Letter of Registration and Return
April 1999

Unto the members of the Imperial College of Arms does Lord Nigel the Byzantine, Fleur-de-Lis King of Arms, send Greetings and Salutations!

Fellow Heralds:

What a selection this month! 25 presentations! Well done, everyone! Keep up the good work!

New Logo!

I've designed an achievement of arms for the College; it might be hard to see above so I'll reprint it here full-size:

You can see a full-color depiction on the Web by going to:

http://www.geocities.com/Athens/Academy/5789/herald02.gif

At the moment, the tinctures are as follows:

Shield: Vert, a cross between four fleurs-de-lis or.
Mantling: Vert doubled or.
Torse: Argent and or.
Crest: A demi-tyger or.

Supported to dexter by a griffin segreant purpure, and to sinister by a dragon segreant gules.

On a scroll argent, the Latin words "NON SCRIPTUS NON EST" sable, meaning (loosely), "If it wasn't written down, it didn't happen".

Feel free to copy this. If you'd like a digitized image, just ask.

If anyone has any comments, please let me know.

Adrian College of Arms Convention and Symposium Update

Because of an underabundance of enthusiasm, the Convention idea has been put on the back burner for the time being. We hope to schedule one in 2000 or 2001.

Roster Change

The King of Umbria wishes to report that **Kevin Michael MacShane of the Silver Paw**, a recent emigré from the SCA, has been appointed as Umbrian Royal Sovereign of Arms. His contact information will be published with the next edition of the Roster.

Heraldic Websites

There is a veritable treasure trove of heraldic information on the World Wide Web. I've collected here a few of my favorite URL's for your enjoyment and education:

- ABE Books, for seeking those hard-to-find reference works: http://www.abebooks.com/
- Links page of medieval Rolls of Arms: http://www.wctc.net/~randomsf/rollofarms.htm
- Some Heraldic oaths: http://pages.ripco.com:8080/~clevin/oaths.html
- The Labyrinth, an incredible links page: http://www.georgetown.edu/labyrinth/labyrinth-home.html
- The Academy of St. Gabriel, SCA heralds who will help you come up with a Period name: http://www.us.itd.umich.edu/~ximenez/s.gabriel/ now through 30 April http://www.s-gabriel.org after 1 May
- François Velde's Heraldica site (very famous): http://www.heraldica.org/
- Heraldry On The Internet, an excellent links page: http://digiserve.com/heraldry/
- Drachenstein Treasures, a superior crown and jewelry maker: http://mh101.infi.net/~fcderosa/
- Some Crosses & Their Forms, a nice resource, even if some of his stuff is WAY out of Period: http://www.signetring.com/crosses/crosses.htm
- Coats of Arms on the Internet, kind of chop-shop heraldry, but has some nifty stuff: http://www.coatsofarms.addr.com/
- "Backdoor" to the Oxford English Dictionary. Replace the word "whale" with whatever you're looking up: http://pleth.princeton.edu/cgi-bin/OED/oed-kwic?type=Lookup&size=1-100&query=whale

Gouttes and Roundels

Throughout the blazons herein, you will find several odd words that are hard to find in many heraldic treatises. The roundels (circles) and gouttes (droplets) each have specific names, depending on what their tincture is. I've collected the terms together so that you can better decipher our blazonry. A "semy" is a field strewn with a regular (or not-so-regular) pattern of charges. Semy of gouttes is pronounced "GOO-tee"

Tincture	Roundel	Semy of Roundels	Derivation	Pronunciation
Argent	plate	platy	silver dinner plate	just like English
Or	bezant	bezanty	gold Byzantine coin	BEZ-int, BEZ-int-ee
Azure	hurt	hurty	hurtleberry or bruise	just like English
Gules	torteau	semy des torteaux	cinnamon cake	tor-TOW
Sable	pellet, ogress, gunstone	pellety	cannonball	just like English
Vert	pomme	semy des pommes	green apple	pumm
Pupure	golpe	golpy	gulp of wine in a cup	gulp

Tincture	Goutte	Semy of Gouttes	Derivation	Pronunciation
Argent	goutte d'eau	goutty d'eau	drop of water	rhymes with TOW
Or	goutte d'or	goutty d'or	drop of gold	door
Azure	goutte des larmes	goutty des larmes	teardrop	dez larms
Gules	goutte de sangue	goutty de sangue	drop of blood	d'sang
Sable	goutte de poix	goutty de poix	drop of molten tar	d'pwah
Vert	goutte d'huile	goutty d'huile	drop of olive oil	d'HWEEL
Pupure	goutte de vin	goutty de vin	drop of wine	<P"d'van

There's a little ditty to help you learn the names for the gouttes, at least, stolen from my SCA friend, Iulstan Sigewealding, Morsulus Herald:

The Sangue des Goutes

D'eau: a goute, a silver goute
D'or: a drop of golden sun
D'huile: a name for olive goutes
Poix: a pitch-drop on the run
Sangue: a needle-prick that's bled
Larmes: the tears of blue that flow
Vin: a drink with thou and bread
That will bring us back to d'eau d'eau d'eau d'eau…

As always, please feel free to contact either Nigel, Gregor, or Thorfinn with any comments, questions, or concerns you may have.

In service to the Empire and the Art of Heraldry,

Nigel the Byzantine
Fleur-de-Lis King of Arms

Registrations and Returns

In order for those members of the College not well-versed in Heraldry to make sense of the LoRR, I am including such things as Complexity Count in the comments. If you have any questions about anything on the LoRR, please feel free to ask.

Also, if you disagree with any of my rulings, please feel free to comment. I am not infallible.

The last page has depictions of the arms presented. I would encourage you to color them in for the practice. All of this will be posted on the website once we have it up and running.

Please note that these items are being registered or returned on an interim basis, depending on the results of the Convention.

The following items have been registered:

Chesapeake, Shire of

- **Aerindane McLorie** (Device Resub) – Sable, a Bengal tiger rampant argent marked sable and maintaining a sword or.
  Complexity count 5. His previous presentation, Gules, a Bengal tiger rampant or marked and maintaining a sword sable*, was returned for conflict. This clears up that conflict, but brings up a possible other (unforseen) conflict:*
  Oliver Cromwell, Lord Protector of England (Mundane) - Sable, a lion rampant argent. *Fleur-de-Lis would venture that these arms are not significant enough to protect, since the Honourable Lord Cromwell is a post-Period individual, who, incidentally, is not known for looking kindly upon us Royalists. :)*
- **Chesapeake, Shire of** (Device Resub) - Azure, a sea serpent ondoyant argent finned or, in chief a fleur-de-lis or.
  Complexity count 5. Their previous presentation, Azure, a sea serpent ondoyant-emergent or*, was returned for style. This fixes that problem. The sea serpent is drawn in a slightly non-Period fashion, but this in and of itself is not a reason for return. The blazoning of the fleur-de-lis as "in chief" indicates that it is a much smaller charge, visually, than the sea serpent, therefore making it a secondary. No conflicts found.*
- **Christina Tartaglione** (Device) - Purpure, a butterfly or marked sable.
  Complexity count 4. Simple, clear armory. Adria's first butterfly! No conflicts found.
  The registrant should probably not draw the edges of the wings sable, because it disappears into the purpure field, but this is not in and of itself a reason for return.
- **Hofcu, House** (Device) - Argent, a tree eradicated sable.
  Complexity count 3. Nice, simple, clear armory. The tree is nicely drawn. No conflicts found.
  Clear of Magus Bawnderinish: Vert, an oak tree couped argent within a bordure or. *1 Clear Difference (CD) for changing the tincture of the field, 2nd CD for changing the tincture of the main charge, 3rd CD (though we can stop counting at 2) for subtracting the bordure.*
  Clear of House Nan Tolman: Argent, a pine tree couped vert. *1 CD for changing the tincture of the main charge, 2nd CD for significantly changing the type of tree. Pine trees are more of a triangle shape, while the default "tree" shape is the oak: a flattened oval. Add that to the difference between* **couped** *(chopped down) and* **eradicated** *(yanked out of the ground, roots and all), and that makes for enough of a difference, in Fleur-de-Lis' opinion.*
  Clear of Hawthorne de Talleyrand: Vert, a tree eradicated argent. *1 CD for changing the tincture of the field, 1 CD for changing the tincture of the charge.*
- **Kyra Evaine** (Device) - *Vert, a tree blasted or.*
  Complexity count 3. Very nice, very simple. A tree "blasted" is one that has its leaves blown off. "Eradicated" describes a tree yanked out of the ground, roots and all.
  Clear of Hawthorn de Talleyrand: Vert, a tree eradicated argent. *1 CD for the tincture of the primary, 2nd for significant change of primary. The visual difference between a tree in full leaf that has been yanked from the ground with its roots and one that lacks leaves altogether is certainly significant.*
- **Kyra Evaine** (Badge) - *Or, a tree blasted vert.*
  Complexity count 3. This is the the reverse of her device, registered above.

Clear of House Hofcu (see above): Argent, a tree eradicated sable. *1 CD for the field, 2nd CD for the tincture of the primary, 3rd for the blasting/no eradicating.*

Clear of House Nan Tolman: Argent, a pine tree couped vert. *1 CD for the tincture of the field, 2nd CD for the difference between a pine tree and a generic tree blasted.*

- **Megan Rhys** (Device) - Vert, a castle triple-towered or and in chief three bezants.

Complexity count 4. Very nice and simple. The artist's rendering includes some detailing on the roundels, but this is not blazonable. Nice suggestion of Byzantine coins, though. The castle is very nearly drawn in trian aspect (on a 3/4 view), but it's not so obtrusive as to be unregisterable.

Clear of Castile (Mundane) - Gules, a castle triple-towered or. *1 CD for changing the tincture of the field, 1 CD for the addition of the bezants (gold circles) in chief.*

- **Narnia, Barony of** (Device) - Azure, on a bend sinister or two bendlets of chain sable, in canton a lion passant guardant or.

Complexity count 6. Very innovative use of the black chain reserved for Estates Minor.

Clear of Memnoch Harte (Badge): Azure, a bend sinister argent and overall a heart gules. *1 CD for the tincture of the bend and the addition of the tertiaries (the chains), 2nd CD for removal of the overall, 3rd CD for addition of the secondary (the lion).*

Clear of Stefan Belski (Badge): Sable, a bend sinister or. *1 CD for the tincture of the field, 2nd CD for addition of the secondary, 3rd for addition of the tertiaries.*

- **Narnia, Barony of** (Badge) - Azure, a lion passant guardant or, on a bordure or an orle of chain sable.

Complexity count 6. Also good use of the black chain.

No conflicts found.

- **Sven Iceman** (Device Resub) - Azure, a dragon sejant erect argent maintaining a torteau.

Complexity count 5. His original presentation, Azure, a dragon sejant erect sable maintaining a torteau *was returned for violation of the Rule of Tincture. This clears that up. Nice, simple armory. No conflicts found. The posture of sejant erect, for a dragon, while rare, is not unknown in Period, so is therefore registerable.*

Esperance, Kingdom of

- **Dagr MacGuiness** (Device) - Per pale sable and gules, a dragon segreant or supporting a sword inverted proper.

*Complexity count 6. Simple, clear armory. The difference between **maintained** and **supported** is the relative size of the beast. If it's a normal size sword and the dragon is holding it as if entering the Lists, then the dragon is approximately man-sized with a **maintained** sword. If the sword is normal-sized and the dragon is holding it up with both hands, then you have a child-sized dragon with a **supported** sword. Of course, this could be an indicator of the relative size of the **sword** instead….*

Tools in heraldry are always in the "ready-to-use" position. Swords are by default point up. Arrows are by default point down (usually coming down AT you!). This sword is therefore blazoned as inverted.

There is a whole pile of Dragons in Adrian armory; I will only count conflict against a few of them so that the less-experienced heralds can see how to count. Remember that you only need 2 CDs before moving on to the next entry.

Clear of Villianous Bariteau: Per pale gules and azure, a dragon segreant contourny maintaining a fracted sword argent. *1 CD for changing at least half the tincture of the field (in this case, BOTH halves are changed, since in our subject the gules portion is to sinister, while the check is against gules to dexter). 2nd CD for changing the tincture and the posture of the primary (you only get 1 CD for what you do to a primary). 3rd CD (for your information) for adding the supported charge. The fracted sword of Villianous' arms is merely maintained and counts nothing for difference, but the larger visual weight of the supported sword in these arms does.*

Clear of Roy William mac Coda von Seiken, called Coda: Per pale or and argent, a dragon displayed reguardant tail nowed and in chief three Latin crossees pointed azure. *1 CD for tincture of the field, 2nd for tincture and posture of the primary, 3rd for addition of secondaries, 4th for the sword.*

Clear of Temjur Jhitan: Sable, an Oriental dragon passant reguardant within a bordure gules. *Dragons is Dragons; you don't get a CD between them. However, you get 1 CD for changing half the tincture of the field, 2nd for changing the posture & tincture of the primary, and 3rd for removing the bordure, and 4th for, you guessed it, that trusty sword.*

Clear of Cledwyn ap Llanweyst: Per pale argent and sable, a dragon segreant gules. *Here's a good one. 1 CD for changing half the tincture of the field, 2nd for changing the tincture of the primary, 3rd for that sword thing. J*

Clear of House Claidheamn (Sangreal): Azure, a dragon displayed reguardant argent entwined around a sword sable. *1 CD for changing the tincture of the field, 2nd for changing the posture & tincture of the dragon. Nothing for the sword. L*

- **Leonora Dominica Scott Greyphis** (Device) - Argent, a domestic cat sejant sable, a chief vert.
  Nice and simple. Conflict is being counted against lions, cats, and Bengal tigers, because Cats is Cats.
  Clear of the badge of the Order of the Lion (Adria): Gules, a lion sejant or. 1 CD for the field, 2nd CD for the tincture of the primary, 3rd for addition of the perhiperal.
- **Morgan MacCanna** (Device) - Per pale sable and vert, a boar statant contourny argent.
  Ya gotta love single-charge armory. Complexity count 4. Fleur-de-Lis notes that in the enlarged emblazon, this appears to be a female, and so could be blazoned as a "wild sow", but the gender of the beast is probably best left to artistic interpretation.
  Clear of Richard III of England (Mundane): (Fieldless) A boar passant argent. *1 CD for fieldlessness vs tinctured, 2nd for changing posture of the beast.*
- **Willow de Rara** (Device reblazon) - Per bend sinister purpure and azure, in bend a fleur-de-lis and a patriarchal cross bottony or.
  This was mistakenly entered in the Armorial as Per bend sinister purpure and azure, in bend a rose and a patriarchal cross bottony or. *Dame Willow is a Comtessa of Esperance and is entitled to the gold fleur-de-lis.*

TerreNeuve, Kingdom of

- **Allora McDonnon** (Device) Azure, a fess wavy between in chief two sea-lions addorsed and in base two fish haurient respectant, and on a bordure argent a semy of roses purpure.
  Complexity count 8. No conflicts found. Nothing even close. Kinda busy but allowable since we've pushed our Period to 1603, and charged bordures were all the rage in England during Mary Tudor's reign (it's a Spanish thing).
  The registrant wishes to retain her previously registered arms, Purpure, a griffin-headed and legless wyvern reguardant argent within a bordure vert, *as a badge.*
- **Tiernen de Dannon, House** (Device) - Sable, a bend argent, overall a hurt between two compass-stars argent.
  Complexity count 6. No conflicts found. Please remind the registrants to draw the bend wider and the stars bigger.

Umbria, Kingdom of

- **Duriel van Hansard** (Device) - Azure billety, a horse passant argent.
  Complexity count 4. No conflicts found.
  This is a Good Example of doing life-story heraldry without appearing to do so. I hope His Umbrian Majesty won't mind, but I'd like to take this opportunity to tell how he and I came up with these arms. Sir Duriel wished to show that he was not only a dancer and a combattant, but that he had spent many years in various Ministry positions. Since horses can not only "dance" (as do the Lippizaners), but are also formidable war weapons, we chose that beast for his primary, and placed it in a blizzard of paperwork J (the billets). Billets are proportionally the same as a standard 8.5 by 11 inch piece of paper (which they're supposed to represent).
  It's more subtle and puts everything in a Period design, without resorting to the standard sword/harp/quill formation.
- **Iain Duncan Mackintosh of Raven's Roost** (Device Grandfather) - Quarterly 1 and 4, gules, a raven contourny sable, and 2 and 3, sable, a lion rampant contourny, tail nowed gules maintaining in its sinister forepaw a crown or.
  This paperwork was put forward back in November but never reached this office due to a paperwork snafu. We are registering it under the rules then current at the time. The registrant wishes to retain his previously registered arms as a badge. Under current rules, Sir Iain is entitled to the crown in his arms because he is a Viscount of Umbria.
- **Iain Duncan Mackintosh of Raven's Roost** (Badge Grandfather) - (Fieldless) *A fleur-de-lis per pale sable and gules.*
  Complexity count 3. This paperwork was also lost in the shuffle between change-of-office. It's still legal under the current rules, though. Nice badge. Wish I'd thought of it first. J This is a fleur-de-lis divided in half vertically, the dexter side sable and the sinister side gules. Any charge can be treated the same way, as if it were a field. There's no problem with dividing a charge with two colors.

Clear against Adria, Empire of: (Fieldless) A fleur-de-lis or. *Automatic 1 CD for fieldlessness, 2nd for changing tincture of the primary charge. Likewise, for the same reasons, clear against Adria, Church of:* (Fieldless) A fleur-de-lis argent.

York, Kingdom of

- **Giovanni, House** (Device) - *Sable, a lion's face or.*
  Complexity count 3. Nice and simple. Because of the way the lion's face is drawn, we will check conflict not only against other cat's faces, but against suns in splendor as well.
  Clear against County of Bastone (Esperance): Per fess gules and argent, a lion's face sable. *1 CD for changing tincture of the field, 2nd for the tincture of the charge. Nice work.*
  Clear against Duchy of Aragon: Gules, in pale a crown and a sun in splendor or. *1 CD for the tincture of the field, 2nd for removing the crown.*
  Well done indeed!
- **John Farthing** (Device) - Per pale argent and sable, an angel counterchanged.
  Complexity count 3. Simple armory.
  While the registrant has very clearly decided to present this as a dimidiation of a demon and an angel, the overall effect from across the room was merely that of an angel. We would like to strongly advise the registrant that such a depiction is very blatantly un-Period and should be avoided. However, the horn and half a halo were so unclear as to be nonexistent, and the difference in the shape of the two wings is negligible, so we are inclined to pass it with this caveat.
  If the registrant wishes to invoke a dimidiated demon and angel, he would fall afoul of the Rules against marshalling; since dimidiated charges (such as the lion-ship of the Cinque Ports) are inevitably the result of the dimidiating of two coats of arms.
  The mundane co-worker looking over my shoulder noted that, had he drawn the demon with legs and tail instead of a skirt, the difference would have been more pronounced. I would VERY STRONGLY discourage this, however.
- **York, Kingdom of** (Badge) - *Sable, a cross flory argent.* (for the Musketeers of York)
  This one required some research on my part and a quick request for commentary from the Adria_heraldry mailing list, along with a query to some experienced SCA heralds. This was a possible conflict against SirJéhan: Azure, a cross crosslet argent, *with only 1 CD for changing the tincture of the field. Research proved that changing from a cross crosslet to a cross fleury is indeed a significant change, worthy of the 2nd CD.*

The following are being returned for further work:

Chesapeake, Shire of

- **Chris Mac Draco** (Device) - Vert, a dragon's head couped or, and on a canton azure a Celtic cross or.
  Complexity count 6. Unfortunately, while this is nice, simple armory, it violates the Rule of Tincture, RfHR I.: The Rule of Tincture is defined as follows: "Colour may not be placed on Colour, nor Metal on Metal." *The azure canton on the vert field is a no-go. Also, the addition of a charged canton is a form of agumentation and/or marshalling, and therefore falls afoul of RfHR VI.A.:* Because each element must be independently registered, registration of the marshalled arms is unnecessary and will not be permitted.
  Easiest fix: Lose the canton and just place the cross on the field.
- **Kelda Ruadhcath** (Device) – Per pall gules, vert, and purpure the line of division fimbriated sable, an axe bendwise sable, a harp or, and a domestic cat's mask argent.
  Complexity count 9. This device falls afoul of the Rule of Tincture, RfHR I.B.1.b.: Per pall and per pall inverted field divisions must contain either two Colours and one Metal or two Metals and one Colour. *The sable axe on the gules chief portion also violates the Rule, RfHR I.:* The Rule of Tincture is defined as follows: "Colour may not be placed on Colour, nor Metal on Metal." *It is also slot-machine heraldry, having three disparate and unrelated charges in each of three portions of the field, thus violating RfHR III.E.:* All armory must be simple in design. Excessively complex armory will not be registered.
  Suggest that the presenter try to create a unified whole with the design rather than attempting "life story" heraldry. NOTE: the section of the armory with the green background and gold harp seems to be an attempt by the presenter to suggest that she is of Irish origin. Unless one can prove one is of Irish Royal blood, I would suggest trying to avoid this motif. One does not have to have a harp on one's arms to suggest Irish heritage.

- **Ryien Gerran** (Device) - Gules, a tree eradicated argent.

    Complexity count 3. Nice, simple, clear armory.

    Clear of Magus Bawnderinish: Vert, an oak tree couped argent within a bordure or. *1 Clear Difference (CD) for changing the tincture of the field, 2nd CD for changing the tincture of the main charge, 3rd CD (though we can stop counting at 2) for subtracting the bordure.*

    Clear of House Nan Tolman: Argent, a pine tree couped vert. *1 CD for changing the tincture of the main charge, 2nd CD for significantly changing the type of tree. See comments above.*

    Clear of House Hofcu, registered above: Argent, a tree eradicated sable. *1 CD for changing the tincture of the field, 2nd CD for changing the tincture of the primary charge.*

    Unfortunately, **Conflict** *with Hawthorne de Talleyrand (10/96 York):* Vert, a tree eradicated argent. *1 CD only for changing the tincture of the field.*

    Simplest fix: change the tincture of the primary charge to Or. A check of the Ordinary proves that this will fly. Other fixes include adding a perhipheral charge or charges, or multiplying the number of trees.

- **Sarah Trouble** (Device) - Per bend sinister azure and sable, a sun in splendor and an anthropomorphized crescent, horns to canton or between a lightning flash bendwise sinister argent.

    Complexity count 7. This device falls afoul of the Rule against overly modern design: RfHR III.B.: Overly modern design or allusion to modern insignia, trademarks, or other designs will not be registered. *Lighning flashes and crescent moons with faces are post-Period designs. Crescent moons with faces are SO un-Period, they don't even have a special name like a Sun in Splendour or a Moon in Her Plenitude. Lightning flashes are colloquially known as "shazams" from the comic book character of the same name, emphasizing their 20th century origins. This design is also slot-machine, having three disparate and unconnected charges on it. My mundane co-worker, who happened to be looking over my shoulder as I wrote this, noted the modern design also.*

    Simplest fix: change the lightning flash to a bend sinister indented and change the crescent to a Moon in her Plenitude (a full moon with a face) since the crescent with a face is not a Period motif. The example shows what this would look like. This would border on slot-machine but would still be acceptable.

    Alternately, choose either the sun or the crescent (with no face) and put a Period lightning bolt between two of them. The example shows a Period lightning bolt.

Request for appeal

York, Kingdom of

- **Cullen Crombie of the Berwickshire Gordons** (Device) – Per pale vert and sable, a griffin and a unicorn combattant argent.

    White Rose has requested an appeal of the return of these arms. For your information, here is commentary from last month's LoRR:

    This falls afoul of the rule on Marshalling, RfHR VI: Marshalled Armory. Marshalling is the practice of combining two or more devices on one shield or banner. It is generally used to show a relationship of marriage, or to combine the arms of an individual with the office(s) they hold. *Section A continues:* Because each element must be independently registered, registration of the marshalled arms is unnecessary and will not be permitted.

    Sir Raffe makes the following request:

    I respectfully would challenge the ruling on Sur Cullen Crombie (Device) based on his being Vassal Knight to Sir Trakx Greenwood, it is their common desire to reflect this bond in Sir Cullen's device.

    I'm afraid I would have to disagree. If this was indeed the case, it would show that Sir Cullen and Sir Trakx were **married**, *and I don't think that's quite what these two men had in mind.*

    If this is truly what they wish to show, then Sir Cullen should register the part of his arms that is NOT Sir Trakx's, and then, when he displays it, marshal the arms accordingly.

    A far better way to show one's vassalage is to use a chief or a canton of the arms, rather than a full impalement. Charged bordures are also a nifty way to go; the Iberians used them all the time: check out a depiction of the arms of Portugal.

    Fleur-de-Lis' previous ruling stands.

    Appeals of any of Fleur-de-Lis' decisions must first be made to Fleur-de-Lis, and failing that, to the Imperial Crown.

    Until next month, Nigel Fleur-de-Lis