



# Herald's Point

The Occasional Journal for the College of Herald's of Atlantia  
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## On a very nice holiday weekend, does Triton send greetings to Atlantia's heralds!

For those heralds going to Pennsic, remember there are LOTS of heraldic activities, including walking tours, classes, consult table, field and announcement heralding, etc. I really hope to see a lot of you participating and showing the Knowne World what a great College of Herald's Atlantia has! Isn't there a Volunteer War Point? Gise, do we get credit for each Atlantian herald who works at Herald's Point or does a round of announcements?



Sometimes, people ask me what we look for when considering promotions or in seeking potential candidates for Triton and Golden Dolphin. To be honest, the main thing I look for is consistency. I want to see someone who is consistently putting forth effort; consistently offering to teach others; consistently proving their knowledge; and consistently keeping up with paperwork deadlines.

If you can't meet quarterly or court reporting deadlines on a consistent basis, then I'm going to have doubts you can meet the paperwork requirements for Golden Dolphin. If you don't display a

certain level of proficiency in your submissions or in answering questions on the herald's list, and you never produce commentary for the ILOI's, well, then I've got very little to support promotion.

So, basically, if you are wanting to move up in the ranks, OR to someday be considered for the job of Triton or Golden Dolphin, I want to see that consistency of effort. I want to see that desire displayed in your heraldic work. Yes, everybody stumbles occasionally and has times where they can't dedicate as

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much to heraldry as others, but a consistent candidate will be seen:

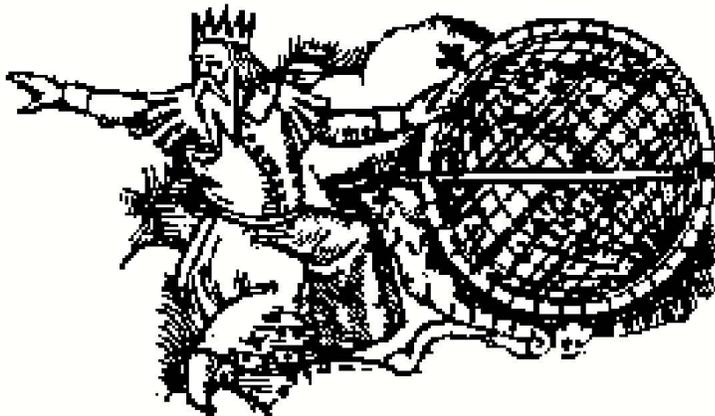
- ◆ taking classes
- ◆ teaching classes (you'd be surprised how much you learn about a subject by prepping to teach it)
- ◆ helping out at consult tables
- ◆ making themselves available (and readily known to be available) to help submitters\*
- ◆ commenting on the Internal Letters of Intent (see Alisoun to sign up)
- ◆ filing reports promptly
- ◆ studying heraldry in ALL its aspects
- ◆ sharing that knowledge on the heralds' list

Learning is a trial-and-error process. We all bobble sometimes. It's very easy to look at a blazon and see one side of the issue, but miss another. That's why we have back-up, both in commentary and on the list. Just because you missed something or were wrong this time, don't let it deter you from trying again next time. The clues come as you go. The more you participate; the more clues come your way, and then suddenly, you find your percentage of right answers goes up!

We are all here to help each other, as well as our submitters. Help each other succeed and become the best heralds in the Knowne World! We're Atlantia. How could we strive to be anything less?

So come on! Step up to the plate! We're waiting to lob you that first soft pitch...

-- Rhiannon



*Mistress Rhiannon ui Neill  
Triton Principal Herald  
House Corvus, Atlantia*

\*Some clues on how to do that is to make announcements at your local meetings or in your local newsletter. Got to fighter practice with your stuff and set up shop there. Post offers to help submitters at events you are going to! Ask the local herald if that's O.K.

first, but I'm sure it will be. He might charge you a half hour of field announcements in exchange. Only fair, you know... Then, bring some of your stuff and maybe a sign advertising your services. I would be very amused to attend an event and see a herald in a sandwich board advertising his/her services. Be creative! Be versatile! Be available! Sometimes, you need to remind people they want heraldry and make it easy for them to start the process, by being readily available.

## A Word from the Newsletter Editor

Greetings unto all to whom these presents come from Lady Patricia of Trakai!

I have not heard any comments from any of my readers as to whether the HTML or PDF format is preferred for this newsletter, so I shall continue to produce it in both formats. Your opinions are still welcome, of course.

I am grateful to our Kingdom Chronicler, Lady Gwerfyl verch Aneirin (known as Aneira), for choosing Herald's Point as one of the nominees (in the Best Special Interest Newsletter category) representing the Kingdom of Atlantia in the William Blackfox Awards. The Society presents these awards every year to encourage excellence not only among the chroniclers in the SCA, but among contributors to SCA publications. I encourage everyone to look at the Web site for the Blackfox Awards when planning your future contributions to our heraldic newsletter. Who knows, perhaps your artwork, column, or

poem might be nominated in future years!

One quick reminder: Don't forget all the heraldic events that are awaiting you at Pennsic 37! Some highlights:

- ◆ Known World Heraldic Party (August 3) and Atlantian Herald's Reception (August 4)
- ◆ TWO Heraldic Walking Tours (August 4 and 7)
- ◆ Laurel Sovereign of Arms Road Show (August 4) -- come meet the new Laurel Office!
- ◆ Thirty-five different heraldic classes at Pennsic University

To all who are traveling to the Pennsic War:  
Stay safe and keep hydrated!

*In service,  
Lady Patricia, Editor*

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### Point of Fact

The Domesday Book contains 13,418 places that existed in England as of the year 1086. There's a lot of potential for locative bynames! Find it online at [www.domesdaybook.co.uk](http://www.domesdaybook.co.uk).



# Byzantine Forms of Address

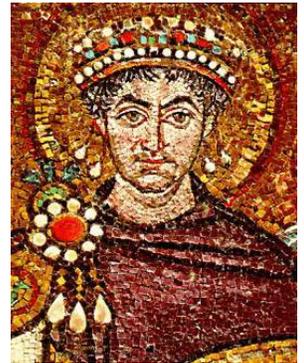
By *Sovány Barcsi János, Black Raven Herald*

With the fall of the city of Rome to the Germans, the center of “civilization” shifted to the east, to the city founded by Constantinople but now known as Byzantium. The city, founded by Constantine as his eastern capital in 330 AD, was designed for greatness. The empire, known in its day as the Roman Empire or Empire of the Greeks, stood for a thousand years before ultimate collapse in 1453 AD.

Byzantium’s court was, well, byzantine in its bureaucracy and strict rules were laid down to designate proper forms of address for members of the government. This article will address those forms of address and hopefully expand your education from the Western European focus so common in our Society.

By the end of the Empire (used here to represent that empire based on the city of Rome), members of the Senate were addressed as *clarissimus* (usually translated as “honorable,” but based on the Latin *clarus*, “illustrious, renowned or distinguished”; Fairley has it as “right honorable”). This title gradually came to be used to describe the bottom of the upper class, or *clarissimate*, as other forms of address were placed over it.

Members of the middle group were addressed as *spectabiles* (typically translated as “worshipful,” but also used to indicate “worth seeing, notable or remarkable”). These were important personages of high office and great power in the Byzantine Empire.



*Emperor Justinian*

The highest of the mighty were addressed as *illustres* (traditionally translated as “illustrious”). These were the most powerful men and women who stood at the peak of Byzantine power, right next to the Emperor himself.

While these forms of address were originally assigned to members of the Senate, they soon expanded to cover all the “high and mighty” of the Byzantine world.

The *Notitia Dignitatum*, an official record of all higher Byzantine military and civic offices dating from c. 400 AD, survives in the form of a copy from the mid-16th century, although the original is lost. It cannot be precisely dated and appears to have been built over time by the notaries of the Eastern and Western halves of the Empire separately. It provides us a record of who would use each of these titles of dignity\* -- there are too many to list here, but the list includes the pretorian prefect of the East (and many other provinces), the master of the soldiery in the presence, the provost of the sacred bedchamber (grand chamberlain), the quaestor (justiciar), and the count of the sacred bounties (grand treasurer), for example.

*(Continued)*

Offices designated within the *Notitia* as being held by those holding the dignity of *spectabiles* are the chief of the notaries, the castellan, vicar of the diocese of Asia (somewhat comparable to a regional seneschal in the SCA), and the military count of Egypt (regional marshal, in SCA terms).

On the lesser end of the scale, the *Notitia* lists the following offices as designated for the *clarissime*: consul of Palestine (comparable to a baron in the SCA), as well as various presidencies of local provinces (comparable to our Society's seneschals).

## WITHIN THE SCA

It is somewhat difficult to translate Byzantine titles of dignity to the SCA, but there are two courses of action for how this could be done:

1. *Spectabiles* could be used for kingdom great officers of state, *illustres* for baronage and lesser officers of state, and *clarissimus* for other officers, or
2. *Spectabiles* for peers, *illustres* for holders of grants of arms, and *clarissimus* for those with awards of arms.

There are advantages and disadvantages to both with regard to accuracy, since our SCA world is modeled on a medieval, not Byzantine imperial model. (Numbers match the courses of action listed above.)

1. This is more similar to the Byzantine model, since honorifics are tied to position in government; however, in the Byzantine world, these dignities were retained for life and not surrendered at the end of the term in office.
2. This one matches more closely in the sense of a life-long title, but the concepts of patents, grants, and awards of arms have no similitude to the imperial dignities of the Eastern Empire.

## SUMMARY

The Byzantine model of dignities is quite different from the western European one we encounter so much in the SCA but is an equally historical model for those of us seeking an alternative to those more comfortable to most Society folk.

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\* It also provides us a handy summary in the way of a footnote: "In general, it may be said that the illustrious correspond in rank to our cabinet officers, the worshipful to our State governors and highest military officers, and the right honorable to our brigadier-generals and colonels."

(Continued)

## REFERENCES

Cassell's New Latin Dictionary, Funk & Wagnalls Company, New York, 1959.

Laws of Justinian, Book XII., Title I., Concerning positions of dignity, (De dignitatibus.)

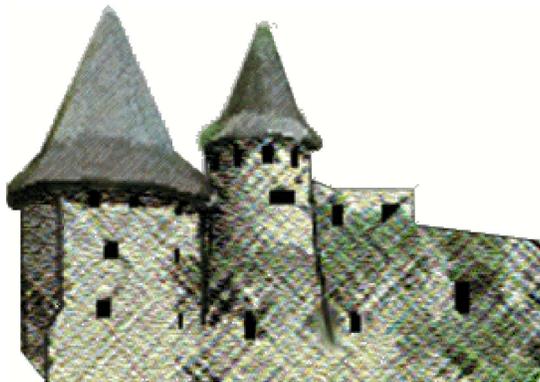
[internet]

William Fairley, *Notitia Dignitatum* or Register of Dignitaries, in Translations and Reprints from Original Sources of European History, Vol. VI:4 (Philadelphia: University of Pennsylvania Press, n.d.). [internet]

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Heraldry is an art as old as Henry II and Eleanor of Aquitaine, and as young as the newest submission. I welcome you to join in exploring it with your colleagues, the heralds of Atlantia -- this is your journal. If you have always wanted to write an article that would be read by every Atlantian herald, or if you have a question you would like to ask of all the heralds of Atlantia, send me a message at Patoodle AT aol DOT com! I prefer that any articles or other messages come as plain text (ASCII), as opposed to HTML or some other format. Thank you!

In Service,  
Patricia of Trakai



## The Legal Stuff

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