

# Ealdormere Heraldic Quarterly



Summer, A.S. LII (2017)

## What is the Ealdormere College of Heralds (ECoH)?

TH Lady Roselyne de l'Estrangere

Greetings, lords and ladies all, and welcome to the **Ealdormere Heraldic Quarterly**, (the **Quarterly**) an electronic periodical publication of the **Ealdormere College of Heralds (ECoH, or "the College")**! At the direction of the incoming **Trillium Herald**, THL Sciath ingen Chaennaig, we at the **Quarterly** are broadcasting a little heraldic education to our Kingdom and beyond.

Here, you will find some articles that you might find useful for getting started practicing and encouraging the practice of heraldry in your own court or village. This issue features some guidelines for designing a truly medieval name for yourself or a client. Another article offers sage advice about how to best make sure heraldic needs are well covered when organizing events. In an effort to make the **ECoH**, its workings, and staff better known to the populace at large, our most recent **Green Mantle Herald** introduces us to the joys and responsibilities of that office.

"But Roselyne, this publication is too short, and heraldic education is being neglected!" Well, good my lord or lady, you can easily help solve this problem yourself, by submitting your original articles and/or heraldic artwork to [meald.heraldic.quarterly@gmail.com](mailto:meald.heraldic.quarterly@gmail.com). We appreciate your contributions and will gladly put your offerings to good use in an upcoming issue if it matches one of our upcoming themes.

We at the **Ealdormere Heraldic Quarterly** wish to acknowledge the invaluable contributions of the following gentles: Princess Rilyn (Buchanan), Magistra Nicolaa de Bracton and Baron (Master) Percival de la Rocque for writing this month's features; Baroness Liadin Chu and Lord Dietrich von Sachsen for their beautiful heraldic drawings; Duchess (Master) Kaylah the Cheerful for her advice and help with legal forms; Baron (Master) Brand Thorwaldsen the Black for helping with some key technical details to make this publication possible; THL Colyne Stewart, for his sage advice and for suggesting other potential vic--er, contributors; THL Pelayo de la Lanza de Hierro, our outgoing **Trillium Herald**, for getting us into this mess; and to a number of gentles who have contributed their support to this project in less tangible ways.

On behalf of myself, THL Roselyne de l'Estrangere, and my most able layout editor, the Lady Daya Speyerin, thank you for your interest, happy reading, and remember, in this context: *Those who can, do, and those who cant, teach.*

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## Message from the Outgoing Trillium Herald

TH Lord Pelayo de la Lanza de Hierro

Greetings fellow heralds, the inaugural *Ealdormere Heraldic Quarterly* is finally here! Wassail!

THL Roselyne de l'Estrangere has been hard at work for several months soliciting articles, arranging for layout and editing help, and negotiating for a place to publish. There are a lot of changes coming up for the *ECoH*.

I am giddy to announce that I am stepping down at War of the Trillium. THL Sciath Ingen Chennaig will be donning the **Trillium Herald** tabard, and I will become the **Silver Wolf** herald. I'm excited to see Sciath in the role: she has lots of great ideas about how to grow and improve *the College*.

After a full decade of dedicated service as **Caleygreyhound**, Liadin is handing the title over to

HE Kersteken Janzdochtere. HG Rylyn Buchanan, newly-minted Princess of Ealdormere, will be advertising for a replacement as **Green Mantle**, and Lord Dietrich von Sachsen will be acting as **Green Mantle** until a permanent replacement can be found. Deep and heartfelt thanks to both Liadin and Rylyn for their masterful service! The Order of Precedence has moved to the new Ealdormere hosted service (thanks to Lars, Brand, and Liadin!), and we have plans for an easy-to-use quarterly report form that will help both the **Trillium** office and the Baronial Pursuivants keep on top of their direct reports.

Other changes are afoot, with Sciath be leading the charge.

## Message from the Incoming Trillium Herald

TH Lady Sciath ingen Chaennaig, Inland Seas Herald



Greetings unto the *Ealdormere College of Heraldry*, and Heraldry Everywhere!

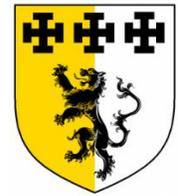
About a year ago, I received word that I had been accepted as the **Inland Seas** Herald. At the time, it seemed there would be plenty of time for me to gain tutelage from our estimable **Trillium** Herald. Little did I realize that succession planning was more of a direct approach, on-the-go mentoring and shadowing. Over the past year, I've had the opportunity to get to know members of the *ECoH*, and worked with **Trillium** Herald to seek new officers for *the College*. More recently, I've been working to update the warrant list, and to update online *ECoH* listings. We have amazing talent and knowledge in *the College*, and I can't wait to work with each of you further.

Many thanks to TH Lord Pelayo de la Lanza de Hierro for his work for the past two years as **Trillium**

Herald. There were significant challenges over the past year, particularly with changing technology. I hope that I may be a worthy successor. I'd like to thank THL Roselyne de l'Estrangere, **Golden Otter** Herald, and Lady Daya Speyerin, **Gopher** Pursuivant, for their work on this inaugural newsletter. The *Ealdormere Heraldic Quarterly* provides Ealdormereans with a window into the *College of Heraldry*, and enables *the College* to communicate on our work to support this wonderful Kingdom.

If you are reading this, and thinking, "*Heralds seem to have all the fun*," you're right! Please feel free to speak to your local branch's heraldic officer, or another member of the *ECoH* to learn more about being a herald. You can find me at most events; I often sport a bright blue hat, which is difficult to miss.

**Getting to Know Us: Green Mantle Herald**  
Lord Dietrich von Sachsen, (Acting) Green Mantle Herald



Greetings one and all. **Green Mantle** is the head of the submissions team, the people that help to get everyone their names, devices, or badges officially registered. With the help of the new **Bucina** (Education) Herald, Mistress Nicolaa, we hope to continue to host heraldic consultation tables at major events, like Crown Tournaments and Coronations. A consult table is a great place for people to get help with a name or device, and for newer heralds to get some experience doing consults.

The questions I get asked a lot are, *What is the submissions process?* and *What happens once I do a consult with a herald?* First and foremost, the person must pay **Green Mantle** Herald \$8 per item being submitted: name, device, or badge (except in 2017, when the cost is paid by a generous donation from the barony of Ramshaven).

Once the fee is paid, **Green Mantle** prepares an Internal Letter of Intent (ILoI) and places it on OSCAR, the Online System for Commentary and Response, at: <https://oscar.sca.org> (Click on "KLoI" and then "Ealdormere" to see our most recent Letter of Intent.) Each letter is open for commentary for about a month.

On the third Monday of each month at 7:30pm, we hold a meeting via Google Hangouts to discuss the monthly ILoI. Anyone is welcome to join us! To be added to the conversation, send your request to:

[green.mantle.herald@gmail.com](mailto:green.mantle.herald@gmail.com). Based on the comments in OSCAR and the feedback from the meeting, **Green Mantle** decides what goes forward and what needs to be returned for further work.

Green Mantle turns submissions into an External or Laurel Letter of Intent. (Click on "LoIs" in OSCAR to see Ealdormere's.) External letter receives comments from a LARGE audience of heralds from all over the Known World over the next two months.

Once commentary is closed, based on the feedback of the meetings and the comments on OSCAR, the **Laurel Sovereign of Arms** (head of all SCA heralds), **Pelican Sovereign of Arms** (head of names submissions), and **Wreath Sovereign of Arms** (head of armoury submissions) hold a meeting to make decisions to accept (register) or return submissions. Those decisions get written down, typed up, and then proofread over the next month because they are processing a couple hundred or more Society-wide items.

Submission decisions are published as a Letter of Acceptances and Returns (LoAR), which is mailed to everyone on a vast mailing list, including Ealdormere's **Green Mantle** Herald and **Seebblatt** Pursuivant. **Seebblatt** notifies individual submitters of the result by email, and then posts newly registered items to Kingdom general and heraldry Facebook pages.

Do you have a question for the **Green Mantle** about the names and armoury submission process?  
Send your questions to: [green.mantle.herald@gmail.com](mailto:green.mantle.herald@gmail.com)

## Designing a Medieval Name

Magistra Nicolaa de Bracton, Bucina Herald



Choosing a name is usually one of the first things a new member does upon joining the SCA. As a pursuivant, you may be called upon to assist in this process, particularly since registering a name is a requirement to register arms. However, you may know nothing about historical medieval names. What can you do?

Start by encouraging the new member not to rush things. Some people come into the Society knowing exactly what area and culture they would like to focus on. Most do not. A very common mistake is to fall in love with a particular name, only to discover it does not fit with the chosen culture or time period. We understand the tendency to want to pick a name quickly in order to “fit in” to the SCA. You may wish to encourage the gentle to pick a name with variants or related names in many cultures, perhaps in English to start with, along with their group name. For instance, someone who starts off as Jane of Skeldergate could eventually change her name to Joanna, Juana, Johanna, or Jeanne with a surname or nickname to match the chosen culture. (It’s also OK to keep the SCA group name, although the resulting names are usually more medieval-ish than truly period). It is also worthwhile to encourage people not to use their modern given name if it is obviously not medieval—even though these names can be registered via the “modern legal name” allowance.

Once the member has settled on a culture to focus on, encourage selection of given name that is appropriate to that culture. Remember that just because a name is popular or known in the 21st century descendant of that culture, a chosen name might not be period. This is why baby-name books are never suggested as a good source for historical names.

A second caveat: just as given names have evolved considerably since 1600, so have name forms. For instance, the practice of multiple given names, so

common in modern North American culture, is comparatively uncommon in the Middle Ages and Renaissance. There are a few Western cultures with these names (mostly late-period Spain and Italy), and other cultures where multiple names were common, but in a different format than modern Western given names (for instance, Welsh names sometimes included multiple patronymics so that the name would show the line of descent, including father, grandfather, etc. Arabic names might include multiple nicknames). Many people joined the SCA wishing to have a name consisting of multiple first names that they like—but from a period standpoint, this is not documentable. Most of these gentles eventually revert to a single name that everyone calls them, anyway, and the extra names fall by the wayside.

Made-up names, names from fantasy books, and the like should be discouraged. It is not as well known, however, that names from period literature should be approached with caution. Names of gods and goddesses and those of mythological creatures, such as faeries, were often not used as names for humans. The same goes for some names used only in medieval stories, legends, and romances. Just because there were stories told of King Arthur and the Round Table in the 12th century does not mean that the names to be found in those stories are necessarily good 12th-century names. This also applies to Biblical names and the names of saints. While both were used in period, there was often a great deal of regional and cultural variation. This does not mean any of these names were definitely NOT used—just to check historical records of what people were actually named, rather than literature, if accuracy for a particular period is key to the submitter. And even then—be careful. Even history books may standardize spellings of names of historical figures.

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Assuming a given name has been chosen, what next? Most medieval names consisted of a given

name and some sort of byname. Depending on the culture, the byname could be geographical (John of Gaunt, Jeanne d'Arc), occupational (Robert the Smith or Robert Smith, Geoffrey Fletcher), or descriptive (Eric the Red, Robert Grosseteste (Robert Big Head)). These names did not originally start off as inherited surnames, but gradually evolved in that direction. In England the change took place from about the 12th to the late 14th century. There were also patronymics, which designate the person as "son of" or "daughter of" a person (e.g. Ragnarr Ericsson, Dafydd ap Gruffydd). Many of these persisted much later into our period, and some are used to this day. The Irish and Scottish surnames that today start with "O" and "Mac" originally started as patronymics and gradually evolved into clan and family names.

When choosing a byname, it should not be assumed that just any combination of modern English words will do. This is where working with an experienced names herald can be very helpful. While a name such as "Mary of the Whispering Silver Seas" would almost certainly never existed in the Middle Ages, an experienced herald may be able to help find a byname appropriate to a chosen culture that approximates the same meaning. And there are some words that simply did not exist in the Middle Ages or do not fit the medieval standards for nicknames. Certainly we know, for instance, of historical people being described as "hot-headed," but not as a "procrastinator." (If the language is English, the Oxford English Dictionary can often determine whether a particular term was used in period or not.)

Medieval names did not normally mix cultures. If a person moved from one country to another, they generally either changed the whole name, or none of it. If a child was born to parents of mixed heritage,

he or she usually was named based on the customs of where he or she was actually born. Society rules allow some mixing of cultures in registered names, so long as the two cultures had contact during the time period being requested for the name—but it should not be assumed this practice will result in a truly historical name.

Remember, languages change over time. Middle French is quite different than Modern French. Old English (or Anglo-Saxon) looks very little like Modern English. It's best to try to keep names consistent to one time period, rather than mixing.

I have not addressed in this article the idea of "stunt documentation" of names. This practice certainly exists (there are lots of things one can document using, for instance, the rule for 16th-century English names that surnames were sometimes used as given names), but if the client is looking for a medieval name truly appropriate to a particular period or culture, it's best to avoid stunt documentation. If the sound of the name is more important to the client than these factors, however, grab your trapeze and document away!

A lot of good medieval naming practices boil down to three basic rules:

- 1) Keep it simple,
- 2) Keep it consistent, and
- 3) Keep it plausible.

For the pursuivant, don't be afraid to ask for help when assisting a client with name construction. You are not expected to be an expert—but you can be of great assistance to your clients by pointing them towards good sources or helping them to locate others who can help with intricacies of language, changes over time, or specific requests.

### Some good names resources

[The SCA College of Herald's name resources page.](#)

[The Academy of St. Gabriel's Medieval Names Archive](#)'s bibliography of good sources for bynames.

[FamilySearch](#) is a helpful source for documenting later-period names. To learn how to use it, see [this article](#).

Facebook's [SCA Heraldry Chat](#) group is also an incredible resource -- many of our most proficient onomastics (names) heralds regularly participate and are willing to assist.

[Ealdormere Heraldry Chat](#) (unofficial) page for heraldic discussion within the Kingdom.

## Event Heraldry

### Baron Percival, Purple Mantle Herald

This article is aimed mostly at local pursuivants, event autocrats, and their staff. Every SCA event has a need for heralds to do a variety of jobs, from shouting announcements, calling out the combatants on a list or heralding the courts of Their Majesties and Excellencies. Who are these heralds, where do they come from, and how can you get them to help you run your event? Sit back and read on, and you will learn exactly how this should be done, and who should be doing it.

**Responsibility:** Whose makes sure these heralds attend and know what to do?

Like all other aspects of YOUR event, it is the responsibility of the local group running the event to provide heralds for all aspects of the event. It is your event and you and the event staff must make sure the event goes smoothly and is a financial success and enjoyable for all those in attendance. Too many groups expect the event heraldry to just happen. Yes *the College of Heraldry* is the support you draw on to get the job done, but the group organizing the event must make some plans first. However, Coronations & Crown Tournaments are special cases, and some heraldic needs of these are already looked after. However, you should still be checking to make sure this is properly done so your event won't fail to be enjoyable to those attending or cost your group money.

The local pursuivant or autocrat should appoint someone to oversee the voice heraldry needs of the event, including announcements (schedule changes, lost kids, event happenings, etc.), list heraldry for tournaments, and court. It is the local group's responsibility to ensure court has been looked after. This does *not* mean the local pursuivant or person appointed has to do it all, but they must ensure that it does get done. This also does *not* mean scanning the crowd and going "Aha--a herald. Here! Make these announcements for us." Make sure an event heralds have been assigned and know their duties well in advance.

*Without a warranted herald, any court business will not be legal under SCA rules.*

It has happened before. Determine the heraldic needs for your event well in advance. You can recruit heralds for the day, or ask *the College* for help. This includes any announcement needs (shouting the halls), list heralds (for the various marshalled activities), and courts to be held. This may require several bodies, depending on the size of the event and numbers of activities planned. Most heralds attending your event are more than willing to help out, but may have other duties, or may be trying to save their voices for court later in the day. They have paid to enjoy the event, not help run things that are poorly planned.

Here are the basic heraldic areas to consider for your event:

**A Heraldic Coordinator for your event:** Plans all of the heraldic needs in advance, and coordinates them at the event.

This person does not have to be a warranted herald, or even have any specific heraldic skills. They should, however, have a good understanding of your event's heraldic needs, and develop a plan to meet them. This person coordinates all the above roles to ensure they're in place and doing their jobs at the right time. Have back-ups handy, in case of unexpected contingencies where they're needed. Be flexible and prepared make changes or step in yourself if elements fail to materialize as planned. Contact *the College* with heraldic needs and requests to help you fill any these roles. Stay on top of things the day of the event to make sure all the pieces are in place and needed heralds are doing their jobs. Contact any member of *the College* with any last-minute needs or emergencies, but keep in mind not every herald is a voice herald, so they may point you to someone else for the assistance you require.

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**General Announcements/Voice Heralds:** One or more persons should be assigned to be the day's PA system.

Large halls or outdoor events may need multiple people to cover the whole area quickly and efficiently. These might not be warranted heralds, but must have clear, loud voices. They should be clearly identified with a herald's tabard or baldric, and have a place set up to handle requests for announcements. One of the first announcements should be to notify the populace of their presence, and how to find them, with the expectation that other staff and heralds will help locate your voice heralds. Your event's voice heralds should be kept free of other tasks/activities so they are available throughout the event.

**List Heralds:** As many as needed for tournaments.

**List Heralds:** As many as needed for tournaments. Crown Tournaments fall to the Kingdom Principal Heralds and their staff, but you should still touch base to ensure they are, in fact, doing their jobs, or to offer your support. Have as many as you think it will take, plus a couple of spares to rotate in and out. List heralds do not have to be warranted, but should work closely with the marshals and have clear, loud voices and some familiarity with the rules and dangers of working in close proximity to fighters or other martial activities. Consider having one experienced herald coordinate and instruct the others for larger tournaments. List heralds should be identified by a tabard/baldric. It's also a good idea to have a herald's staff in the lists, should the need arise to protect oneself from an errant blow or falling fighter.

**Court Heralds:** Ensures that court heraldry needs are looked after.

Early on, contact the Royalty/Landed Nobles or their staff to determine if they are attending, and plan on holding court. Ask if they have someone heralding court, and who the event herald will be, or if they expect your local group to provide someone. Contact the event herald well in advance and to ensure you coordinate all the event's heraldic needs. Be prepared for a worst-case scenario, and

have someone who can step in, should the court herald not show up.

**Consulting/Submissions Heraldry:** Consulting and submissions tables at events should be encouraged and staffed when possible.

Heraldic submissions are regulated by the *Ealdormere College of Heralds (ECoH)*. If your group wishes to have a consult table, this MUST be coordinated through *the College*. Efforts should be made to staff consulting tables with experienced heralds in both name and armoury. *The College* should provide staff the table with people who are familiar with names and armoury and have the necessary materials and resources to organize a consult table for your event.

**Display & Heraldic Decorations:** Heraldic displays and banners can go a long way to help make event locations a little more "period" in appearance.

Contact *the College* for ideas and suggestions on how this can be done. If your group has no banners, flags or other decorations, etc., you should do this well in advance of your event, so you have time to either create some or find out whom to ask to borrow some. Encourage your guests to bring items of their own heraldic displays and presences to make the hall look more period, and announce their presence at the event.

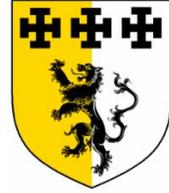
**The bottom line:** Plan Your event well in advance, and call upon the people you need to help you achieve your goals

The *Ealdormere College of Heralds* is a resource that helps you meet event's heraldic needs. Heralds are in service to the Kingdom and its people, but we do not want to people who are always at events to burn out and begin to avoid events because they are constantly having members of the populace or event staff asking them step in and to do what should be a pre-planned and assigned job. Emergencies do happen, but if there is a proper plan and you're prepared for contingencies, even unexpected things should be no more than minor bumps on the road to a well-run event.

*Readers with further questions about how to make heraldry run smoothly at their events may contact Baron Percival at [msamsquanchherald@gmail.com](mailto:msamsquanchherald@gmail.com).*

## Ealdormere Heraldic & Scribal Symposium

### Lord Dietrich von Sachsen



On the eight day of April, A.S. 51, Ealdormere held it's first-ever Kingdom-wide **Heraldic and Scribal Symposium**. The event was paid for entirely by our hosts, the Canton of Bryniau Tywynnog, In addition to being entirely free to attend, it was a wonderful day of learning, teaching, and generally rejoicing in our shared love of all things Heraldic and Scribal. Despite a heavy cold and being hopped up on enough cold medicine to sedate a bull elephant, I enjoyed a day devoted to this wonderful part of our game, which included a free lunch provided by The Crusty Tart (mmm... chili).

In addition to numerous talented teachers from our own realms, we were also graced with the presence of a number of out-of-kingdom guests. THLady Arwyn of Leicester, a former Ealdormerian and Trillium Herald Emeritus, is now living amongst the Avacalian barbarian nobility. She taught classes on Core Heraldic Rules and Commentary. Master Bruce Draconarius from Caid maintains the wonderful site [mistholme.com](http://mistholme.com); he showed us how he creates images used for his pictorial dictionary of heraldic charges out of stick figures. Other heraldic classes included "Digital Wizardry", taught by yours truly, about how his techniques and resources for creating digital artwork; Heraldic Display, taught by Master Percival, **Purple Mantle** Herald; and a pronunciation clinic, ran by THLady Roselyne de l'Estrangere, going over the ins-and-outs of Middle English, Latin, and Latin-derived languages. Further classes on Consultations, Submissions, Court Planning, creating Peerage Ceremonies, and more than I can reasonable list here were taught by the skill of such luminaries as Master Brand, then-Duchess Rylyn, Magistra Nicolaa, and THLady Sciath, among others.

THLady Arwyn also ran an elaborate game of Heraldic Jeopardy!™, testing several worthy gentles on their knowledge of heraldic charges, core rules, blazonry, and more. I am pleased to report that much fun was had by all, even if a certain Dietrich fellow did tend to dominate the board perhaps more than is seemly.

On the scribal side of things, I was regretfully unable to report back on much of the doings there, as I didn't find much time to attend, but these classes were greeted with much enthusiasm. I was able to attend THLady Sciath's class on Repairing Wounded Scrolls, which not only was therapeutic – all coming together to grumble over our mistakes – but we all learned techniques that were done in period... so much so that many of us left hoping for a mistake so that we might be able to use them! (My particular favourite was the VACU system, where scribes would write VA at the start of a section of text, and CU at the end, which was scribal shorthand for "ignore all this text".) Other classes included Scroll Layouts taught by Lady Caoilfhionn nic Dairmid; Persian Illumination and Calligraphy by the very talented THLady Merewyn; and an all-day Scribal Workshop, to name but a sampling.

Penda and Sybilla, their now-retired Excellencies of Ramshaven, graced the event with both their appearance and a short court, awarding Mistress Asa Gormsdottir and myself with a Guidon d'Or, the second-highest award in Ramshaven.

In sum, it was a wonderful event. I hope it happens again soon, and that I'm not so incredibly unwell next time!

### The Ealdormere Book of the Court

Ealdormere's book of ceremonies, customs, and protocols

[http://www.ealdormere.ca/uploads/2/4/1/5/24151324/ealdormere\\_book\\_of\\_the\\_court.pdf](http://www.ealdormere.ca/uploads/2/4/1/5/24151324/ealdormere_book_of_the_court.pdf)