

HERALD'S POINT

*The Occasional Journal
For the College of Heraldry & Scribes
Of the fair Kingdom of Atlantia*

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A Word from the Newsletter Editor



reetings unto all to whom these presents may come from Lady Patricia, Manticore Pursuivant!

Wow ... I guess my esteemed predecessors were *not* kidding when they dubbed this newsletter “the *occasional* journal” of the Atlantian College of Heraldry and Scribes. Once a year, however, is more occasional than I had originally intended. My apologies to all of my heraldic colleagues who have been sitting around and wondering, “Gee, when is the next issue of *Herald’s Point* coming out?”

The only excuse I have – and a lame one at that – is that I have been undergoing a lot of changes in my life due to the continuing sagginess of our economy. When you don’t have a regularly scheduled job, you go through brief bursts of crazy-busy work followed by slow, draggy spells of feeling “on hold.” Sometimes it’s just more difficult to remember the fun stuff that *is* supposed to be done on a regularly scheduled basis, like communicating to my fellow heralds.

While *Herald’s Point* has been quiet, lots of fascinating things have been happening in SCA heraldry! The most important change, of course, is that the College of Arms has been making the transition from the old Rules for Submission (RfS) to the new Standards for Evaluation of Names and Armory (SENA). I’ve been told that SENNA runs to 75 or so pages when you print it out, so I’m not going to reprint

In This Issue

From the Editor.....	1
Unevent Minutes.....	2
Point of Protocol: Elevate or Induct?.....	5
Word Puzzle: Our Senior Herald.....	6
Point of Fact.....	6

the entire document in this newsletter. Instead, you can just go online to <http://heraldry.sca.org/laurel/sena.html> and study it for yourself. This past summer, I took a Pennsic University class on “Conflict Checking with SENA” from Master Tanczos Istvan, and I’m sure that other fine teachers will share their expertise with the new rules in future classes, both at Pennsic and at events within the Kingdom.

In other long-awaited news, Atlantia is now doing commentary through OSCAR (<http://oscar.sca.org>). Contact Barunin Gisela if you still don’t have your account.

If you are more of a voice herald than a book herald, your Kingdom wants you to step up in the coming year. Volunteer for heralding Royal Court. Know how to set up Court and the Procession. Don’t be afraid to ask for help if you’re not sure about the protocol (for instance, if Royals from another Kingdom are in attendance).

This issue of *Herald’s Point* will be short, because I haven’t been pestering people for submissions. (That will happen soon, I promise!) In the next calendar year I will try to get this newsletter out at least quarterly.

I wish you all the brightest and happiest of years in 2013.

*Respectfully submitted,
Patricia of Trakai
Editor and Manticore Pursuivant*



UNEVENT MINUTES (December 1, 2012)

Compiled by Lady Patricia of Trakai, Manticore Pursuivant (Chronicler to the College of Heralds)

Gisela Triton started the meeting by having the meeting attendees introduce themselves in turn. She introduced Lady Wynne as her Nereid Herald emergency deputy.

Barunin Gisela said, “Practice makes you a better herald.” She said that attendance at Unevent counts as continuing education for maintaining one’s warrant as a herald. To get the discussion going, she said that one of the College’s greatest problems is getting complete, documented submissions to Dame Hrothny Golden Dolphin.

Hrothny said that she puts submissions up exactly as she receives them. “It’s not my policy to publicly shame you.” She said. She also does not want to hear, “The herald was so nasty I never got my stuff done.” In the current Letter of Intent, some devices were drawn in pencil, which does not show up in scans. Drawings should be in black ink. Make sure submitters fill in all the personal information on the form, including the correct e-mail address for the submitter, *not* a fake address. On name submissions, avoid checking the “authenticity most important” tick box if you possibly can. If you have a resubmission for a name (only), you can just e-mail the form to me as an attachment. Do NOT fill out the information on forms in fancy colored ink.

Mistress Alisoun said that Wikipedia is not documentation. A Wikipedia excerpt is not acceptable to the College, even if it happens to be a good Wikipedia entry.

At this point in the meeting His Royal Majesty Tsar Vlad entered the room and spoke to the gathered heralds. He said that we are the creators of the Royal presence on the field that makes the SCA look beautiful. However, He has heard that we don’t want to step forward for Court as much as we used to. He encouraged more heralds

to sign up for Royal Courts in the coming year. He and Her Majesty love to see their favorites, but they also love to see new faces too. Their Majesties should only have to say “set court” and expect that it will be done, since the heralds are the expert in protocol anyway. However, if you are unsure of something, please do not hesitate to ask. Tsar Vlad said that He and Her Majesty really appreciate all the work heralds do to make our Kingdom beautiful, and as a result, Atlantia is known as one of the prettier Kingdoms in the Known World.

After Tsar Vlad left the room, Dame Hrothny asked that submissions heralds include something more detailed than “R&W *sn.* Rorik” in their name documentation. Something that abbreviated means that Golden Dolphin has to do all the work. She does not want to do extra work over the next six months. She also begged the branch heralds to hold heraldic consultations in their local branches, or get together with local baronies to hold a “Herald’s Night.” She knows of some heralds that did such a thing at a local Barnes & Noble. With Internet access, you can get questions answered by far-flung senior heralds.

Mistress Alisoun said that lots of experienced heralds are willing to do e-mail consults. Talking face-to-face with heraldic clients can be less intimidating to them, especially people who have been burned by heralds in the past. Also, there are no stupid questions.

Barunin Gisela said that just because a “senior” person makes a comment on a submission in OSCAR, that doesn’t mean other heralds shouldn’t study the submission and express their own opinions. After all, the senior person might have made a mistake. Trust, but verify! Don’t be afraid – the senior heralds don’t bite.

Also, Gisela Triton said, don’t let your intimidation keep you from asking questions and expressing your opinions. Heralds are the lawyers of the SCA; if you make a good argument with good documentation, you might be the one to make a new precedent.



Barunin Gisela said that all aspects of heraldry are important to her. The Kingdom needs more heralds to step up for Crown Tourney twice a year. Also, the Kingdom has a real need for voice heralds, not just for Crown. You do have to be warranted to hold an office or handle money, but if you have someone who can be heard and understood in large halls or outdoors, encourage them to step up. If you are a voice herald, you don’t have to learn book heraldry. Nevertheless, the best way to learn about consulting is to actually do commentary.

Barunin Gisela also said that she has asked her predecessor as Triton, Master Bran, to put together a guide to setting up court. When it is released, heralds can print it out and take it with them to events. If you are asked to set court and you’re not sure how to do it, be honest and ask for help. She has cards that list the baronial precedence. If Their Majesties wish to make a seating arrangement against precedence, you may inform them professionally, but sometimes you must say, “Yes, Your Majesty.” As the court herald, you are Triton’s representative at the event; you are doing your job when you give Their Majesties the information they need.

More information from Triton: If you miss two quarterly reports, you are saying that you want to quit the College of Heralds and Scribes. Soon the quarterly report form will be simplified. Make sure your submissions

appear on the appropriate Letter of Presentation. Atlantia has a new online court report form, which makes it dead simple to get those court reports in after an event.

Regarding the new online court reports, Rhiannon Finsterwald (Clerk of Precedence) said the “home branch” field on the form makes the recipients appear on their home barony’s OP. Go to your barony’s OP list and see if someone isn’t showing up, but don’t let it hold up the timely submission of your court report.

In terms of court reporting, we are much better now than we were two months ago, Barunin Gisela said. However, we have to stay on top of this. *Non scripta, non est* – if you don’t report the award, that person didn’t get it. As a courtesy to Their Majesties and Their Excellencies, it is our responsibility to record all awards properly, in a timely fashion. The end-of-reign report (every six months) is supposed to be a validation of what happened during each reign.

Baron Eogan, another former Triton, noted that precedence is really important in Crown Tourney. A mistake with precedence can ruin the tournament.

Nowadays, many people post photos on Facebook after SCA events, providing photographic evidence that you were serving as court herald, Barunin Gisela said. If you don’t follow through with the reporting, you won’t be allowed to herald future courts.

Rhiannon Finsterwald said that she will accept a backup court report from any warranted herald, even one who was sitting in the audience at court. Also, whenever someone changes his or her name (SCA or legal), he or she should contact the Clerk of Precedence through the online “Corrections” form.

One final note from Gisela Triton: The Modern Name Allowance says that you can use one element of your modern name in your SCA name with proper identification. If you’re making a copy of a client’s driver’s license or other form of ID, black out everything else that Triton and Golden Dolphin don’t need to see. In lieu of this copy, the College will accept attestation from an extremely senior herald (that is, one known at the Society level). This is no reflection on you or your reputation.

The main points of the Unevent meeting:

Submissions – Complete Documentation
 Ask for Help Beforehand
 Period Style
 Supported style, form, shape

Resubmitted Names ONLY – send as an e-mail attachment
Use **black pen ONLY** to fill out forms

Court – Step Up!
 Know how to set court and procession
 Delegate
 Ask for help if necessary

Encourage heraldic display!

Happy New Year!

POINT OF PROTOCOL (or Ask Auntie Rhiannon)

By Mistress Rhiannon ui Neill, Pearl Herald

Dear Auntie Rhiannon,

Back in my day, when you said “elevate,” you were referring to the Peerage, and when you said “induct,” you were referring to the Kingdom Orders. Now I hear the two words used interchangeably. What gives? Have things changed?

*Yours,
Duke Curmudgeon*

Your Most Revered Grace,

No, your remembrance is still the correct usage of that terminology. Over time, and lack of teaching, people have just confused the two terms. So, to make it clear, when someone is given a Patent of Arms, they are ELEVATED to the peerage.



When they are made a member of an Order (any order), they are INDUCTED into that Order. Corpora makes the distinction quite nicely for us...

“IV. Royalty.

G. The Crown.

1. The Crown may present Awards of Arms, the titles of Court Baron and Court Baroness, and Grants of Arms in accordance with the laws and customs of the kingdom. The Crown may establish and present such other awards as the Crown shall deem proper, in accordance with the laws and customs of the kingdom.

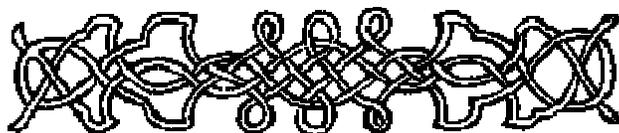
2. The Crown may elevate (emphasis added) subjects to the Peerage by granting membership in one of the Orders conferring a Patent of Arms, after consultation with the members of the Order within the Kingdom, and in accordance with the laws and customs of the kingdom.”

So, next time you hear someone mismatch those terms, gently explain the difference. It is through teaching, practice and example that we all learn best the proper protocols of our Society! And thank you for your question!

Mistress Rhiannon, Pearl Herald

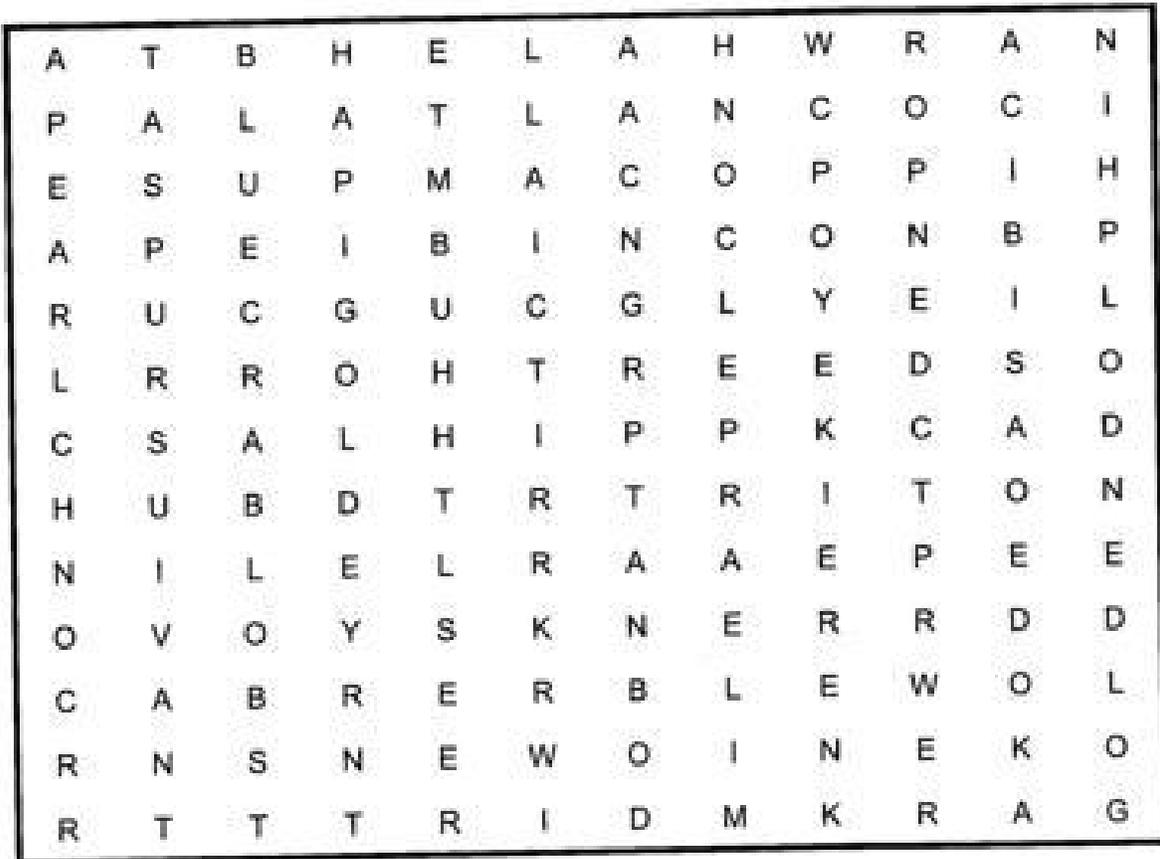
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Word Puzzle: Senior Heralds of Atlantia

By Lord Sovány Barcsi János, Black Raven Herald



WORDS TO SEARCH FOR: Blue Crab, Conch, Golden Dolphin, Hippocampus, Ibis, Kraken, Morse, Narwhal, Nereid, Owen, Pearl, Triton

Point of Fact

If a client comes up to you and says, “Here’s my family coat of arms and I want to use all or part of it in the SCA,” don’t buy into it. On its website, the College of Arms of the United Kingdom specifically states that coats of arms belong to individuals, not to just anyone who has the same surname. “Many people of the same surname will often be entitled to completely different coats of arms, and many of that surname will be entitled to no coat of arms,” the College says at <http://www.college-of-arms.gov.uk/Faq.htm>. Besides, your SCA device is supposed to be based on your SCA persona.



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! Thank you in advance!

In Service, Patricia of Trakai

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