

So, you want to be a herald?

Magister Eldred Ælfwald

Azure Dragon Herald

What are we going to discuss?



Heraldry in the SCA

- College of Arms

Heralds in the Kingdom of Atlantia

- What we do
- How to become a warranted herald
- College of Herald's Offices
- College of Herald's ranks

Voice Heraldry

Court Heraldry

Names and Armory (Devices)

- Names
- Armory
- Submissions

Protocol and Precedence

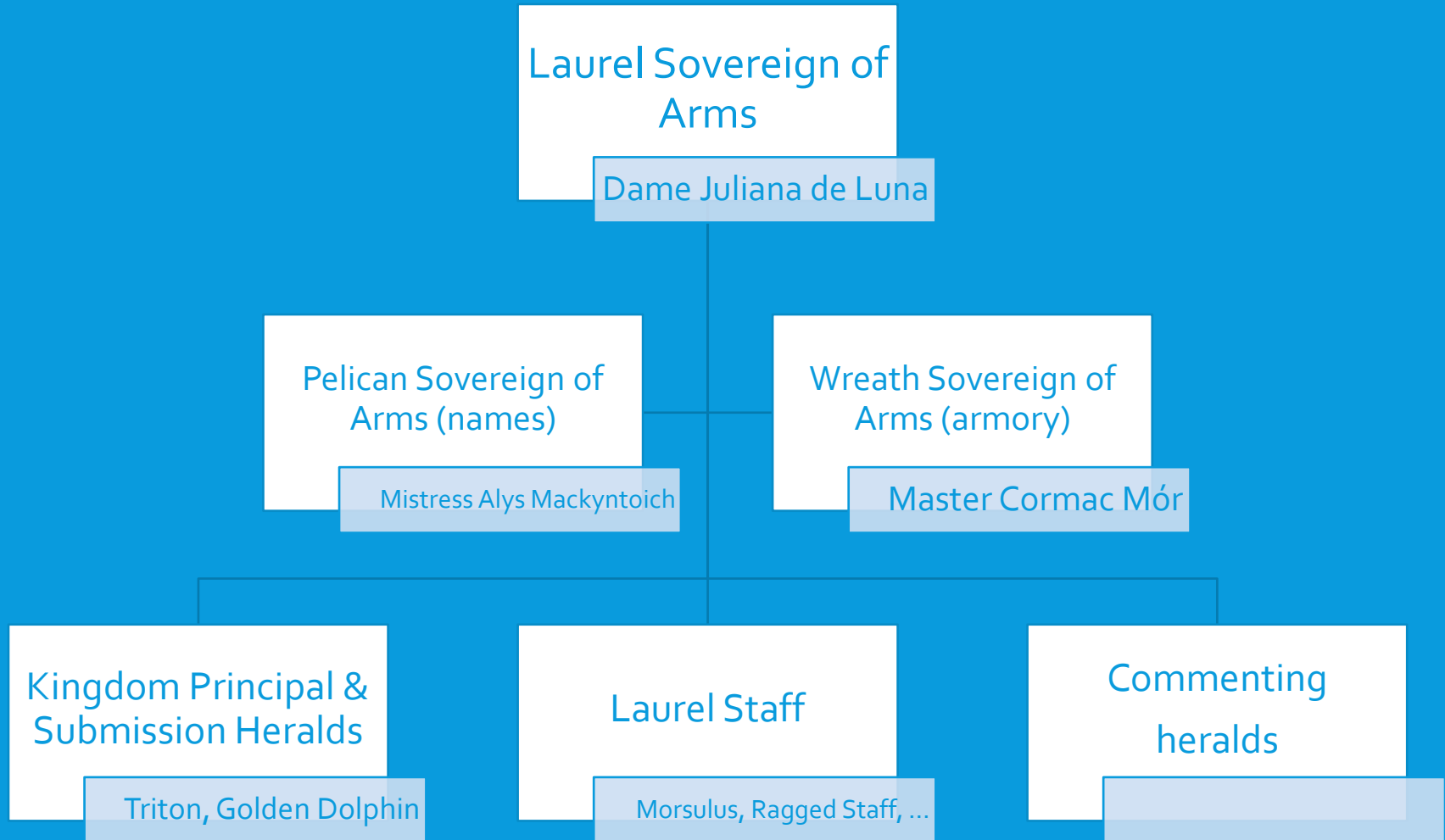
Heraldry in the SCA



Heraldry is the one of the most visible aspects of the SCA. Coats of Arms, banners, Court, announcements on the list field, people's names, titles, awards, ranks, and regalia. In short, most of the pageantry we associate with the Middle Ages and Renaissance is supported by the work of the heralds.



Organization of the College of Arms



What we do

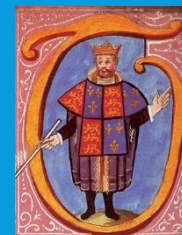


Heralds have a lot of different jobs.

Some focus on research—the “book heralds”—who help to research period naming and armorial practices, and who process heraldic submissions.



Many of us are voice heralds—calling announcements, proclaiming who is fighting upon the field, and acting as the voice of the Crowns in Court.



A few are precedence and protocol heralds, recording awards and honors bestowed, drafting ceremonies, and determining precedence and other period legal niceties in all sorts of situations.



We also work closely with our good friends in the College of Scribes, whose art and artistry with pen and brush make what we do beautiful.



Adapted from <http://heraldry.sca.org>



How do I become a herald?

Step 1:

Review the Policies of the Triton Principal Herald and determine whether you can commit to fulfill the responsibilities. E.g., be a paid member of the SCA.

Step 2:

Fill out a warrant request form

<http://herald.atlantia.sca.org/warranting.htm>

Step 3:

If you are going to be a branch herald, a letter/email from the branch seneschal to Triton is required to confirm the group has elected you as their herald.

Step 4:

If you are going to become a Barony's herald, a letter/email from the Baron and Baroness to Triton confirming they accept you as Their herald.

Triton Staff



Finsterwald – Clerk of Precedence

- Bright Leaf – Webminister for Precedence

Golden Dolphin – Kingdom submissions

- Ibis – Receives submissions
- Opal – Client notification

Undine – Clerk Signet

Coral Branch - Exchequer

Pearl – Ceremony and Protocol

Alycon – Silent Herald

Silver Nautilus – Wrangler of Royal Court heralds

Herring - Webminister

Sea Stag – Manages online Commentary group

Senior Staff – former Tritons, Golden Dolphins, and other Heralds
Extraordinary

Regional Consulting Tables

- Blue Shark - MD
- Red Shark - VA
- Green Shark - NC
- Silver Shark – SC/GA



Other Titles ...

Other staff titles may be given as new projects or deputies are needed

Vexillum

Hippocampus

Manatee

Albatross

Blue Crab

Crane

Sea Tyger

Narwhal

Quintain

Sea Dragon

Shark's Tooth

Sea Urchin

Conch

Manticore

Yew Bow

Baronial Heralds



Boreas – Windmaster’s Hill

Sea Castle – Caer Mear

Drakkar – Storvik

Gordian Knot – Nottingham Coil

Morwich Rudd – Tir-y-Don

Dolmen – Sacred Stone

Black Lozenge – Black Diamond

Marlow – Hidden Mountain

Sable Trident – Marinus

Partan – Lochmere

Most – Ponte Alto

Silver Osprey – Dun Carrig

Northern March – Bright Hills

Steinmauer – Stierbach

Compass Star – Highland Foorde

Goshawk – Hawkwood

Golden Raven – Raven’s Cove

Primary role: Court herald for the Baronage

Also:

- **facilitating heraldic needs of the Barony (i.e., submissions)**
- **reporting on heraldic activity within the Barony**



Personal Heraldic Titles

When a Herald performs significant service for the College of Arms or the College of Heralds, they may be granted the use of a personal title.

Typically, such Heralds have served as Sovereigns of Arms, a Kingdom Principal Herald, Kingdom Submissions Herald, or some other extraordinary service.

For example,

Metron Ariston, Gnome, Azure Decrescent, Rastrillo, Sackbut, Silver Hare, Gallo Catente, Corvus, Luddite, Azure Dragon

Ranks of the College of Heraldry



Cornet

This is the rank new heralds hold during their first year of training.

Pursuivant Extraordinary

Intermediate level herald. They should possess the basic skills for the main areas of heraldry we support: names, armory, voice heraldry, precedence.

Pursuivant

A herald at this rank has achieved competence in at least one of their chosen areas of study/focus.

Herald

An expert in most, if not all areas of heraldic endeavor.

Herald Extraordinary

A senior Herald who has performed extraordinary service to the College of Arms or the College of Heraldry.

Voice Heraldry



Requires the ability to project your voice and be heard in or over a crowd of people.

Announcements

Anyone with a loud voice can be recruited to do this.
You don't have to be a warranted herald to do announcements.



Voice Heraldry



List/Tournament Heraldry

Requires a bit of knowledge of ceremony, such as where the fighters pay honors. For tournaments (e.g. Crown, Pas de Armes) that include processions, understanding of Precedence is useful.

When announcing the combatants the ability to pronounce the fighters' names correctly is always appreciated.

Being able to identify the fighters by their Arms is necessary



Court Heraldry



Being a Court herald involves more than simply being able to project your voice. During Court, you serve as the Voice of the Crown (or the Coronets), and understand that your behavior in that role reflects on the Monarchs or Baronage.

- **Be organized**
- **Understand Precedence and Protocol**
- **Keep things moving along**
- **Report!**



“Silent Heraldry



- silent herald Facebook group :
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/231308760308691/>

Names and Devices

“At moderate prices”





Some Terminology

Armory

Any heraldic design that is used for the purposes of identification. The College of Arms registers these items for people who participate in the SCA so that each person's heraldic design is unique and is unlikely to be confused with another person's design.

Device






An heraldic design that is intended to identify an individual person.

Arms

When a person is elevated to the nobility (usually via an Award of Arms), their "device" becomes their Arms. It is usually just a technicality.

Badge

An heraldic design that is used to identify a possession or an association.

ARMORY	
Device/Arms	Badge
	
	
	



Our mission

Our mission, per the Board of Directors and the Laurel Sovereign of Arms:

Assist members of the SCA in registering unique names and armory that would plausibly have been used within the scope of the Society – i.e., Pre 17th century western Europe and cultures that would have had regular contact with western Europe.





Uniqueness

Names and armory must avoid the appearance of unearned honors or false claims, and be different from those of historical or fictional persons. The goal is to prevent obvious usurpation of identity, and to prevent offense that could occur from that usurpation.



I would like to have the name "Richard Lionheart"

Like the 12th century King of England? Sorry, but no.



I say unto thee,
NAY!

How about "Thor Odinson"?

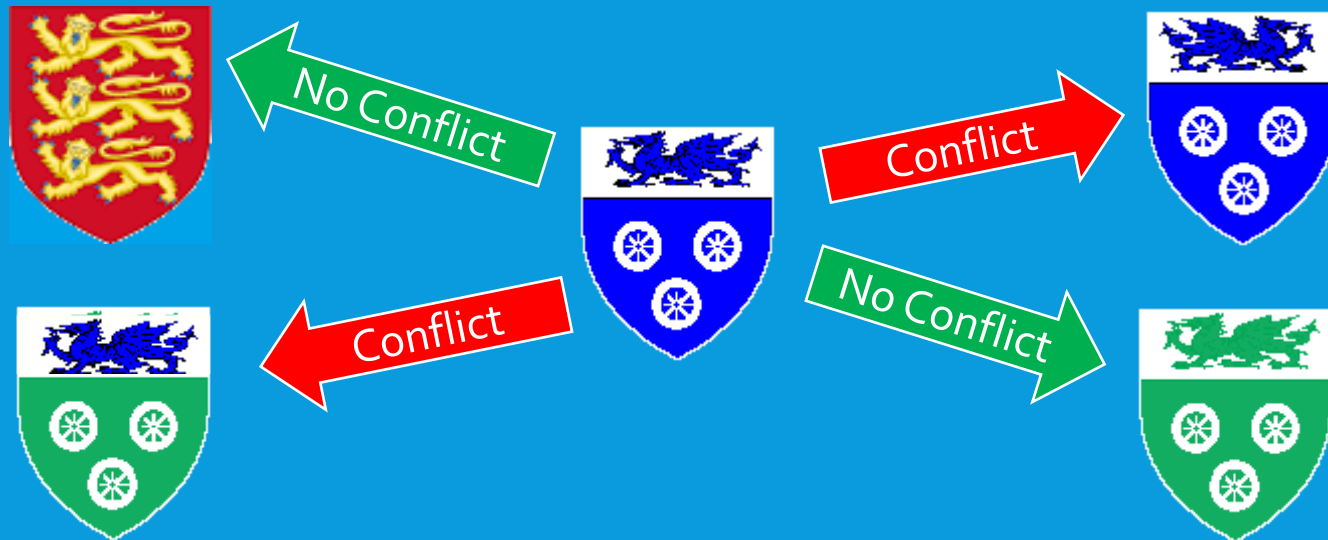




Why do we do it?

Registration does two things. First, it verifies that a submission meets the standards laid out by Corpora and the Standards for Evaluation of Names and Armory. Second, it prevents others from registering anything that conflicts with or presumes upon the registered item without the explicit permission of the owner.

A simplified view of Laurel's Standards for Evaluation of Names and Armory (SENA), sections GP1, GP2, and GP3



And a herald's role is....



The College of Arms and the Kingdom Colleges of Heraldry are essentially a means to facilitate research into “Period” names and armory.

Ultimately, the submitter's responsibility to demonstrate that a submission meets the standards. It is not the responsibility of the Laurel office to demonstrate that a submission does not meet these standards.

In short, our job isn't to say “no”, it is to help submitters find a way to “YES”.



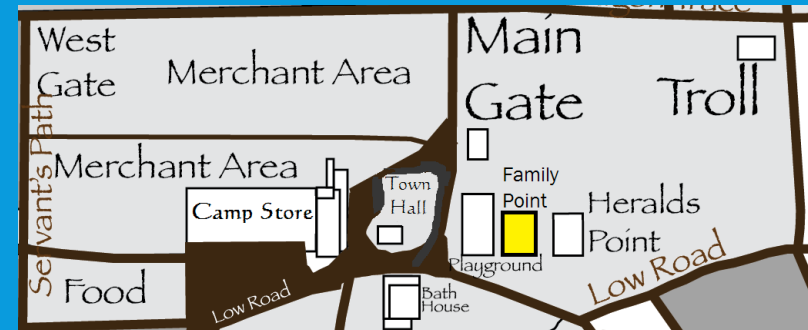
Submissions

How is all of this supposed to work?

From the heralds' point of view, our clients can go to a local herald with their own forms (downloaded from our website) filled in, they can contact a local herald to help fill in the forms, they can visit a consulting table at an event or Herald's Point at a War.



Avacal College of Heraldry



Pennsic War map

A client shows up...then what?



Bare minimum:

- Verify they have the right forms
- Verify the forms are filled out correctly
- Collect payment by check (\$10/element submitted)
- Forward the forms and payment to Ibis or Golden Dolphin within a week

Even if you have no interest in “book heraldry”, you are expected to forward submissions and payments that are given to you to Golden Dolphin (or Ibis)

Customer Service



Heralds are expected to provide good customer service.

To prevent people from being frustrated, it would be a good idea to do the following when you take a submission from a client:

- Keep watch over the submission in OSCAR
- Notify the client early if there are problems that can be addressed before Golden Dolphin makes a decision to pass the submission on to Laurel

Taking the next steps into book heraldry



If we can identify potential issues or even help the client research their submissions, we should do it before they pay their money and send in their submission.

The Standards for Evaluating Names and Armory (SENA) will be your initial guide. Quick and easy problems to figure out are things like names that mix time periods, names that combine cultures that are too far apart, designs that cause offensiveness, or even poorly designed heraldry.



Books? Resources? Tell me more!



These days, an Internet connection can bring a lot of the resources you need to your fingertips in addition to building your own heraldic library. It can be cumbersome toting around boxes of books to events or A&S night.

However, if you want to purchase books, there is an appendix to the Administrative Handbook of the College of Arms of the SCA that is a good shopping list:

Appendix H - Sources That Do Not Require Photocopies to Laurel

<https://heraldry.sca.org/admin.html#APPENDIXH>

A herald is like
the Smaug of
books





Online sources

- All resources found at <http://heraldry.sca.org>.
- All reports found in the Academy of Saint Gabriel Report Archive, <http://www.panix.com/~gabriel/public-bin/archive.cgi>.
- Records from the [FamilySearch Historical Records](#) that are from the following Batches: B, C, J, K, M (except M17 and M18), or P.
- Articles found at Effric Neyn Kenzocht Mcherrald's website, <http://medievalscotland.org/scotnames/>
- Articles by Dame Juliana de Luna at <https://www.s-gabriel.org/names/juliana/>
- Articles by Mari ingen Briain meic Donnchada at <http://medievalscotland.org/kmo/>
- Articles by Aryanhwy merch Catmael at <http://www.ellipsis.cx/~liana/names/names.html>
- Articles by Ursula Georges at <http://www.yarntheory.net/ursulageorges/>
- Entries from *The Dictionary of Medieval Names from European Sources* (<http://dmnes.org/names>), as long as the date the page was accessed is noted.

Also from Appendix H

Commentary and conflict-checking



What is commentary?

- Does the name or armory meet the SENA guidelines?
- Is there an obvious conflict between what the submitter wants and something that is already registered or protected? I.E., is it so similar that people would mistake one for the other?

Golden Dolphin makes a decision each month about what to pass on to the Laurel Sovereign of Arms for registration. The commentary process helps Golden Dolphin make that decision.

Laurel has a similar process that calls on deeper knowledge and experience from heralds across the SCA.

Internal Commentary



- A period during which heralds from within the Kingdom can comment on submissions
- Newer heralds are highly encouraged to comment and ask questions
- One month duration
- Names and device emblazons can be updated if a problem is found
- Names and devices that past muster are put into a Kingdom Letter of Intent (LoI) and External Commentary begins

External Commentary



- A period during which heralds from the entire SCA can comment on submissions
- Generally commentary is done by more senior heralds
- New heralds are encouraged to read commentary, but probably should not comment unless they have special knowledge
- Duration is two months
- Names can be changed, but device emblazons cannot

A Comment on Commentary



The details of both Internal and External commentary are private to the College of Heralds and College of Arms.

Let's be honest, not all commentary is going to be nice nor take the submitter's deep personal convictions or aesthetic sensibilities into account.

In order to have a frank and open discussion about whether a submission is plausibly period, scholarly debates are likely to occur, and to the sensitive or uninformed, these debates may be hurtful.

We DO NOT SHARE the details of the commentary, just the end result of whether the heralds believe it to be registerable or not. If appropriate, what needs to be remedied will be share with the submitter.

Laurel Acceptances and Returns

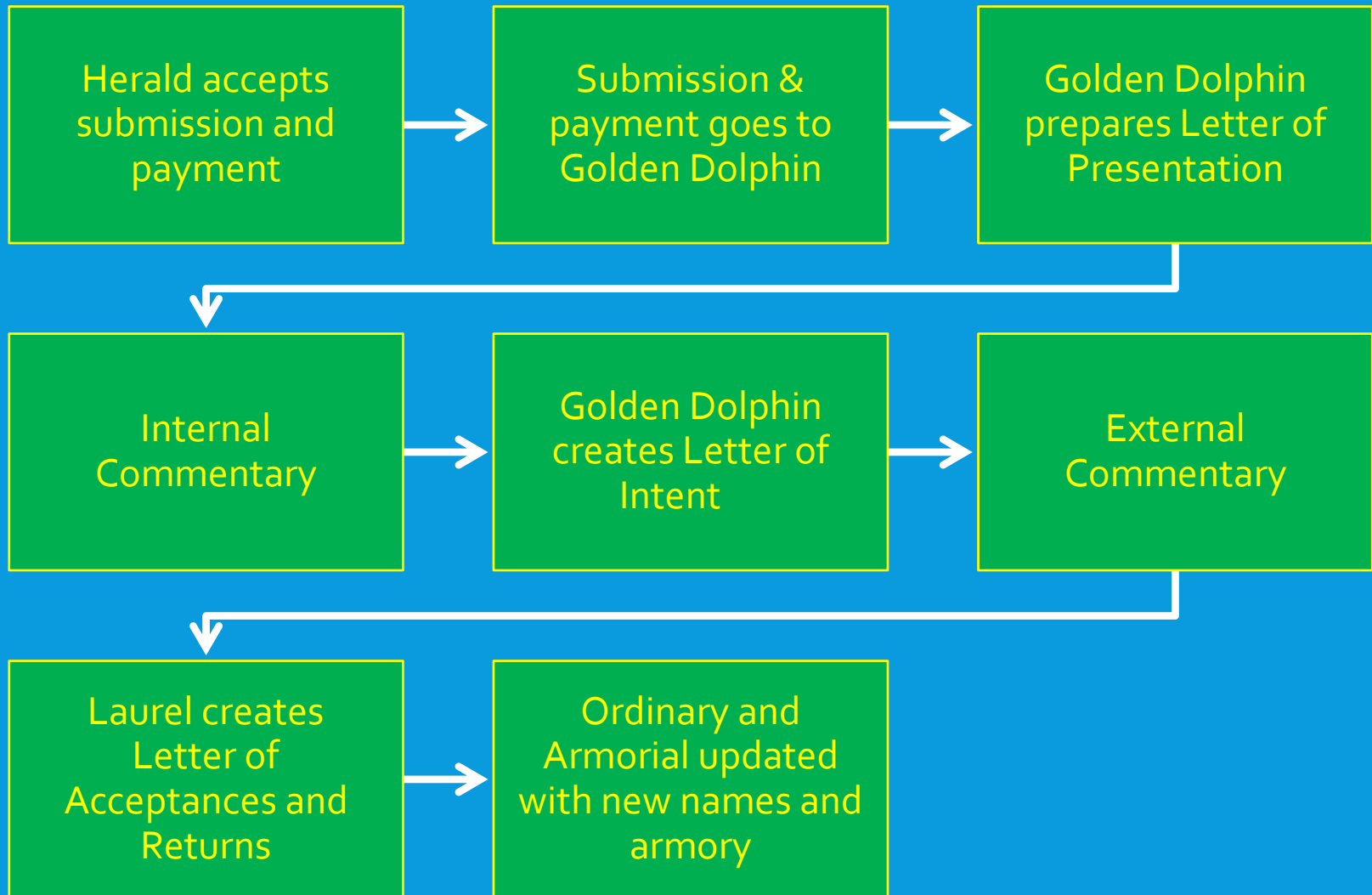


At the end of the two month External Commentary period, Laurel, Laurel staff, and senior Heralds meet to decide what names and armory to register and what to reject.

Some decisions set what may be allowed or disallowed for future registrations. These decisions are referred to as *Precedents* (not to be confused with *Precedence*)

Laurel then issues a Letter of Acceptances and Returns (LoAR), and each Kingdom is expected to contact the submitters either via the Kingdom newsletter or individually.

Submissions process—oversimplified



Submissions process – who does what



Herald / Consult Table

- Assist in creating submissions
- Takes submissions & payments
- Should follows progress of submission

Golden Dolphin

- Creates Letter of Presentation for Internal Commentary
- Evaluates commentary on LoP and creates Letter of Intent
- Informs submitter of decisions at each level of process

Atlantian College of Heralds

- Provide feedback and discussion on submissions in Atlantia's LoP
- Does the submission meet SENA?
- Does submission avoid obvious conflicts?
- May assist in improving documentation for submitters

College of Arms

- Provides feedback and commentary on submissions in all Lols
- Does the submission meet SENA?
- Does submission avoid obvious conflicts?
- May assist in improving documentation for submitters

Laurel

- Evaluates commentary on Lols and creates Letter of Acceptances and Returns
- Creates Precedents
- Updates the Ordinary and Armorial with newly registered items

Final Thoughts on Names & Armory



Registerable vs. Authentic

- A submission must be registerable, it need not be authentic
- While we can encourage clients to design authentic names and devices, we cannot, and should not force the decision
- If a client is set on a registerable but not very authentic submission, you should process it!
- We are also NOT the taste police. Beauty is in the eye of the beholder.

Enhanced from Master Yeshua ben Moshe's Book Heraldry 100

Protocol & Precedence

“Who’s on first?”





All heralds should know

- Standard forms of address (e.g., who is acknowledged by Lord/Lady, Your Excellency, Your Grace, etc.)
- What types of regalia is appropriate to what award
 - Which coronet for what rank
 - Badges or other accessories
- Appropriate behavior for:
 - Attending Court
 - When you are called before the Royal or Baronial Presence
 - When the Royalty or Landed Baronage passes by
 - When the Royalty or Landed Baronage are sitting in State
 - At Feast



Precedence

In general, Precedence refers to the hierarchical ranking of Awards as well as temporary ranks, such as serving as King, Queen, Prince, Princess, Territorial Barons and Baronesses.

Each Kingdom's Clerk of Precedence maintains the list of Awards and temporary ranks, to whom they were bestowed, by whom, and when they were bestowed.

In short, any time a person receives an Award, it has the potential to change their rank within the Order of Precedence.

Ranking

(see <http://op.atlantia.sca.org>)



Their Majesties of Atlantia

Their Highnesses of Atlantia

Royal Peers

- Dukes/Duchesses
- Counts/Countesses
- Viscounts/Viscountesses

Bestowed Peers (all bestowed Peers are of equal rank)

- Order of the Chivalry
- Order of the Laurel
- Order of the Pelican
- Order of the Masters of Defense

When within the lands they hold in fealty to the Crown, Territorial Barons/Baronesses rank just below Their Majesties

Territorial Barons/Baronesses

Grant of Arms Level (all GoA level awards/orders are of equal rank)

- Orders of High Merit (GoA)
- Court Barons/Baronesses (GoA)
- Grants of Arms

Award of Arms Level (all AoA level awards/orders are of equal rank)

- Kingdom Orders of Merit (AoA)
- Court Barons/Baronesses (AoA)
- Principality Orders of Merit (AoA)
- Baronial Orders of Merit (AoA)
- Awards of Arms

Mailing Lists



- <https://lists.andrew.cmu.edu/mailman/listinfo/sca-hrlds> - SCA-HRLDS mailing list
- Kingdom Lists
 - Many are listed at <http://heraldry.sca.org/kingdoms.html>
 - AtlantianHeralds@yahoogroups.com – Atlantia's heraldry mailing list

Final Thoughts



Customer Service

- It is our job to help our clients
- We are here to make registrations happen, not prevent them from happening
- When consulting, help clients create registerable submissions *they* like
- When commenting, look for reasons to allow registration, not prohibit it
- Heralds want a reputation for being helpful, not obstructionist!
- Clients are happiest when they feel informed. Keep an eye on the submission as it goes through the process and let the client know if things are going smoothly or if there are issues to address