Letter of Registration and Return

January – 2010

Anno Adrianis 23

Greetings unto the populace of the Adrian Empire!

The past two months have seen quite a lot of heraldic activity! There has been much progress towards increasing the presence of heraldry at Adrian events. For that a hearty huzzah to you!
Now that the dust is settling, I can begin to report on the activities which take place during my term in office.

During **November** we returned four proposals, released twenty one obsolete grants of arms, protected the flag of Alhambra, transferred two devices and registered nineteen new grants of arms!

Reports were received in **NOVEMBER** from the following subdivisions:
· Albion
· Bisqaia
· Brunico
· Connacht
· Cyprus
· El Dorado
· Esperance
· Roanoke
· Somerset
· Tyr~Lynn
· Umbria

Reports were NOT received in **NOVEMBER** from the following subdivisions:
· **Alhambra**
· **Brandenburg**
· **Cambridge**
· **Cashel**
· **Castilles**
· **Chesapeak**
· **Constantinople**
· **Gloucester**
· **Kincora**
· **Midean**
· **New Exeter**
· **Pembroke**
· **Templemor**
· **Terre Neuve**
· **York**

The College of Arms recommends withholding the monthly ministry point for ministers of arms that fail to comply with the requirement of filing a monthly report.

We began the process of correcting items that had been recorded in error both in the ordinary and on the online armorial.

New policies were introduced governing:
✓ a moratorium on processing proposals during the months of October and November
✓ matriculation and transfer of existing arms between subdivisions and individuals

Rulings were handed down governing:
✓ the "Striking" posture of Avian charges
✓ use of the special field divisions called the "Chausse" and the "Chape"

The proposal form was updated to allow more room for blazons (a welcome change!) and we restated the requirement that forms must be completely filled out to avoid return.

New policy was introduced which gave BeltAzure authority over monthly reporting and took the burden of that paperwork away from the regional deputy imperial sovereigns of arms. The regional deputies now focus solely on the grant of arms proposal process which helps streamline things a great deal.

November was quite a busy month!

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Remember, the grant of arms proposal form has been updated. Please start using the new on as soon as possible. The old forms sunset sixty(60) days after the date of publication, which was December 15th. The old forms will no longer be accepted after February 15th.

At present, plans are moving forward for the great heraldic competition between the subdivisions at banner war. I have heard from several ministers of arms on the subject and there is a lot of interest.

Attention Kingdoms: I have it on good authority that York intends to win the competition! (Sounds like a challenge to me!)

This is a great opportunity to increase the visibility of our organization. Let's get that heraldry flying high!

I have been asked about subdivisions which are the sole occupant of a given class (such as an archduchy) and if they are "Default" winners of there class. Nope.
When a sergeant's list fighter is the only one on his or her list and they still want to play, they bump up to the knights list. The same holds true here.
A class with only one occupant will bump up to the next higher class. So, if Kincora is the only archduchy, they bump up to the kingdom list.

In Service,

Sir Coda der Sohn des DrachenViggo von Seiken Lord Rammstein
Wappenkönig von Adria

Released

Alhambra

Alhambra – Estate of
Device; (Skidbladnir - barony of)
"Azure, a lymphad Argent."
Badge; (Skidbladnir - barony of)
"[Fieldless] A lymphad Argent."

Device; (Iberia - county of)
"Lozengy Argent and Purpure, a griffin passant and three quatrefoils in chief Or."

Device; (Payne - house of)
"Argent, a grenade Sable enflamed Proper."

Device; (Medici - house of)
"Per saltire Azure and Gules, an estoile Or."

Device; (Solstice - house of)
"Sable, an oak tree eradicated Or."
Badge; (Solstice - house of)
"[Fieldless] An acorn slipped and leaved Or."

Device; (Vastkoping - house of)
"Azure, a roundel pierced and in chief three lymphads Argent."

Personal Device; (Idunna Meri Rigmore - chivalric estate)
"Per chevron inverted Vert and Purpure, two bears combatant Or."

Personal Device; (Mary Elizabeth Beckett - chivalric estate)
"Per saltire Vert and Gules, a unicorn rampant within a bordure Argent."

Device; (Nathaniel of Ceder Stream - chivalric estate)
"Or, a chevron between two acorns inverted slipped and leaved Vert and a squirrel sejant erect contourne Sable."

Device; (Orga Mac Tire - estate of)
"Gules, between two wolves combatant a pheon Or."

Device; (Fein na An Darrach - house of)

"Per pale Or and Vert, a harp Counterchanged."

Device; (Guent - canton of)
"Vert, a stag rampant Argent."

Hamburg, Robert
Personal Device; Aka: Phaelan ap Aur Derwen
"Sable, a stag trippant Or."
Personal Badge: Aka: Phaelan ap Aur Derwen
"Or, a chevron Sable."

Frey, Ruth
Personal Device; Aka: Ruth Freebourne
"Per chevron Sable and Vert, two fish naiant and a rose Argent."
Personal Badge; Aka Ruth Freebourne:
"Vert, an enfield passant Argent."

Leib, Rebekah
Personal Device; Aka: Amalthea Mac Lorian of Skye
"Azure, a falcon striking and on a chief Argent three crescents Azure."

Personal Badge; Aka Amalthea Mac Lorian of Skye

"Per pale Argent and Azure, a lion rampant queue-forchée Azure."

McDormott, Anna
Personal Device; Aka: Anna Jorgensdotter of Wharram Kolbe

"Azure, a lion rampant contourne Argent."

Hordemann, Brian
Personal Device; Aka: Brin Eselschrei

"Argent, a saltire Sable surmounted by a wolf's head erased Or."

Barber, Cliff
Personal Device; Aka: Cassio Borgia
"Sable, a unicorn's head erased and in chief three roses Argent."

Cooley, Kelly
Personal Device; Aka: Duncan McCloud
"Per pale Gules and Sable, a dragon salient countourne Or"

Zambino, Debra
Personal Device; Aka: Saga Silverstrom
"Azure, on a bend Argent between two harps Or a vine Vert."

Dial, Wade
Personal Device; Aka: Trahern Farrall Price
"Azure, a griffin passant Or."

Brandenburg

Dobro, Chester / Griffon, Coranth
Personal Device; Aka: Rohan e'Nafarr
"Vert, an opinicus sejant contourne dexter forepaw raised Or and on a chief enarched Sable in sinister a mullet Argent."

Personal Badge; Aka: Rohan e'Nafarr
"Per pale Vert and Sable, an opinicus sejant contourne dexter forepaw raised Or."

Personal Badge; Aka: Rohan e'Nafarr
"Per pale Vert and Sable, four lozenges conjoined in cross within an annulet Argent."

Personal Badge; Aka: Rohan e'Nafarr
"Per pale Vert and Sable, a mullet of seven points conjoined within an annulet Argent."

Personal Badge; Aka: Rohan e'Nafarr
"[Fieldless] A pall Sable surmounted by a pall inverted Vert and over all a mullet of seven points Argent."

Andorra (Defunct)

Andorra – Estate of
Badge; (Crimson Caltrop - order of)
"[Fieldless] A caltrop Gules."

Badge; (Golden Caltrop- order of)
"[Fieldless] A caltrop Or."

Badge; (Silver Caltrop- order of)
"[Fieldless] A caltrop argent."

Badge; (Andorra - See of)
"Per pale Sable and Gules, a fleur-de-lis Argent between three caltrops Or."

Device; (de la'Reve - house of)
"Sable, a lion's jambe couped Or."

Device; (La Reve - barony of)
"Sable, on a bend Gules three lions salient Or."

Device; (Andorra La Vella - canton of)
"Gules, a cross moline between three crowns Or."

The following are of unknown Surname, FirstnameMI
Personal Device; Aka: Blaez Gravenor
"Or, two lions combatant and on a chief Sable three pairs of wings conjoined Or."

Personal Device; Aka: Estrelita Maria de La Reve

"Per bend Gules and Sable, a talbot sejant between in bend sinister two mullets of eight points Or."

Personal Device; Aka: Fayette Elise de La Reve
"Gules, on a bend Argent three ravens close Sable."

Personal Device; Aka: Jaquell de La Reve
"Per pale Vert and Argent, a chatloup passant Counterchanged."

Personal Device; Aka: Jean Phillipe Gastogne
"Or, five spur rowels in cross Sable and in base a crescent Gules."

Personal Device; Aka: Marcan O'Righney
"Per fess embattled Azure and Argent, two triquetras Or and a shamrock bendwise sinister Vert."

Personal Device; Aka: St. Ignatious
"Azure, two bars wavy Argent surmounted by a sun in splendor between three escallops Or."

Dun Afton (Defunct)

Dun Afton - Estate of

Device; (Dun Afton - Shire of)

"Azure, on a mound with three peaks Argent beneath seven mullets of eight points in chevron a sword inverted Azure."

Device; (North Star - barony of)

"Gules, a mullet of eight points between for pheons in cross Or."

Device; (Rose d'Or - house of)

"Quarterly Vert and Azure, a cross throughout and in one and four a rose Or."

Unknown Surname, FirstnameMI

Personal Device; Aka: Anna Westmore MacKenzie

"Per saltire Gules and Sable, four mullets of eight points in cross Or."

Personal Device; Aka: Donail Ian MacKenzie

"Azure, five mullets in chevron between two scrolls Argent each charged with a harp Azure and in base a sword inverted Argent."

Sangreal (Defunct)

Sangreal - Estate of
Device; (Sangreal - Duchy of)
"Per bend sinister Purpure and Vert, a stag trippant Argent and in chief a crown vallary Or."

Device; (Sangreal - Duchy of) Bawnderinish - barony of
"Sable, a sword bendwise sinister Proper between in bend a latin cross moline Or and an oak tree Argent."

Badge; (Sangreal - Duchy of) Archery award
"Per bend sinister Or and Vert, a drawn bow Proper stringed and armed Argent."

Badge; (Sangreal - Duchy of) Bawnderinish - clan of
"Vert, an oak tree couped Argent within a bordure Or."

Device; (Sangreal - Duchy of) Bri- house of
"Vert, a latin cross moline Or between in chevron inverted three oak trees Argent."

Device; (Sangreal - Duchy of) Claidheamn- house of
"Azure, a dragon displayed reguardant Argent entwined about a sword Sable."

Device; (Sangreal - Duchy of) Fealough- house of
"Or, an annulet Azure."

Device; (Sangreal - Duchy of) MacDonald- house of
"Argent, three thistles slipped and knotted as in quatrefoil Vert tufted Azure."

Returned

Albion

Albion – Estate of

Estate Device; (Firestorm – house of)

Reason(s) for return: No signature on form.

Recommendation:
The Minister of Arms failed to ensure that the form was correctly filled out and signed. Completely fill out a proposal form and resubmit.

Barker, Kluane B.

Aka Antonia Lopez

Reason(s) for return: No signature on form.

Recommendation:
The Minister of Arms failed to ensure that the form was correctly filled out and signed. Completely fill out a proposal form and resubmit.

Krueger, C.J.

Aka Artemia Wartongue

Reason(s) for return: No signature on form.

Recommendation:
The Minister of Arms failed to ensure that the form was correctly filled out and signed. Completely fill out a proposal form and resubmit.

Stanfill, Rick Jr.

Aka Allistair cu Chlainn Halliday

Reason(s) for return: Presumptive. See pages 16 and 17 of the 2009 manual. Although there are three points of difference (tincture changes) between the device on this proposal and the mundane arms of Walter Halliday, the proposal is disqualified for the following reasons; the persona surname of the presenter is identical to the surname of the mundane armiger (Halliday) and the configuration of charges on the mundane device and on the proposal are identical. Using a surname and charge configuration in this way is a form of pretense and is expressly disallowed under Adrian policy. See pretense and presumptive armory. Further, **as the minister of arms** of Albion, the presenter is required to be familiar with Adrian policy.

Recommendation:
 Submit a proposal that does not invoke or suggest familial relationship to known mundane arms.

Chesapeak

Chesapeak – Estate of

Estate Device; (Oak – house of)

Reason(s) for return: Conflict w/ Kincora; Estate Device Logi Av Frami - house of

"Or chapé-ployé, a torch enflamed Sable." Only 1 cd for tincture change of the chapé. No cd is granted for the line difference on the field division. The acorn charge is indistinct from the torch charge on the existing arms and so no cd may be granted even though the charges are different.

Recommendation:
To continue the theme of "House Oak", you might try using three acorns in chevron instead of the single acorn.

Somerset

Somerset – Estate of

Estate Badge; (Bee – order of)

Reason(s) for return: Conflict w/ Adrian Historic Arms; Estate Device Adria - kingdom of

Over all visual similarity. Though this proposal is fieldless, at a distance it is easily confused with the historic arms of Adria and is therefor disallowed. Further, the blazon does not match the emblazon. The bee is not in the volant posture. It is depicted as tergiant.

Estate Badge; (Couer de Lion - Estate of)

Reason(s) for return: Presumptive: Esperance; (Coeur de Leone - House of) *"Azure, a lion Or maintaining a heart Gules and a horses head erased Argent."*

Although the proposal is technically clear of the existing arms, under item IV.B.4 (page 16) of the manual, the combination of name and image is disallowed due to presumption.

Harless, Sara

Aka Estrn Ulfbjornsdottir

Reason(s) for return: Conflict: Alhambra - Conri O'Cairimhaic *"Gyronny Argent and Vert, a wolf rampant Sable."*

Charge group is only 1cd away from existing arms.

Recommendation: You might try changing the tincture of either the mascle or the shamrock.

Protected

Alhambra

Historic Devices; (Crown)

Alhambra – Duchy of

Hamish McKlaine

"Sable, on a bend Argent three caltrops Gules."

Amara Vai'Datha

"Quarterly Or and Gules, a mullet of eight points Counterchanged."

Mikcos Douglas

"Azure, two swords and a goblet within a bordure Or semy of celtic crosses Azure."

Cryspen de Trey Corbyn

"Argent, three corbyn one and two Sable."

E'Xavier de Normandy

"Sable, a sheaf of three thigh bones Argent."

Cryssida Blackwood

"Per pale Gules and Argent, two unicorn heads respectant Counterchanged."

Andorra (Defunct)

Historic Devices; (Estate)

Andorra – Archduchy of

"Per pale Sable and Gules, a caltrop Or."

Historic Devices; (Crown)

Andorra – Archduchy of

Auberon de la'Reve

"Or,on a bend between two fleurs-de-lis Sable three lion's heads caboshed palewise Or."

Angus of the Isle

"Vert, on a bend between two boars sejant Argent three trefoils Vert."

Isabeau de la'Reve

"Purpure, a spider between three bowen knots Or."

Carolingia (Defunct)

<u>Historic Devices; (Estate)</u>
Carolingia – Archduchy of
"Azure, a portcullis Or and a chief invected Argent."

Tierra del Fuego - Duchy of (Renamed to Carolingia)
"Argent, on a chevron Gules three martlets Argent."

<u>Historic Devices; (Crown)</u>
Carolingia – Archduchy of
Maude de Clayton
"Azure, three escallops inverted in chevron Argent."

Elizabeth Grey
"Azure, a chief potenty Or."

Karl von Katzburg (Worthy of Adria)
"Azure, a fret and a bordure Argent, overall a chief Ermine."

Kitara Kell LeGour deLey
"Per bend Vert and Azure, in bend sinister a sun and an acorn Argent."

Esperance

Historic Devices; (Estate)

Esperance – Kingdom of
"Purpure, a fleur-de-sion within a bordure embattled Or."

Historic Devices; (Crown)

Esperance – Kingdom of
Willow de Rara
"Per bend sinister Purpure and Azure, a bend sinister between a fleur-de-lis and a patriachal cross bottony Or."

Robert Lord Jehan Alexandre Chrysostom Antoine Michel de St. Albain Annecy von Hapsburg de Medici
"Azure, a chevron Erminois, in base a cross crosslet and in sinister chief a mullet of eight points Argent."

Katherin Marshall of London
"Per bend Azure and Gules a bend Argent between an open book and a gauntleted dexter hand raised in benediction Proper."

Talon Marcus
"Sable, a pheon Gules and a chief Gules fimbriated Argent."

Heather Fletcher
"Vert, an arrow and a needle in saltire Or within a bordure Sable."

Thomas FitzShokes Kingmaker Paciafex
"Gules, a wolf's head caboshed orbed Gules armed Argent maintaining in its teeth a rose Azure slipped and leaved Proper within an annulet of thorns Sable."

Aleta O'Barry van Hansard
"Gules, a cow statant guardant Argent marked Sable and in base upon a ribbon Argent the motto'Carpe Bovinum'."

Galadon Pendragon
"Sable, a double-headed eagle Argent."

Roselyn Pendragon de Glendorrin
"Sable, a crescent of laurel leaves bendwise Vert and over all issuant from sinister base a demi-dragon Gules."

Reilly Robert MacBelschky
"Sanguine, a nauga-beast Argent."

Elspeth O'Neill
"Vert, a celtic cross Or and on a chief Argent three harps Sable."

Vilhelm von Seiken
"Per pale Or and Argent, a dragon rampant contourne sinister wing extended as if in display tail nowed and in chief three latin crosses fitched at all points Azure."

Maedb Hawkins
"Sable, a cat in her curiosity Proper and on a chief Argent, a length of chain Azure."

Cromar Volfsblot
"Argent, a wolf's head caboshed sable orbed Or."

Connal O'Cearney
"Vert, a martlet volant within a bordure embattled Or."

Aifa the Rowan
"Argent, on a Pellet a wolf's head caboshed Argent within a bordure Sable."

Terrin Greyphis
"Per bend sinister Azure and Vert, a tower Argent."

Marion Leal Durius
"Vert, an oak tree eradicated and on a chief Or three acorns Proper."

Caspain Dunbar
"Per saltire Purpure and Vert, in chief a death's head and in base a goblet Or."

Razi Bint Sabra
"Sable, a catamount's head caboshed Or marked Sable orbed Vert and on a chief Argent three paw prints Sable."

Donavan Cadnawon
"Per pale Gules and Or, an eagle Counterchanged maintaining in chevron inverted an anchor Argent and a sword Azure."

Giulianna Elizabeta Veronica Johanna de Messina
"Per bend Argent and Gules, a bend between two roses Counterchanged."

Jamie the Red
"Sable, a dragon Gules and on a chief Argent a length of chain Gules."

Connor O'Riordain
"Per pale Gules and Argent, two wolves combatant between three latin crosses fitched at all points Counterchanged and in center chief a sheaf of arrows Proper flighted Counterchanged armed Or."

Sangreal (Defunct)

<u>Historic Devices; (Estate)</u>
Sangreal – Duchy of
"Per bend sinister Purpure and Vert, a bend Argent."

<u>Historic Devices; (Crown)</u>
Sangreal – Duchy of
Logan du Draconis
"Sable, two dragons combatant Argent."

Gwenllian Derwen
"Per bend sinister Vert and Argent, three crescents and three oak leaves Counterchanged."

Caspain Dunbar
"Per saltire Purpure and Vert, in pale a death's head and a tankard Or."

Isabeau Dionne
"Sable, a pale Gules surmounted by a wyvern displayed tail nowed all within a bordure rayonny Or."

Jamie MacDonald
"Per chevron checky Argent and Gules and Gules, a chevron Azure and an anchor Argent."

Roger Lamont
"Argent, a cross fitchy and a bordure Azure."

Matriculation and Transfer

Brunico

Hiemstra, Frances-anne
Aka Juliana of Aelfrethscoombe
From: Estate Device; Alhambra
To: Estate Device; Brunico
"Azure flaunched Or, a swan niant contourne wings addorsed Argent."

Hiemstra, Michael
Aka Mathe Brakkewinde
From: Estate Device; Alhambra
To: Estate Device; Brunico
"Vert, on a chevron Or a bear passant Sable."

Tyr-Lynn

Tyr-Lynn – Estate of

From: Estate Device; Alhambra, (der Bogenschutze– Estate minor, Haus of)
To: Estate Device; Tyr-Lynn, (der Bogenschutze– Estate minor, Haus of)
"Per chevron Azure and Vert, between three swords Or on a chevron Gules fimbriated five arrows inverted Argent."

From: Estate Badge; Alhambra, (der Bogenschutze– Estate minor, Haus of)
To: Estate Badge; Tyr-Lynn, (der Bogenschutze– Estate minor, Haus of)
"Gules, in saltire a sword Or and an arrow Argent."

Campbell Jr. David M.
Aka Armand Girard
From: Personal Device; Gloucester
To: Personal Device; Tyr-Lynn
"Azure, estoily Argent."

Foster-Roselius, Tara
Aka Fiona Roemer
From: Personal Device; Gloucester
To: Personal Device; Tyr-Lynn
"Quarterly Purpure and Gules, a fret Argent."

Roselius, Gina M.
Aka Felicia "The Bold" das Schwarz Brause
From: Personal Device; Gloucester
To: Personal Device; Tyr-Lynn
"Or, a mullet Azure within an orle of hearts Gules."

From: Personal Badge; Gloucester
To: Personal Badge; Tyr-Lynn
"[Fieldless]A heart Gules."

From: Personal Badge; Gloucester
To: Personal Badge; Tyr-Lynn
"Azure, a lozenge Or surmounted by a heart Gules."

Roselius, Paul B.
Aka Dorn das Schwarz Brause
From: Personal Device; Gloucester
To: Personal Device; Tyr-Lynn
"Or, in chevron three roses Sable within a bordure Embattled Gules."

From: Personal Badge; Gloucester
To: Personal Badge; Tyr-Lynn
"Gyronny of eight Sable and Or, an orle Gules."

New Registrations

Albion

Albion – Estate of

Estate Device; (Albion – Greater company de Mortis, Barony of)

"Quarterly Gules and Azure, two shacklebolts and chains in saltire surmounted by a death's head within a bordure all Argent."

Estate Device; (Albion – Desert Haven, canton of)

"Per chevron rayonny Azure and Or, in base a salamander couchant reguardant Gules."

Somerset

Somerset– Estate of

Estate Device; (Salamanca – estate, Barony of)

"Sable, a salamander Or enflamed Proper and in chief three arched building facades Argent."

Estate Device; (Walburga– estate, Barony of)

"Azure, three tankards and a chief embattled Argent.."

York

York – Estate of

Estate Badge; (York – Arms, Ministry of) **White Rose Sovereign of Arms**

"Gules, a demi-wyvern displayed Or conjoined to a rose Argent barbed and seeded Proper."

Rulings

SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION REGARDING THE HERALDRY MANUAL (2009):

§2.IX.G.11.A.1   *§2: Heraldic Design ~ IX: Charge Restriction ~ G: Charge Categories ~ 11: Monsters ~ A: Defined Charges*

The College of Arms shall recognize the following as an unrestricted defined charge:

Skull de Mortis

"A death's head jessant-de-lis of a criss sword"

The Skull de Mortis may be of any tincture and is depicted as a skull without a jawbone and lower teeth impaled by a criss sword. The skull and sword shall be treated as a single charge. The Skull de Mortis will conflict against all other skulls and death's heads of any type.

Policy

Regarding period sources and documentation

The College of Arms shall use the following guidelines when documenting sources for heraldic items. Thank you to Sir Jehan (Tyger Herald) for the text of this policy.

College of Arms policy on sources

The following consists of three parts: the policy, definitions and the explanation. The definitions and explanation are primarily from the point of view of heraldic research, not literary or other research.

Policy

Proof of use in period requires three independent, primary sources.

Definitions

Primary source:

The thing itself, existing since our time period

An exact and faithful reproduction of the thing itself, e.g. an unaltered photograph or a scan

Secondary source:

A description, explanation or discussion based on interaction with the primary source (N.B.: Depending on the purpose, even a photograph could be secondary or of no use at all; e.g. a photograph of a device is primary for content, possibly secondary for technique and tincture and of no value for equipment and materials used to paint.)

Tertiary source:

A compilation, description or discussion of secondary sources

Independent:

Not derivative from or relying on another source.

Examples:

The Wappenrolle von Zürich is an independent, primary source. If you have seen it personally or have a photographic reproduction of it, great, use it.

A work, even one in period, that copies a device from the Wappenrolle von Zürich is not independent because it relies on the Wappenrolle and so could not be used as a second source.

The device of a son of an armiger who simply puts a label on his father's Coat of Arms uses a derivative, so the source is not independent.
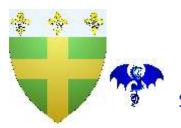
Explanation

There seems to be a lot of confusion about sources, reliability, etc. The following are some thoughts to keep in mind:

· We are talking about sources, not ability to understand and interpret them. I may not understand its purpose, but if I visit Stonehenge I am looking at a primary source. I may not be able to read Medieval Latin, but if I have the Decretals of Gregory IX I am looking at a primary source.

· Primary sources often need to be interpreted, and most of us are not qualified to interpret them without help. Secondary sources help us know what we are looking at. For example, in the Grosse Heidelberger Liederhandschrift there are illustrations of the poets whose works are included in the manuscript. Each person has a Coat of Arms. Without some guidance I might not realize that some of these devices are later, in-period creations and not the ones used by these people or know which are which. Or, without help I might not realize that some of the fields and charges that look black are actually silver that has tarnished. Both blazons and emblazons are important: colors fade and change over time.

· Tertiary sources can be useful, particularly in helping us know where to look for information. By gathering the names and locations of sources into one place, a tertiary source can save you a lot of time. By synthesizing what others have written on a subject a tertiary source can give you a very valuable overview of the topic.

· Not every "source" is equally reliable. There are people who write about things outside their field of expertise and don't do sufficient research to get it right; there are people who simply write fantasy disguised as history; there are people who have an agenda and deliberately write false things to support their ideas or position. There are also people who do meticulous work and present reliable information. We need to be able to distinguish which is which. It isn't always easy.

· The medium by which the information is presented has nothing to do with its reliability. Internet sources can be just as reliable as a book, and a book can be totally unreliable. However, be very wary of open-source Internet sites like Wikipedia. Their strength is also their weakness: anyone can post. Your vacation photo of Glastonbury Abbey is a primary source – but you need to note when and where taken and by whom.

· Here are some guidelines for evaluating how reliable a source might be.

· Is the listed publisher reliable? Publications by universities are usually very reliable because of the requirements to publish. For example, the University of Heidelberg has online access to pages from the Grosse Heidelberger Liederhandschrift. Since this is a globally recognized research institution and the manuscript is in their library, the source is very reliable. Oxford University Press, Cambridge University Press, UC Press, etc. are reliable book publishers. Be wary of books from a "vanity press" or popular press, as well as web pages with sites such as tripod in their URL. While these perhaps, possibly might be reliable, the likelihood is much less.

· Is the author or editor reliable? A known authority in a field is highly reliable. For example anything on Martin Luther by Roland Bainton can be accepted without question because he was the recognized authority on Luther during his lifetime. Other than the fact that his scholarship was impeccable, writings on another subject would not be as reliable. Isaac Asimov writes in a number of fields. Is he equally reliable in all of them? (I doubt it.)

· Is the information in line with what others say? This means that you have to read more than one book, magazine article, or web page so you have an idea what people are saying on the subject.

· Is the information in line with what you already know? This assumes that you already have some

knowledge. When you're just starting out, this shouldn't play a large role because you just don't know much.

· Does the information make sense; is it logical? Don't simply accept everything someone says, even an expert. Sometimes people want to make a point so badly that they draw conclusions that are unwarranted without realizing it. (And sometimes they know it)

· Does the author point you to primary sources? If so, you need to check them out. Recently I received e-mail about how the government is trying to take away certain rights. The e-mail cited Snopes (a well-known investigator of e-mail hoaxes) and House Resolution and Senate Bill numbers. Apparently, the author of this e-mail expected everyone to accept the reliability of the message without checking the "sources". When I went to the sites mentioned I learned that the e-mail was in fact a hoax and the information in it only partially true – and the conclusions therefore fully false.

While it would be easier have a list of "good" and "bad" media, authors or publishers, life isn't that neat. We have to use our common sense and knowledge when doing research. We in the College of Arms hope that this policy and explanation will help you evaluate and categorize whatever sources you may have available.

Yours in Service,

Sir Coda der Sohn des DrachenViggo von Seiken

Wappenkönig von Adria

Fleur-de-Lis King of Arms