complete electronic payments, as they can access the ePay program from the received invoice and pay via a credit or debit card.

Important note: Do not touch money for submissions. Only warranted exchequers (including Eyas and Saker Heralds) are authorized to handle money or checks.

Commentary

All commentary on submissions takes place on the OSCAR website: http://oscar.sca.org/. OSCAR stands for the "Online System of Commentary and Response." This is the website where Internal Letters of Intent (ILoI) and External Letters of Intent (ELoI or just LoI) are listed with space to comment and respond to comments on each item.

The Calontir College of Heralds is usually given about a month to comment on an ILoI. The SCA College of Arms is given two months to provide comments on an ELoI.

Commentary Help Is Welcome

We can always use more people to comment at both Kingdom and Laurel level – at any level of expertise. If you'd like to help, let Gold Falcon know.

First of all, be professional: stay focused on the essentials, and don't make personal attacks.

Then start simple. Sometimes obvious things get missed because more senior heralds get distracted by esoteric questions, so you can be a big help even if you don't have a lot of knowledge yet.

How to Get Started:

- Check the forms: Are all the required blanks filled? Has the submitter marked "culture most important" but failed to specify which culture? See the section above on Submission Forms.
- Confirm the documentation: For names: Is every element of the name documented with a historic spelling and date? Is the combination of elements documented? Have copies of the documentation been provided or are they on the "No Copy List" (Appendix H of the Administrative Handbook)? If you have access to the source, does it say what they claim it does? For armory: Have all the charges been registered in the last 10 years or so? Is documentation provided for charges that have not?
- Check for "fatal flaws" with the submission: It's helpful to develop a checklist of critical requirements for names and heraldry submissions. You can use the checklists in this handbook or make your own. "See A Submissions Checklist for the New Rules Draft" -

https://heraldry.sca.org/sena_checklist.html. Some of the items on these checklists are nice and simple, but others can quickly get complicated. Just do what you can. The rest will come with time.

- Check for conflicts: Don't feel like you have to find every conflicting item or know categorically whether not something is "clear" or not. Even if all you say is "No conflicts found under <lion Or>," then others can focus on looking under <chevron gules>, for example.

If you do find what you believe to be a conflict, it is diplomatic to state, "Consider the [name] or [<arms of name> <registered blazon>] [Kingdom & year registered], followed by why you believe this to be a conflict.

Document your comments!

Don't say "Widgets are a step from core practice." Say "According to the May 2009 LoAR regarding <Name: item>, widgets are a Step From Core Practice (SFCP) <link to LoAR>."

And don't say, 'I think widgets might be a SFCP," without checking. If you honestly can't find the answer, it's okay, though. Just say so. "I thought widgets were a SFCP, but I can't seem to find the relevant precedent."

Sample Comments:

- "Documentation confirmed."
- "The name phrase <von Yamamoto> combines two different languages, X and Y, in a single name phrase in violation of SENA PN.1.B. Personal Names Content: Single Time and Place."
- "The use of a double given name in <X language> is not listed in SENA Appendix A, and so needs to be documented."
- "Combining an X given name with a Y byname is an allowable combination of languages per SENA Appendix C: Regional Naming Groups."
- "<Given name> and <byname> are not in the same regional naming group, and are separated by more than 300 years, in violation of SENA PN.2.C.2.b. Style: Culturally Mixed Names violating temporal compatibility."
- "No conflicts found."
- "<name submitted> clear of <other name> by PN.3.C.3. Substantial Change of Single-Syllable Name Phrase."
- "<device submitted> conflicts with <other device> with a only a DC for changing the tincture of the field by A.5.G.1, but nothing for the change of the position of the head."



To Learn More:

- Guides to the Submissions Process has a section for Commenting Heralds: https://heraldry.sca.org/submissions.html.
- "Introduction to Commentary" by Bruce Draconarius (pre-OSCAR, but useful principles): https://heraldry.sca.org/commenting.html.
- "The Art of Effective Commentary" by Mistress Allison MacDermot in the Calontir Herald's Companion
- "Heraldry FAQ" appendix in this handbook (Section VIII).

How to Use OSCAR

Introduction

OSCAR is the acronym for the Online System of Commentary and Response, the website where heralds comment on name and device submissions.

After Calontir's Eyas Herald receives a submission, he or she lists the submission, along with its documentation, in an Internal Letter of Intent, or ILoI (see Overview of the Submission Process). The ILoI is distributed for comment through the Calontir OSCAR web page at http://oscar.sca.org/kingdom/kingfront.php?kingdom=11.

Calontir's heralds have about a month to comment on submissions in an ILoI. Items that look registrable are then transferred by Saker to an External Letter of Intent (ELoI) on OSCAR. The SCA's heralds have about two months to comment on ELoIs.

Anyone can see the Letters of Intent, but the Laurel Sovereign of Arms and Calontir limit access to the comments. (Some kingdoms make comments on their ILoIs public.)

Calontir can always use more people to comment on submissions at any level of expertise. If you would like to help, let Gold Falcon know and sign up for an account (see below).

Creating an Account

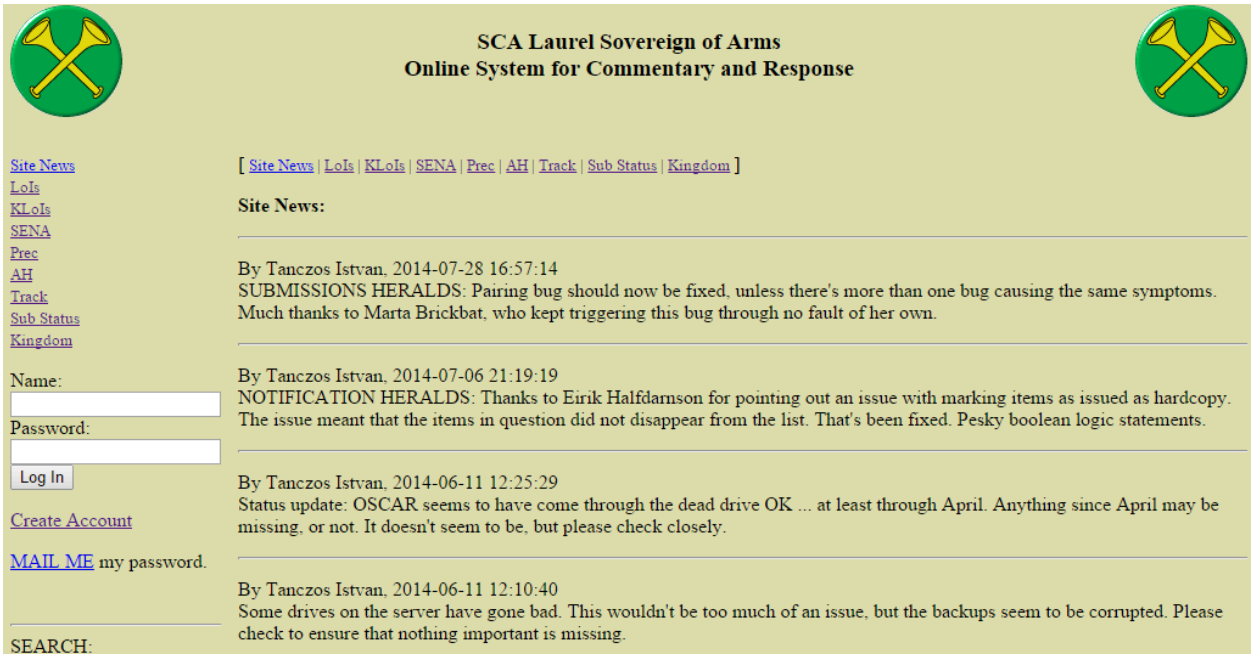
Step 1: Go to the Calontir OSCAR page at
http://oscar.sca.org/kingdom/kingfront.php?kingdom=11.
Click on "Create Account" on the left side.
Step 2: Fill out the form.

Step 3: Contact Gold Falcon at GoldFalcon@calontir.org to have your account activated for commenting.

Gold Falcon will determine what level of access you will have:

- Viewing and commenting on Calontir ILoIs.
- Viewing and commenting on other Kingdoms' ILoIs.
- Viewing and commenting on Laurel-level ELoIs.

Navigating from the Main Page



Navigation Bar (list includes options that only appear if logged in with commenting access):

- Site News: updates and information about the site.
- LoIs: Letters of Intent, a list of currently active and recently active external LoIs by date.
- KLoIs: Kingdom Letters of Intent, a list of internal LoIs by Kingdom.
- SENA: Shortcut to Standards for Evaluation of Names and Armory page.
- Prec: Shortcut to Compiled Precedents of the SCA College of Arms.
- AH: Shortcut to the Administrative Handbook.
- Track: Table of recent ELoIs with dates of submission, commentary period and decision meetings.
- Sub Status: Useful for tracking submission status. It lists all submissions currently "In Commentary Period," "Being Decided," and "Being Proofread" in alphabetical order.
- Comment: List of names that have been commented on recently. (commenters only)
- LoCs: List of everyone who has commented in a given month. (commenters only)

- Roster: List of everyone with OSCAR accounts, by Kingdom. (commenters only)
- Archive: List of old ELoIs and commenters, by month. (commenters only)
- Kingdom: Link to the Kingdom Gardens index page. This is the way to find other kingdoms' ILoIs.

Sample LoI (from an April Fools submission):



19: Force Field - New Name (Comment) & New Badge (Comment)
[Name Notifications on. turn off] [Badge Notifications on. turn off]

Azure, a lymphad argent within an annulet Or, all between four mullets in saltire argent.

Consulting herald: Susan Storm

Force is a late-period surname, which is usable as a given name by precedent [Alton of Grimfells, 4/2010 LoAR, A-East]. The IGI Parish Records Extracts list:

Roberte **Force**, Male, 06 Oct 1588, DONINGTON-IN-HOLLAND,LINCOLN,ENGLAND, C03505-1

Field is an English surname found in "Names in Chesham, 1538-1600/1" by Mari ingen Briain meic Donnchada (http://medievalscotland.org/kmo/Chesham/surnames-2.shtml).

Badge Comments:

Gunnvor silfraharr (Orle) at 2013-04-01 10:58:03 (Reply)

There is a SFPP for framing of one charge by another, but this is the only one here, and so should be registerable barring conflict:

- Rowen Killian. Badge. (Fieldless) A demi-flamberge inverted argent hilted sable, handled of a lit candle argent, within and issuant from the base of a serpent involved deosil sable marked argent. This device has several unattested elements: the odd hilting of the sword, and framing the badge within a serpent involved. The latter, while popular in the SCA, is nonetheless a weirdness. Therefore this violates the "Rule of Two Weirdnesses" for being at least two steps removed from documented period practice. [LoAR 02/1997]

This was reaffirmed in 06/2000:

- Ungust Filius Antonii. Name and device. Azure, a triangle inverted voided and a triangle voided conjoined in pale within the astronomical sign for Taurus argent. When Laurel first accepted registration of astrological symbols, he did so based on a period example of the symbols being used essentially as decoration on a celestial sphere (or as identifying marks). Therefore their use as standard charges must be considered a weirdness. Using it in this non-standard fashion (the framing of one charge by another is itself very rare in period heraldry), is another weirdness, especially combined with another highly usual charge used in an unusual fashion. Overall, this design is too far from period practice to be registerable.

  Tanczos Istvan (Non Scripta) at 2013-04-01 12:04:27 (Reply)
  Cover Letter, March 2009, "From Wreath: Charges Within Annulets:

  "Heralds should note that using a widget within an annulet is not a step from period practice. Multiple instances of items within a single or multiple concentric annulets appear in Stemmario Trivulziano (plates 178, 194, 225, and 352), Siebmacher (plates 63, 152, and 156), Humphrey-Smith's Anglo-Norman Armory Two (page 335), and other heraldic references."

  Ines Alfon (Blanch Tyger) at 2013-04-02 18:35:55 (Reply)
  While not in conflict, this reminds me of Master Gawain of Miskbridge's device Sable, mullety argent, a lymphad Or, fore and aft castles enflamed proper, issuant from base a demi-sun Or.

Other Features of OSCAR:

- Notification toggles – automatically notify you if someone comments on the submission.
- Armory images include B&W, color, and color-corrected emblazon. The "color-corrected emblazon" is a computer interpretation of the paper submission and is being used to evaluate scanner accuracy, not the registerability of the submission.
- Threaded commenting: If you're responding to a comment, click the "reply" link at the top of that comment to extend the thread. If you're bringing up a new issue, click the "comment" link at the top of the submission to start a new thread.

- Search function: Find items in your particular area of expertise to comment on, e.g., Estonian names. Review what happened to an old submission. Look for documentation for a new submission by searching for similar old submissions.

Reference:

- “So You Want to Be a Book Herald? Part I - Introduction” by Yehuda ben Moshe. http://elmet.eastkingdom.org/handouts/Book%20Heraldry%20100.pdf.

Supplementary Articles in the Calontir Herald’s Companion:

- “The Art of Effective Commentary” by Mistress Allison MacDermot.
- “Choosing a Name & Creating a Persona” by HE Modar Neznanich.
- “Consulting with a Heraldic Client” by HE Modar Neznanich and HE Briana Etain MacKorkhill.
- “Creating a Heraldic Device” by HE Modar Neznanich.
- “Research Questions for Developing a Persona” by HE Modar Neznanich.
- “Running a Consulting Table: Physical Set-up”.
- “Running a Consulting Table: Item Check-List”.

Other Useful References:

- “Argent Snail’s Armory Insta-Boing Checklist.” Copyright 1993 by Judith Gerjuoy. https://heraldry.sca.org/armory/boing.html
- “Introduction to Commentary” by Bruce Draconarius (pre-OSCAR, but useful principles): https://heraldry.sca.org/commenting.html.

Section VI: Protocol and Etiquette

Introduction

Heralds should strive to use the correct form of address when speaking to or introducing Royalty, nobles, peers and gentles of all ranks.

Admittedly, it is sometimes difficult to identify someone's rank. They may not be wearing a coronet, or wear their order's medallion, or they may wear more than one medallion. They may wear clothing with their Boga Fyrd heraldry when shooting archery and their Calon Lily medallion when doing an art project.

Gentles should be addressed with the title for their highest ranking award. If a person has both a Boga Fyrd (AoA) and a Calon Lily (GoA), then the introduction for the grant level award should be used.

One identifies Royals and nobles by the crowns and coronets they wear (their "brass hats"). Royalty and nobles from other kingdoms wear similar crowns and coronets. For example, dukes and duchesses from all over the Known World often wear a coronet with strawberry leaves.

Below is a list of the crowns, coronets and other headgear worn in Calontir.

Crowns and Coronets

Sovereign/Consort	Crowns of gold with a Cross of Calatrava ("Calon Cross")
Form of Address	Your/His/Her Majesty
Heir/Heir's Consort	Crowns of silver with a Cross of Calatrava ("Calon Cross")
Form of Address	Your/His/Her Highness
Duke/Duchess	Coronets of gold with strawberry leaves
Form of Address	Your/His/Her Grace
Count/Countess	Coronets of gold with embattlements
Form of Address	Your/His/Her Excellency

Viscount/Viscountess	Coronets of silver with embattlements
Form of Address	Your/His/Her Excellency
Landed Baron/Baroness	Coronets of gold with six pearls or six spheroids (either above the band or on the band)
Form of Address	Your/His/Her Excellency
Court Baron/Baroness	Coronets of silver with six pearls or six spheroids (either above the band or on the band
Form of Address	Your/His/Her Excellency

Other Circlets (Without Embellishments)

Peers	Circlet of gold or silver, no protrusions above/below the band; simple decoration, not to exceed 1 inch in height Note: Not all peers wear these.
Sovereign's Champion	Circlet of blackened steel, unembellished and unornamented, not to exceed 1 inch in height
Consort's Champion	Circlet of brushed steel, unembellished and unornamented, not to exceed 1 inch in height

Note: Any member of the populace, regardless of rank, may wear a circlet of any metal, unembellished, with no protrusions above/below the band, with no decorations and not to exceed ½ inch in height.

Alternative Titles Project

The College of Arms has begun compiling a list of Alternative Titles, including Gender Neutral titles. The current list of Approved Titles is located here: https://heraldry.sca.org/titles.html



Peers' Medallions and Heraldic Clothing

Chivalry – Knights	A plain unadorned gold chain; spurs and a white belt; black cloak with ermine trim, often adorned with the peer's device surrounded by a gold chain
Form of Address	Sir <name> (occasionally Dame <name>)
Chivalry – Masters/Mistresses of Arms	A plain unadorned gold chain; spurs and a white baldric; black cloak with ermine trim, often adorned with the peer's device
Form of Address	Master/Mistress
Laurel	Medallion with a wreath of laurel leaves; a laurel wreath; a gold cloak with ermine trim often adorned with the peer's device surrounded by a laurel wreath
Form of Address	Master/Mistress
Pelican	Medallion with a pelican "in her piety;" a red hat with ermine trim; red cloak with ermine trim, often adorned with the peer's device surrounded by blood drops
Form of Address	Master/Mistress
Master of Defense	Medallion with three rapiers in pall inverted tips crossed; a white livery collar.
Form of Address	Master/Mistress
Mark	Medallion with a set of nesting scale weights within and conjoined to a mascle fleury at the upper point; two white vambraces or bracers.
Form of Address	Master/Mistress

Note: Any member of the populace regardless of their rank or awards may have a cloak with their heraldic device on it. They just cannot use symbols or other displays that they are not entitled to.

Other Gentles

Grant Level Awards (for images, see Award Lists)

Calon Cross	Medallion with a gold background, a purple Cross of Calatrava and a purple border (Or, a cross of Calatrava within a bordure purpure)
Silver Hammer	Medallion with a black background, a silver hammer and a silver border (Sable, a smith's hammer a bordure argent)
Calon Lily	Medallion with a split background of purple and gold with a fleur-de-lys and a border that is counterchanged (colors flipped from the background) (Per pale purpure and Or, a fleur-de-lys within a bordure counterchanged)
Iren Hirth (Huscarl)	Medallion with the background split in an upside-down embattled “v”, the top black with two crossed white axes and the bottom white with a purple Cross of Calatrava (Per chevron embattled sable and argent, two battleaxes in saltire argent and a cross of Calatrava purpure)
Boga Hirth (Huscarl)	Medallion with the background split in an upside-down embattled “v”, the top black with two crossed white archery bows and the bottom white with a purple Cross of Calatrava (Per chevron embattled sable and argent, in pale two strung bows in saltire argent and a cross of Calatrava purpure)



Eo Hirth (Huscarl)	Medallion with the background split in an upside-down embattled “v”, the top black with two white horse’s chamfrons and the bottom white with a purple Cross of Calatrava (Per chevron embattled sable and argent, two chamfrons argent and a cross of Calatrava purpure)
Stíle Hirth (Huscarl)	Medallion with the background split in an upside-down embattled “v”, the top black with two white swords, their tips touching, and the bottom white with a purple Cross of Calatrava (Per chevron embattled sable and argent, two swords in saltire argent and a cross of Calatrava purpure)
Simple Grant of Arms	No medallion (although they receive a scroll), rarely given
Forms of Address	The Honorable Lord/Lady; or Your Lordship/Your Ladyship; His Lordship/Her Ladyship

Note: These forms of address are customary, as opposed to other titles that are defined in Corpora. (See also Alternative Titles Project.)

Award of Arms Level Awards (for images, see Award Lists)

Torse	Medallion with a heraldic wreath/torse of gold and purple; with no set background ((Fieldless) A torse with mantling in alternating bands of purpure and Or)
Leather Mallet	Medallion with three brown mallets on a vertical embattled white band laying on a purple background (Purpure, on a pale dovetailed argent three leather mallets proper)
Golden Calon Swan	Medallion with a gold swan on a purple background (Purpure, a swan naiant Or)

Boga Fyrd (Fyrdman)	Medallion with a purple Cross of Calatrava on an embattled white “v” section between two white archery bows on a black background (Sable, on a pile embattled between two strung longbows in pile strings to center argent, a cross of Calatrava purpure)
Iren Fyrd (Fyrdman)	Medallion with a purple Cross of Calatrava on an embattled white “v” section between two white spears on a black background (Sable, on a pile embattled between two spears in pile argent a cross of Calatrava purpure)
Eo Fyrd (Fyrdman)	Medallion with a purple Cross of Calatrava on an embattled white “v” section between two white broken snaffle-bits on a black background (Sable, on a pile embattled between two broken snaffle-bits in pile argent a cross of Calatrava purpure)
Stíle Fyrd (Fyrdman)	Medallion with a purple Cross of Calatrava on an embattled white “v” section between two white swords on a black background (Sable, on a pile embattled between two swords in pile argent a cross of Calatrava purpure)
Simple Award of Arms	No medallion (although they receive a scroll)
Form of Address	Lord/Lady

Other Populace

No SCA award	Milord/milady or the gentle’s SCA name

Note: Any gentle can be called milord/milady, especially if you do not know his/her rank.

Belts

In Calontir the color of some belts indicates a rank or relationship. White belts of any kind are reserved for knights. Three other colors customarily are worn to show a relationship with a peer.

Red belt	Squire (to a Knight/Master of Arms)
Green belt	Apprentice (to a Laurel)
Yellow belt	Protégé (to a Pelican)
Form of Address	No specific form of address; use whatever award-related term applies to that gentle as discussed above

Order of the Founding of the SCA Kingdoms

Just like the peerages, which we list in the order of creation, we list the kingdoms of the SCA in the order they were created. If you herald a court where several foreign royalty are present, they should be presented in the order their kingdoms were founded (after the hosting kingdom, of course).

1. West Kingdom
2. East Kingdom
3. Middle Kingdom
4. Atenveldt
5. Meridies
6. Caid
7. Ansteorra
8. Atlantia
9. An Tir
10. Calontir
11. Trimaris
12. the Outlands
13. Drachenwald
14. Artemisia
15. Æthelmearc
16. Ealdormere
17. Lochac
18. Northshield
19. Gleann Abhann
20. Avacal

Order of the Founding of Calontir's Baronies

Similarly, we present Calontir's baronages in the order they were founded.

1. Three Rivers
2. Forgotten Sea
3. Lonely Tower
4. Vatavia
5. Coeur d'Ennui
6. Mag Mor

Protocol and Etiquette References

- “General Protocol and Etiquette” by Master Modar Neznanich, http://www.modaruniversity.org/Protocol.htm#Etiquette
- “How to Create an Order of Precedence” by Master Modar Neznanich, Calontir Herald’s Companion.
- “What Do I Call the Guy with the Hat?” by Master Hirsch von Henford and Graffin Grün der Spizenklöpper (aka Duquessa Juana Isabella de Montoya y Ramirez), West Kingdom Herald’s Handbook, 2004, http://heralds.westkingdom.org/Handbook/vi_1-WhatDoICallTheGuyWithTheHat.pdf

Section VII: Sign Heraldry

Introduction

Calontir's sign heralds use sign language, body language and facial expression to communicate with people who have trouble hearing. They share with the populace what they hear in court and on the field.

In particular, court is an important part of the SCA experience. Court is where we hear the voice of Their Majesties, Their Highnesses and other sitting nobles. The vocal Court Herald is the official voice of the Crown. The sign herald shares that official voice with those who cannot hear it.

Arranging for a Sign Herald

In Calontir, the Sign Herald Deputy to the Gold Falcon Herald is known as the Good Hand Herald. Generally the Good Hand Herald makes arrangements for a sign herald to be present at Their Majesties' and Their Highnesses' courts.

Having a sign herald for every court may not always be possible. Some groups or events will have no sign heralds attending. When possible, though, court should include a sign herald – even when there is no apparent need. It is unknown who in attendance may have trouble hearing court.

Vocal Herald's Relationship with the Sign Herald

Sign heralds work with vocal heralds at events, particularly during court. Make sure to include the sign herald in pre-court planning. The sign herald must prepare for court just like the vocal herald. If the vocal herald needs to know how to pronounce the names of the award recipients, the sign herald needs to know how to spell those names. It also helps for the sign herald to know which awards will be given. That way s/he can look up how to sign any awards s/he doesn't already know.

It helps if the sign herald knows the order of what's going to happen, including if there will be music, performances or "shtick." The sign herald can help convey such things, but often puns and sound-based humor are difficult to translate for people who can't hear it. Simply knowing what to expect before s/he hears it will help the signing flow more smoothly, and allow more time to sign unscripted bits.

There are two critical points for sign communication to happen:

- Sign heralds have to hear enough of what is happening to understand, so they have to be close to the speakers.
- Sign heralds have to be seen by the people who use sign to help understand, therefore sightline and lighting are crucial.

Also remember that the sign herald may need to have the ability to move between a couple different places to accomplish their task, and may bring a small light to aid in being seen after dark

Sign Herald's Responsibilities

A sign herald's primary duty is to the Crown, conveying the content and intent of Their Voice, primarily through sign, to the broadest audience possible. Sign heralds conduct themselves with the decorum and dignity of Their office, mirroring what the Royals are doing, without adding or subtracting information.

As a herald, sign heralds are held to the same standards and have the same responsibilities as vocal heralds in the SCA. Sign heralds must maintain the same high level of confidentiality. They must accurately convey information, content, intent, and mood, to the best of their ability, in the language understood by the populace. They also must admit when they have made a mistake.

During court, they remove facial jewelry or cover tattoos that may detract from the medieval experience of the populace watching them. Sign heralds wear a tabard or other clothing to both identify themselves as a sign herald on duty and in order to make themselves seen by the people who understand sign. Sign heralds have to be willing to work with others, attend meetings, make notes, see scrolls if offered, and discuss the program lineup.
Sign heralds must sign everything heard unless it is a private conversation. If the Crown is having a private conversation, (a good way to judge this is if the front row can't or is struggling to hear what is being said) then the sign herald indicates that the Crown is in a private conversation. Also, if the Crown talks to the award recipient while scroll text is being read, then the sign herald should sign the scroll text.

When a sign herald is working in court and is called before Royalty, they should sign that they have been called into court, stop signing, and present themselves. As a courtesy, the sign herald should then sign a summary of what happened as soon as they get back to work.



Who Can Be a Sign Herald?

Sign heralds must know sign language, at least well enough to convey to the populace the gist of what the Crown is saying. It may require spelling SCA-specific words or names and includes using the SCA-specific and Calontir-specific signs for awards. See the tutorials at https://heraldry.sca.org/sign/dictionary.html.

Like vocal heralds, sign heralds are volunteers. Some sign heralds are professional sign language interpreters outside the SCA. Others are less fluent, but know enough sign language to serve the Crown.

Two resources are the Calontir Sign Heraldry site at https://www.calontir.org/heralds/silent-heraldry/ and Society's Sign Heraldry site at https://heraldry.sca.org/signheraldry.html.
If you are interested in becoming a sign herald, talk with the Gold Falcon Herald or the Good Hand Herald Deputy.

Further Resources:

- "6 Things to Know About Silent Heraldry for Those Holding Court" by Alexandra Vazquez de Granada (called Shandra) (© 2014 J.L Ackerman), available at https://heraldry.sca.org/silent/6things.html.
- "SCA Sign Herald Handbook" by Nesscia inghean Chearnaigh (Christine Lafinhan) (© 1995-2014 Society for Creative Anachronism, Inc.), https://heraldry.sca.org/sign/SignHeraldsHandbook.html.
- "So You Want to Become a Silent Herald?" by Maestra Suzanne de la Ferté (Suzanne Booth) (© 1995-2014 Society for Creative Anachronism, Inc.), available at https://heraldry.sca.org/sign/soyouwant.html.
- "Why a Silent Herald?" by Nesscia inghean Chearnaigh (Christine Lafinhan), page maintained by Codex Herald (© 1995-2014 Society for Creative Anachronism, Inc.), available at https://heraldry.sca.org/sign/whysilent.html.

Section VIII: Appendices

Heraldry FAQ

Submissions

Do you have to be a paid/registered SCA member to register a name/device?

Not in Calontir. Anyone may register a name/device. The only heraldic benefit a paid membership has is, if an item is in conflict with another item in the same months' Laurel meeting, the paid member's item wins.

Do you need to have an Award of Arms (AoA) to register a device?

No. Anyone may register a device. A "device" becomes "arms" when the owner receives an AoA.

Does your name have to match your heraldry?

Not at all. And the SCA doesn't require the gender of a name to match the gender of the submitter, either.

Can you send a name and device registration through any kingdom?

No. As a general rule, you have to submit your items through your own kingdom.

Can you change your registered arms?

Yes. You will have to pay a submission fee again, but you may change arms as often as you want.

Is it better to do submissions at a War (Pennsic, Estrella, Gulf, Lilies, etc)?

Yes and no. There isn't always someone at a foreign war who can accept submissions for Calontir. Items submitted at war go through the same procedure as items submitted the usual way, but if there are a lot of submissions, it may take longer to process them. The benefit of consulting at wars is that you have the help of multiple heralds, including artists.



Do you have to pay again if you re-submit?

The Laurel office does not require any payment for resubmissions, but Kingdoms are allowed to, in order to cover the costs of handling the paperwork. Calontir charges after a 5-year grace period.

Names

Why do I need to register my name again with the College of Arms when I already have it on my membership card?

The name on your membership card is just the name you put on your membership application. It has nothing to do with the process of registering your name with the SCA College of Arms.

Since spelling was variable in the Middle Ages, why can't you spell a name any way you like?

In our focus of research, the spoken version of a word was the most important. Any spelling that would reproduce the sound was "correct," but the way sounds were represented varies from language to language and from one time period to another. In most cases, the phonetic rules for languages historically are different from those we would use for 20th C. American English.

If a name has been registered before, why can't I register it again under the Grandfather Clause?

A number of names that have been registered in the past are now no longer accepted for registration as our knowledge of medieval naming practices has improved. The Grandfather Clause only applies to names you, or a close legal relative, have registered in the past.

Do all the elements of a name have to be within 300 years of each other?

No. According to SENA, names in the same regional naming group just have to date within 500 years of each other. The "300 year rule" applies to names mixing different regional naming groups.

How many names can I register?

You can register up to ten names. (Heraldic titles do not count.)

Can Saker give holding names?

No. Holding names can only be assigned at Laurel level. So if a name and a device are submitted together and the name is returned at Kingdom, then the device will have to be “pended” until the name is fixed.

When is the chronological cutoff for heraldry documentation?

The cutoff is 1600, although there is a “gray area”: if an item is documented up thru 1650, it’s probably allowed, on the grounds that it was probably used before 1600. (This doesn’t include items that demonstrably did not exist before 1600, such as names based on a fictional work created after 1600.)

Armory

How many devices and badges can I register?

You can register ten items of armory. (Augmentations of arms do not count.)

Why can’t I register my family's coat-of-arms since it already belongs to me?

Just like you can’t use your exact modern name as your SCA name, you can’t register your exact real world arms. However, any blazonable difference, even if it isn't worth a DC, clears it of this problem. (Most people who think they have a family coat-of-arms don’t. The businesses that sell those pay no attention to actual genealogy or heraldic inheritance rules.)

Can I use any historical device I want, since the heralds have stopped checking against mundane armory?

No. As stated by the former SCA Laurel King of Arms Da'ud ibn Auda, “It is true that the SCA College of Arms no longer checks for conflict against any but famous non-SCA arms. But to deliberately search out a real coat of arms and to adopt it is, in short, theft. Your arms should represent you, not someone else. Independent invention or creation of a coat of arms which may be similar to non-SCA arms, however, is permissible.”

What does it mean if two people use identical colors and/or charges?

In historic practice, the use of identical colors and/or charges by a man and a woman identified them as blood relatives, i.e. brother and sister (not husband and wife).

Are all the “simple” devices taken?

No. Under the new conflict rules in SENA, a large amount of heraldic "space" has been opened up, making it easier to register simple devices.



Do all quartered field divisions indicate marshalling (which isn't allowed)?

No, not all quartered fields imply marshalling. Furthermore, you can actually display a marshalled device (i.e., to represent your household), you just cannot register one that implies marshalling. The rules are in SENA A.6.F. https://heraldry.sca.org/sena.html#A6F

Do badges have to be fieldless?

No. Badges may have fields.

Isn't sable a type of fur/animal? Why isn't it in heraldry?

There is a type of animal called a sable, but the word sable also means means black, which is a color, not a fur in heraldry. (This can be confusing, but "[t]he word sable can be traced back to Middle English, Anglo-French, and ultimately to Middle Low German." https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sable_(heraldry))

If furs are considered neutral with respect to the Rule of Tincture, why can't they be used with any metals or colors?

Not all furs are considered neutral for the Rule of Tincture. The ermine-style furs are categorized as either a color or a metal based on the background tincture. Only the vair-style furs and potent-style furs, with more or less equal areas of two tinctures, are considered neutral. One cannot use just any tincture even with the neutral furs, because there has to be some contrast for identifiability.

Can I have a cloak (or a banner) with my device on it if I'm not a Peer?

Yes, anyone may display their device on a cloak, tunic or other garb, or on a banner. You merely may not use a restricted symbol with it such as a chain, a laurel wreath, a crown, etc.

Can we use all charges that have been previously registered in the Society?

No. Some charges that had been registered in the past are now known to be incompatible with historic practice and are no longer registrable.

Can you have people/body parts (particularly a hand) as a charge?

Yes. Such charges are allowed. However, a gules hand on argent that could appear to be the Red Hand of Ulster (a historic augmentation) is prohibited and a "Hand of Glory" (hands flaming, enflamed or on flames) is an offensive charge.

Can I use an annulet if I'm not a knight, because an annulet is a link of chain, and chains are reserved for knights?

Yes. While unadorned chains have been reserved for knights in the SCA, an annulet is considered to be a ring, not a chain and may be used by non-knights.

Is the use of ermine or ermine spots restricted?

Yes and no. Ermine and ermine spots can be used by anyone in their devices, badges and even heraldic garb, with the restriction that only Peers (in Calontir) may use ermine to trim and mantle their cloaks.

Can I use a lion on my device if my persona is not English, even though lions are on the arms of England?

Yes. Charges are not restricted by persona, and only the full arms of England are protected.

Can people other than consorts use roses on their arms?

Yes. Roses may be registered by anyone as long as they don't look like a wreath (reserved to consorts and Companions of the Rose) or a chaplet (reserved to heirs' consorts). Furthermore, certain roses that are half gules and half argent are protected as an English royal badge called the "Tudor rose," and not registrable in the SCA.

Is an argent bend reserved to Masters of Arms?

No. Argent bends are not reserved. Only a Master of Arms can have a white baldric on their arms, but a bend is not a baldric.

Can paw prints be registered?

Yes, but for conflict purposes, a pawprint is a pawprint. No difference is given between the pawprints of different animals. In addition, pawprints are considered a Step From Core Practice (registrable as long as the armory has no other SFCP).

Can you register knots?

Yes, but certain knots, particularly SCA-invented knots, are not allowed. Knotted serpents (nowed) are allowed if they're in one of the registrable knots.

Can you register compass roses?

Yes. While unattested in historic armory, compass roses are registrable as a historic artifact. Compass stars (without the ring) are registrable as Step From Core Practice.

Can you use red gouttes (drops) if you're not a Pelican?

Yes. The use of red drops on a device is allowed for anyone (one just should be careful about using them on garments in a way that might suggest regalia of Peerage).

Does a Grant of Arms give the person the right to bear the Kingdom arms as a part of their device?

No. One can only bear the complete arms of an SCA branch if one is actively ruling that branch. (Augmentations of arms may be similar to kingdom arms, but cannot be identical.)

Can anyone besides the Seneschal display the Shire's arms?

This appears to be depend on local custom. The most common custom appears to be that a group's arms are displayed at functions when the Seneschal or Deputy Seneschal or a quorum of the Shire are present. If the shire has a badge, it may be displayed by any shire member.

What can you fimbriate or void?

SENA states, "Voiding and fimbriation may only be used with ordinaries or simple geometric charges when they are part of a primary charge group."

Are semys field treatments or charges?

They are charges for all purposes of the rules except for ermine spots in an ermined fur which are considered part of a tincture, not charges. However, if one or a few ermine spots are not in a semy-type arrangement, they count as separate charges, not as part of a tincture.

Can we register letters of the alphabet?

Yes, but armory with just abstract symbols, and nothing else on it, will not be registered. As per the 8/94 LoAR under the Laurel King of Arms, Da'ud ibn Auda, "Precedent still disallows armory consisting of a single letter or abstract symbol…" And as of the March 2006 LoAR, "We therefore extend the ban on single abstract charges to cover any armory consisting solely of abstract charges, in any language (e.g., Japanese kanji, Norse runes, Arabic script, etc.). This applies whether the armory consists of a single word or a phrase."

Can you have a metal charge on a fieldless badge?

Yes. Charges making up a fieldless badge may be a metal, a color or a fur.

Do you just check badges for conflict versus other badges?

No. You have to check badges against all registered armory because a device may be changed into a badge and vice versa (except fieldless badges cannot become devices, of course)

Are charges whose tincture is “proper” are considered neutral with respect to the Rule of Tincture?

Not necessarily. Some “proper” charges are considered neutral, because they are equally metal and color, but many are not. A bee proper (mostly argent and Or) is in the metal tincture class. In the Glossary of Terms (https://heraldry.sca.org/coagloss.html), there is a table Conventional “Proper” Colorings (https://heraldry.sca.org/coagloss.html#proper) that lists indicates the tincture class for many "proper" charges.

Can you have charges on flaunches?

Yes. There are examples of charged flaunches in history, although they were not very common. Such are perfectly registrable. NOTE: While flaunches can be charged, tierces, gores and gussets cannot.

Can you use washable markers on submission forms?

Yes. The requirements for colored submission forms are clarity of color and durability. The Administrative Handbook section IV.C.1. states that, “The preferred medium for colored armory sets is watercolor markers such as Crayola Classic Markers.” These are given as an example, but many brands of markers are acceptable, and “classic” refers to the colors (primary colors), not the washability.

As long as the purple is truly purple, the red is red and not pink or orange, etc. the colors are fine. Regular wax crayons, colored pencils and metallic markers cause problems with forms sticking together, and color flaking or rubbing off. Thus crayons, pencils and metallics are not recommended and could cause a return of a submission for a re-draw.

Is the shape of the form you submit your armory on, the shape you must always display it in?

No. Historically, coats-of-arms were displayed as various shapes. The escutcheon (shield) shape is just the most commonly recognized and, thus, the shape on device forms. The square is also common and helps quickly identify badge forms from device forms. However, you may then display your device or badge on whatever shape is appropriate for your persona.



Is the exact shade of color/metal used on the submission sheet the exact shade you must always display in your device?

No. You are not required to display your device in the same shade of tincture that was used on your submission forms. Historically, various shades were used for the same tincture. And the metals can be displayed in a metallic or non-metallic tincture (for example, argent as silver or white). But for submission purposes, we need the tinctures to be clear and unambiguous which is why primary colors are preferred in that situation.

Supplementary Articles in the Calontir Herald's Companion:

- "Frequently Given Answers (That Are Wrong)" by Master Gawain of Miskbridge.
- "Heraldic Myths" by Master Modar Neznanich

Glossary of Terms

Achievement: A full armorial display with shield, helm, crest, mantling, supporters, base and motto.
AH: Administrative Handbook. The administrative guide governing the actions of the SCA College of Arms and the various Kingdom Colleges of Heralds.
AoA: Award of Arms. The first level of Calontir's three-tiered awards system. Recipients may be properly addressed as Lord/Lady.
Armorial: A list of armory organized by the bearer's names. There is an SCA-wide armorial, along with kingdom and local armorials, and historic armorials. See also Ordinary (below).
Armory: A collective term for devices, arms and badges.
Arms: Proper term for the device when the owner has an Award of Arms (AoA).
Badge: A heraldic symbol used to mark one's allies or property.
CL: Cover Letter.
College of Arms: Collective term for the SCA heralds that comment on External Letters of Intent "at Laurel" level. Includes the Laurel Sovereign of Arms, the Pelican Sovereign of Arms, the Wreath Sovereign of Arms and the Principal Heralds of all the kingdoms. Also includes various heralds and commenters appointed by Laurel.
College of Heralds: Collective term for the active heralds within a kingdom, e.g., the Calontir College of Heralds or the Northshield College of Heralds.
Conflict: Refers to names or armory that are too similar to previously registered items.
Corpora: The governing documents of the SCA.
Crown: Refers to the Sovereign and Consort (King(s) and/or Queen(s)) or, occasionally, used as shorthand for Crown Tournament.
DC: Distinct Change. A difference between names or armory that is sufficient to count towards clearing conflict. A total of two DCs are required to clear a conflict.

Device: Term for the “shield” of what is commonly known as a “Coat of Arms”; indicates the presence of its owner.
ELoI: External Letter of Intent. The items that the Calontir heralds have reviewed and Saker has decided to send up to “Laurel” to be registered.
Eyas: Herald in charge of the Internal Submissions process.
GoA: Grant of Arms. The middle level of Calontir’s three-tiered awards system. By tradition, in Calontir, recipients are referred to as the Honorable Lord/Lady or Your Lordship/Ladyship
Gold Falcon: Principal Herald of the Kingdom of Calontir. “The Boss.”
Heirs: The Heir and Heir’s Consort (Prince(s) and/or Princess(es))
HE: His/Her Excellency.
HL: Honorable Lord/Lady or His/Her Lordship. Abbreviation for traditional titles of holders of Grants of Arms in Calontir. (THL for The Honorable Lord/Lady is sometimes seen.)
HRH: His/Her/Their Royal Highness. The Heir and Heir’s Consort (Prince(s) and/or Princess(es))
HRM: His/Her/Their Royal Majesty. The Sovereign and Consort (King(s) and/or Queen(s))
IAP: Individually Attested Pattern. Used to document exceptions to the core armory style rules. Informally referred to as “Hard mode heraldry.”
ILoI: Internal Letter of Intent. Items that Eyas Herald has received and distributed to the Calontir College of Heralds for review before submitting them in a External Letter of Intent (ELoI) to Laurel.
Laurel Sovereign of Arms: The head of the SCA College of Arms, makes the final decisions regarding heraldic submissions for the entire SCA. “The Big Boss.”
LoAR: Letter of Acceptances and Returns.
LoC: Letter of Comment, obsolete since the implementation of OSCAR (the Online System of Commentary and Response).
LoI: Letter of Intent. Items that are being submitted for registration.
OandA: Ordinary and Armorial. The database of names and armory that have been registered in the SCA.
OOP: Out Of Period. (Or occasionally, Order Of Precedence.) Outside of our chronological focus of research.
OP: Order of Precedence. A list of SCA group members with the awards they have received.
Ordinary: 1) A type of particularly common geometric charge. In SCA heraldry the term denotes those simple geometric figures that pass through the center of the field and terminate at the edge of the field (the pale, fess, bend, bend sinister, chevron, cross, saltire, pall, and pile), their diminutives, and the simple geometric additions to the edges of the field (such as the chief and bordure). 2) A list of armory organized by type of charge, used for conflict-checking or research. See also Armorial (above).
OSCAR: Online System of Commentary and Response. System used to comment on submissions.
Pelican Sovereign of Arms: Deputy of the Laurel Sovereign of Arms in charge of deciding names.



PoA: Patent of Arms. The highest level of Calontir's three-tiered awards system. The members of the Orders of the Chivalry, the Laurel, the Pelican and Defense.
Precedent: A decision by Laurel regarding a submission that may be applied to other similar submissions. Only expressly stated Laurel decisions should be considered precedents; registrations without comment do not necessarily set precedent.
Presumption: When a name or item of armory appears to make an inappropriate claim of rank or relationship.
Purple Falcon: Drop-dead deputy to the Gold Falcon Herald.
Royalty/Royals: Informal term for the Crown and Heirs.
RfS: Rules for Submission. The old rules used to determine if names and armory are appropriate for registration, superseded by SENA in 2012.
Saker Herald: Calontir heraldic deputy in charge of the external submission process.
SC: Substantial Change. A difference between names or armory that is sufficient to clear conflict by itself. In other words, while a total of two DCs are required to clear a conflict, only one SC is needed.
SENA: Standards for Evaluation of Names and Armory. The rules used to determine if names and armory are appropriately formed and free of conflict or presumption.
SFCP: Step From Core Practice, Something that isn't found in historic heraldic practice, but has been deemed close enough to be registrable. (Outdated terms you may still hear occasionally: "SFPP (Step from Period Practice)" and "weirdness".)
Step From Core Practice: see SFCP
TRH: Their Royal Highnesses, the Heir and Heir's Consort (Prince(s) and/or Princess(es)), together.
TRM: Their Royal Majesties, the Sovereign and Consort (King(s) and/or Queen(s)), together.
Wreath Sovereign of Arms: Deputy of the Laurel Sovereign of Arms in charge of deciding armory.

SCA Heraldry Resources

- SCA Heraldry Webpage: https://heraldry.sca.org/welcome.html
- Administrative Guide: https://heraldry.sca.org/admin.html, especially: Section I: Registration Limits; Section III: Protected Items; Appendix E: Name Sources to Be Avoided; Appendix H: Sources That Do Not Require Photocopies to Laurel
- SENA: https://heraldry.sca.org/laurel/sena.html
- Appendix A – Patterns That Do Not Need Further Documentation by Language Group
- Appendix B – Types of Bynames
- Appendix C – Regional Naming Groups
- Appendix D - Transliteration
- Appendix E – Designators for Non-Personal Names
- Appendix F – Documented Armorial Elements

- Appendix G – Elements that are a Step From Core Practice
- Appendix H – Low-Contrast Complex Lines of Division
- Appendix I – Charge Group Theory
- Appendix J – Documented and Forbidden Arrangements of Charge Groups
- Appendix K – Standard Arrangements for Charge Groups of Different Numbers
- Appendix L – Postures and Orientations
- Appendix M – Conflict Checking Resources
- SENA Training Materials: https://heraldry.sca.org/laurel/training.html
- SCA Ordinary and Armorial: http://oanda.sca.org/
- OSCAR, the "Online System of Commentary and Response" - http://oscar.sca.org/

Calontir Heraldry

- Calontir Heralds Page: https://www.calontir.org/heralds/
- Calontir Submissions Page: https://www.calontir.org/heralds/submissions/
- Calontir On-line Armorial: http://armorial.calontir.org/
- Calontir On-line Order of Precedence: http://op.calontir.org/
- Calontir OSCAR Page: http://oscar.sca.org/kingdom/kingfront.php?kingdom=11

Unofficial Resources

- Pictorial Dictionary of SCA Heraldry: http://mistholme.com/pictorial-dictionary-of-heraldry/
- St. Gabriel's Academy: http://www.s-gabriel.org/

Mailing Lists

- SCA Heraldic mailing lists - https://heraldry.sca.org/lists.html
- Calontir Heralds - https://groups.google.com/u/2/a/calontir.org/g/list-heralds

Facebook Groups

- SCA Heraldry Chat Group
- Baby Heralds Group
- SCA Sign/Silent Heraldry Group
- Heralds of Calontir Group

Discord Servers

- Society for Creative Anachronism
- Kingdom of Calontir
- Known World Heraults



Names Books

Terms in brackets indicate the shorthand commonly used to refer to these books on submission forms and in conversation. Please note that this list is not exhaustive, and can change - see https://heraldry.sca.org/admin.html#APPENDIXH for the most complete list.

- [Bahlow or Bahlow/Gentry] Bahlow, Hans. Deutsches Nameslexikon. (also the translation by Edda Gentry).
- Bahlow, Hans. Deutschland Geographiche Namenwelt.
- [Bardsley] Bardsley, Charles. A Dictionary of English and Welsh Surnames.
- [Black] Black, George F. The Surnames of Scotland.
- [Brechenmacher] Brechenmacher, Josef Karlmann. Etymologisches Wörterbuch der Deutschen Familiennamen.
- [D&R or Dauzat and Rostaing] Dauzat, Albert and Rostaing, Charles. Dictionnaire Etymologique des Noms de Lieux de la France.
- [Dauzat] Dauzat, Albert. Dictionnaire Etymologique des Noms de Famille et des Prenoms de France.
- [De Felice Cognomi] De Felice, Emidio. dizionario dei cognomi italiani.
- [De Felice Nomi] De Felice. Emidio. dizionario dei nomi italiani.
- [Diez Melcon] Diez Melcon. R. P. Gonzalo. Apellidos Castellano-Leoneses.
- [Ekwall] Ekwall, Eilert. The Concise Oxford Dictionary of English Place-names.
- English-French Dictionary (any).
- English-German Dictionary (any).
- English-Italian Dictionary (any).
- English-Latin Dictionary (any).
- [Fehértói] Fehértói, Katalin. Inventory of personal names from the age of the Árpád dynasty (1000– 1301).
- [Fellows-Jensen] Fellows-Jensen, Gillian. Scandinavian Personal Names in Lincolnshire and Yorkshire.
- [Fransson] Fransson, Gustav. Middle English Surnames of Occupation 1100-1350.
- [Geirr Bassi] Geirr Bassi Haraldsson. The Old Norse Name.
- [Hitching & Hitching] Hitching, F. K. and S. References to English Surnames in 1601 and 1602.
- [Innes Bardsley Index] Innes, Kim Ann. An Index of Period Given Names Contained in A Dictionary of English and Welsh Surnames by Charles Bardsley.
- [Innes Withycombe Index] Innes, Kim Ann. An Index of Given Names Contained in The Oxford Dictionary of English Christian Names by E. G. Withycombe.
- [Johnston] Johnston, James R. Place-Names of Scotland.
- [Jonsjo] Jonsjo, Jan. Middle English Nicknames: I. Compounds.

- [LGPN] Lexicon of Greek Personal Names (Vol 1-4). On-line at http://www.lgpn.ox.ac.uk/online/index.html
- [Lind] Lind, E. H. Norsk-Isländska Dopnamn ock Fingerade Namn från Medeltiden.
- [Lind Supplement] Lind, E. H. Samlade Ock Utgivna. Supplementband.
- [Lind Personbinamn] Lind, E. H. Norsk-Isländska Personbinamn Från Medeltiden Samlade Ock Utgivna Med Förklaringar.
- [MacLysaght] MacLysaght, Edward, The Surnames of Ireland.
- [Mills] Mills, A. D. A Dictionary of English Place-Names.
- [Mills London] Mills, A. D. A Dictionary of London Place-Names.
- [Morgan and Morgan] Morgan, T.J., and Prys Morgan. Welsh Surnames.
- [Morlet Dictionnaire] Morlet, Maire-Therese. Dictionnaire Étymologique de Noms de Famille.
- [Morlet Picardie] Morlet, Marie Therese, Étude d'anthroponymie picarde : les noms de personne en Haute Picardie aux XIIIe, XIVe, XVe siècles.
- [Morlet, specify volume] Morlet, Marie-Therese. Les Noms de Personne sur le Territoire de l'Ancienne Gaule du VI au XII Si.
- [OC&M, Ó (or O) Corrain and Maguire] Ó Corrain, Donnchadh & Maguire, Fidelma. Irish Names.
- [PASE] The Prosopography of Anglo-Saxon England. http://www.pase.ac.uk/index.html
- [Wickenden] Paul Wickenden of Thanet, A Dictionary of Period Russian Names.
- [R&W or Reaney and Wilson] Reaney, P.H. and R. M. Wilson. A Dictionary of English Surnames.
- [Room] Room, Adrian. A Dictionary of Irish Place-Names.
- [Rymut] Rymut, Kazimierz . Nazwiska Polaków (Polish Names).
- [Schimmel] Schimmel, Annemarie, Islamic Names.
- [Searle] Searle, William George. Onomasticon Anglo-Saxonicum.
- Smith, A.H. English Place Name Elements.
- [Socin] Socin, Adolf. Mittelhochdeutsches Namenbuch.
- [Solveig MCMJ] Solveig Throndardottir. Name Construction in Mediaeval Japan.
- [SMP] Sveriges medeltida personnamn (SMP).
- [Tengvik] Tengvik, G. Old English Bynames.
- [Thuresson] Thuresson, Bertil. Middle English Occupational Terms.
- [Watts] Watts, Victor, ed. Cambridge Dictionary of English Place-Names, Based on the Collections of the English Place-Name Society.
- [Withycombe] Withycombe, E.G. Oxford Dictionary of English Christian Names.
- [Woulfe] Woulfe, Patrick. Sloinnte Gaedheal is Gall: Irish Names and Surnames.

“Name sources to be avoided” Admin Handbook, Appendix E: https://heraldry.sca.org/admin.html#APPENDIXE



Armory Books

Terms in brackets indicate the shorthand commonly used to refer to these books on submission forms and in conversation. Please note that this list is not exhaustive, and can change - see https://heraldry.sca.org/admin.html#APPENDIXH for the most complete list.

- [Adachi] Adachi, Fumie. Japanese Design Motifs: 4260 Illustrations of Heraldic Crests (Dover Pictorial Archive Series).
- Bedingfeld and Gwynn-Jones. Heraldry.
- [Brault] Brault, Gerald J. Early Blazon.
- [Brooke-Little] Brooke-Little, J.P. An Heraldic Alphabet.
- [Campbell Scots Roll] Campbell, Colin. The Scots Roll
- [Pic Dic] Bruce Draconarius of Mistholme and Akagawa Yoshio. A Pictorial Dictionary of Heraldry.
- [Foster] Foster, Joseph. The Dictionary of Heraldry: Feudal Coats of Arms and Pedigrees.
- Fox-Davies, A. The Art of Heraldry.
- [Fox Davies] Fox-Davies, A. The Complete Guide to Heraldry.
- Mayer, L.A. Saracenic Heraldry.
- [Neubecker] Neubecker, Ottfried. Heraldry: Sources, Symbols and Meaning.
- [Nyulaszi-Straub] Nyulaszi-Straub Eva, Öt évszázad címerei (Hungarian heraldry)
- [Papworth] Papworth. John W. Papworth's Ordinary of British Armorials.
- [Parker] Parker, James. A Glossary of Terms used in Heraldry.
- Pretzer, Xavid, translator. O-umajirushi: A 17th-Century Compendium of Samurai Heraldry.
- [Siebmacher] Siebmacher, Johann. Johann Siebmacher's Wappenbuch von 1605.
- [von Volborth] von Volborth, Carl-Alexander. Heraldry: Customs, Rules and Styles.
- Woodward, John and Burnett, George. Woodward's Treatise on Heraldry British and Foreign.

Armory of Calontir

The following links contain more information about the arms, awards and groups of Calontir.

- Kingdom Heraldic Graphics: https://www.calontir.org/heralds/graphics/
- Kingdom Officers: https://www.calontir.org/officers/
- Local Groups: https://www.calontir.org/op/groups/
- Awards of Calontir: https://www.calontir.org/heralds/awards/