

LETTER OF REGISTRATION AND  
RETURN  
MARCH 2014

Unto Their Imperial Majesties, and to all unto these letters come do I, Baron Sebastian Javier de la Cruz, Imperial Sovereign of Arms, send greetings.

This is the Official Letter of Registration and Return for the month of March, 2014.

Reports were received from the following chapters:

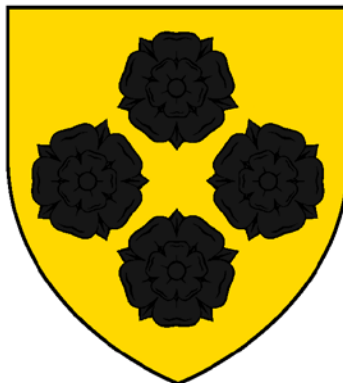
Albion, Altland, Auroch's Fjord, Brunico, Cashel, Connacht, Constantinople, Drachetor, Esperance, Malta, Mann Abhainn, Monaco, Somerset, Stirling, Terre Neuve, Tyr-Lynn, Wolfendorf, York

The following chapters did not send in reports:

Bisqaia, Brandenburg, Caer Leon, Chesapeake, Cyprus, Gloucester, Isle of Crete, Murrisk, Pembroke, Raven's Fjord, Roanoke, Thinaria, Umbria

Last month, I was saddened to report the passing of members of the Adrian Empire. However, this month I get the honor of elevating one of these men. Sir Dances in Shadows, late of the Kingdom of Umbria, has had his virtues and honors recounted to me by knights from across the Empire. Though I never got the honor of meeting him, his deeds and chivalrous acts shall live on in the memory of all who counted him as a friend.

A proclamation has been published, and sent to the Kingdom of Umbria to be read to their populace by Their Royal Majesties. **With the publication of this Letter of Registration and Return, I do hereby confirm the elevation of Sir Dances in Shadows, late of the Kingdom of Umbria, to the Order of the Worthy.**



His arms, being "Or, four roses in cross Sable," shall forever more be protected and honored as Worthy, be displayed in his honor and memory, and be borne on the field of honor by those who have not yet attained their own rights as an armiger.

To be elevated to the Order of the Worthy is a high honor. And though Sir Dances in Shadows may not be with us in person, his spirit and memory shall remain with the Empire for all time.

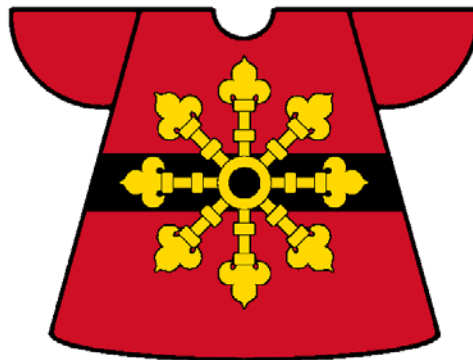
On a different note, in the past few months there has been quite a discussion among the College of Arms on the practice of placing a knight's vassals in the heraldry and livery of that knight. In some areas of the Empire, the practice has been for third-level knights to place their squires, men-at-arms, ladies-in-waiting, or pages in a tabbard that depicts the full arms of the knight.

The question was raised as to how period appropriate this practice is, and as to whether or not it could cause confusion, especially in a combat scenario. To that end, I have been working with the members of the College of Arms to establish a guideline for how knights can display their heraldry upon their vassals in a more period, though not perfectly period, manner.

To that end, the following list is presented to the Adrian Empire on ways in which a knight, should they choose to do so, can adorn their vassals in their heraldry. These are guidelines and recommendations, not rules and policies of the College of Arms. In the end, it is up to each individual knight to follow these guidelines as he or she deems fit. However, it is strongly suggested, for those who wish to maintain a level of period display, and for those who wish to be able to alter that display commensurate with their rank, to follow these guidelines.

- ✦ **First-Level Knights** – First-level knights are suggested to adorn their vassals with one of their personal badges, either on a vassal's belt, as a personal favor to be worn or carried, or upon a tunic, tabbard, or dress.
- ✦ **Second-Level Knights** – In addition to the knight's badge, second-level knights often adorn their vassals with a tabbard, tunic, or dress in the knight's livery colors. Livery colors do not have to be taken from the knight's personal arms, nor do they have to be heraldic colors. If a knight uses Black and Green in his or her arms, it is still perfectly appropriate to use White and Pink as the livery colors. Livery colors, usually two, are the personal choice of the knight.
- ✦ **Third-Level Knights** – In addition to the knight's badge, third-level knights may choose to adorn their vassals with a tabbard, tunic, or dress emblazoned with the knight's full arms. If this is done, it is highly recommended for the knight to differentiate the arms seen on him or herself from the arms seen on the vassal by use of a mark of cadency (see next page) on the latter.

For example, say that the third-level knight uses “Gules, a fess Sable and overall an escarbuncle Or” as his or her arms. This knight may wish to make the following as a tabbard for themselves:

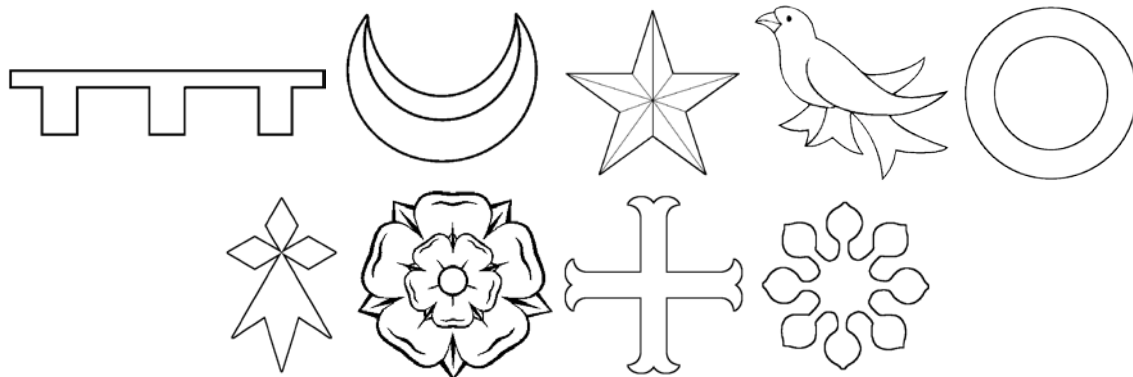


If this knight chooses to take a squire, or multiple squires, he or she may choose to make tabbards for those squires. For the first squire taken in to service, the tabbard could be augmented with a label (left); for the second, a crescent (middle); and for the third, a mullet (left).



The system of cadency being recommended for us is based upon the English system, with one alteration. In the English system of cadency, a sixth heir would have a fleur-de-lis as a mark of cadency. However, since there is no color restrictions on marks of cadency (use any color so long as it is high contrast to the arms), we could end up with gold or silver fleur-de-lis. Since those are restricted charges in the Empire, the Adrian system will utilize an ermine spot instead of a fleur-de-lis.

On the top of the next page, you will see the full system of cadency for use in the Adrian Empire. These include a label (1<sup>st</sup> vassal), a crescent (2<sup>nd</sup>), a mullet (3<sup>rd</sup>), a martlet (4<sup>th</sup>), an annulet (5<sup>th</sup>), an ermine spot (6<sup>th</sup>), a rose (7<sup>th</sup>), a moline cross (8<sup>th</sup>), and a double quatrefoil (9<sup>th</sup>).



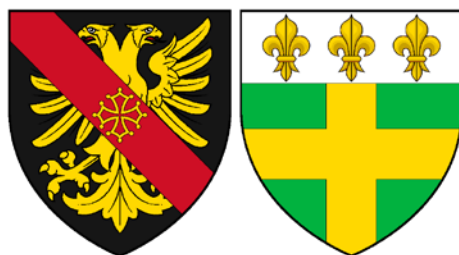
Though the guidelines on how to adorn a vassal are just that, guidelines, if marks of cadency are used in the Empire, please use the ones identified above. This will help all members of the Empire to identify vassals, to whom they are in service, and how many vassals the knight has.

Finally, please take a look at the article prepared by the Beltazure Queen of Arms this month. The topic is canting, and is well worth a read.

In Service to the Empire,

**BARON SEBASTIAN JAVIER DE LA CRUZ**

**BARON IMPERIAL & ROYAL  
IMPERIAL SOVEREIGN OF ARMS**



## RELEASED:

### Somerset



**Barony of Walburga**

*Device*

Azure, three tankards and a chief embattled Argent.



**Rodrick von der Harr**

*Device*

Vert, a sheaf of arrows inverted and on a chief Or three torteau.

### Wolfendorf



**Ana Heinrich**

*Device*

*8381*

Quarterly Sable and Azure, in bend sinister two thistles stemmed and leaved all within a border Or.



**Johann Heinrich**

*Device*

*8380*

Per pale Argent, Sable, and Azure, a winged sword Or.

## REGISTERED:

### Albion



**House DeSolio**

*Device*

*32-02*

Per bend Gules and Sable, a sword proper enfiled of a crown Or.



**House InkHeart**

*Device*

*32-02*

Sable, on a pale Argent a heart Gules debruised of a quill bendwise Argent.



**House McPaw**

*Device*

*32-02*

Or, a bear rampant Sable, armed and langued Gules, within an orle of eight shamrocks Vert.



**Hugh Barronmoor**

*Device*

*7175*

Per bend Argent and Gules, a wolf rampant Sable.

## Auroch's Fjord



**March of Valkyrya**

*Device*

*61-02*

Gules, a winged sword and an orle Argent.



**Desmond Wallace**

*Device*

*5477*

Purpure, a bear's head caboshed Or, orbed, armed, and langued Proper.



**Desmond Wallace**

*Device*

*5477*

Sable, a bear's head caboshed Or, orbed, armed, and langued Proper.

## Connacht



**County of the One Ring**

*Device*

Sable, an annulet Argent.

50-02



**Barony of Silverhand**

*Device*

Vert, in pall three gauntlets, fists outward, Argent.

50-02



**House Silverhand Invictus**

*Device*

Sable, a gauntlet bendwise maintaining a laurel wreath Argent.

50-02



**House Silverhand Musicus**

*Device*

Gules, a gauntlet bendwise maintaining a harp Argent.

50-02



**House Silverhand Venatori**

*Device*

Gules, a gauntlet bendwise maintaining a spear bendwise sinister Argent.

50-02

## Constantinople



**House Kvasirby**

*Device*

Argent gutte de sangre, a bend Sable.

45-02



## Esperance



**House Buckingham**

*Device*

*01-02*

Or, a chevron Gules and on a chief Sable, three crosses crosslet Or.



**Beatrice of Windsor**

*Device*

*8960*

Gules, a fret Argent and on a chief Azure, three roses Argent.



**Horatio Merriweather**

*Device*

*3447*

Gules, a sun in its splendor Or and a chief Ermine.



**Kealyn O'Lawton**

*Device*

*7463*

Quarterly Azure and Or, a talbot rampant Argent.



**Saphira CatDragon**

*Device*

*7944*

Azure, a dragon rampant Argent and a chief dancetty Or.

## Members at Large



**Klaus van Isbjerg**

*Badge*

*3372*

[Fieldless] An oak leaf Or, stemmed Purpure.

## Somerset



**Duchy of Somerset**

*Badge*

*27-02*

[Fieldless] A lion rampant Argent.



**Duchy of Somerset – Order of Fintan**

*Badge*

*27-07*

[Fieldless] A dolphin naiant Argent.



**Somerset Minister of Arms – aka Rampart Herald**

*Badge*

*27-01*

[Fieldless] A shakefork Azure.



**Ansel de Gace**

*Badge*

*6014*

[Fieldless] A lion rampant Or.

## Tyr-Lynn



**Ulrich von Thierstein**

*Device*

*8512*

Gyronny Or and Azure.

## Wolfendorf



**House Sauvage**

*Badge*

*64-02*

[Fieldless] Upon a heart Sable, a bend sinister Argent.



**House Sauvage**

*Badge*

*64-02*

[Fieldless] Upon a heart Argent, a bend sinister Sable.



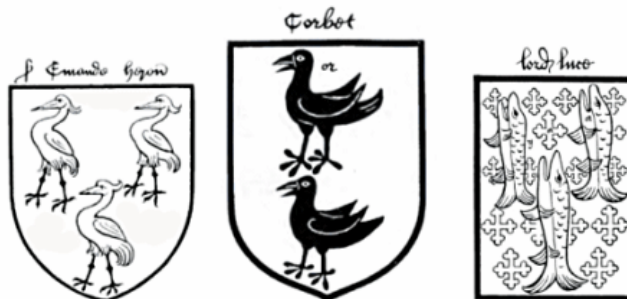
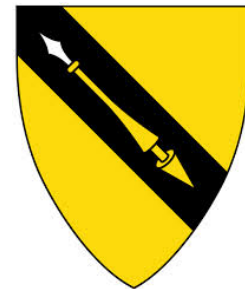
*The following information is presented by Dame Constance Rosewall, Beltazure Queen of Arms, on behalf of the College of Arms of the Adrian Empire.*

### Canting

Canting arms are heraldic devices that contain a reference to the name of the bearer in the blazon of the arms. Apparently, the medieval mind was inclined to puns, so these were fairly common within our time period. Occasionally, the blazon had to stretch considerably to contain the reference, including uncommon terms for charges, or very specific species of animal rather than the general or common ones used. It was not uncommon for the reference to involve another language, particularly translations to French when used in English heraldry. (French, depending on the time period, may have been more than slightly familiar to the English nobility, obviously!)



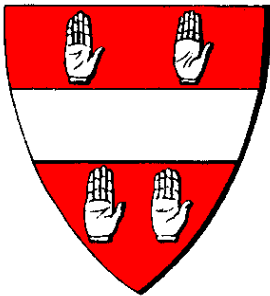
The most familiar of canting arms is also a very basic cant – those of Castille (left), which feature a castle, and Leon with their lion. Many cants were no more sophisticated than that: Herons on the arms of Ordinel Heron, ravens referred to as corbies on the arms of Thomas Corbet (below), or a spear on those of William Shakespeare (right).



Canting arms were always or nearly always based on the surname or title of the person bearing them, since it was common for one's heir to bear your arms in time; a cant on a first name would obviously be meaningless very soon. So far, the only real exception I've found to that has been relatively modern – the Princess Beatrice of York used three bees on her label of difference from the Arms of the United Kingdom.



On to the more complicated cants, where unusual terms for charges occur: three pike for the family of Lucy – where lucies are a type of fish. Fish are actually somewhat popular, there being so many species – Bar of Bar-le-duc bore fish, under the species barbell, for example. (Eels, trout, gudgeon, ... and of course, the fish dolphin, a prominent cant in the arms of the Dauphin of France.) Mind you, this doesn't really mean that the details of a particular species of fish were usually displayed, just that the blazon referred to a specific species. It might be a rare painter or banner maker that would know the details of each kind!



Some cants rely on other languages, such as the use of an otter (latin *lutra*) for the Luther family, or arms with four hands for Quatremayne in England, where quatre mains is four hands in French. Fouquet has a squirrel, which is what that name meant in Middle French. Plain gules fields were used by several families in different countries with names referring to red – Rouge, Rossi, Rubei.

Some cants verge of being incomprehensible without knowing the secret, such as the French family of Santeuil with a head of Argus. Argus was a monster of Greek mythology with a hundred eyes – cent for one hundred, and oeil for eye. Another example requiring much thought with the family of Vipont with six annulets (or mascles in some versions) – or VI (in Roman numerals) points.



In conclusion, cants are fun, cants are period and cants are an excellent starting point to create memorable and meaningful arms. Here is some advice from a King of Arms I know, "Cant if you can and if you can't, keep on canting." (Clearly, I am in a canting mood, as I was tempted to replace that with 'canton'!