

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 months of January and February, 2015.

Reports were received from the following chapters:

Albion-Rayonne, Auroch's Fjord, Constantinople, Connacht, Drachetor, Esperance, Gloucester, Glynmore, Malta, Monaco, Somerset, Terre Neuve, Wolfendorf, Varheim, Tyr-Lynn, York

The following chapters did not send in reports:

Alhambra, Altland, Bisqaia, Brandenburg, Brunico, Cashel, Chesapeake, Cyprus, Lancaster, Murrisk, Pembroke, Raven's Fjord, Roanoke, Thinaria, Umbria

Before we begin this LoRR, I wish to offer my sincerest apologies unto Their Imperial Majesties, my Deputies, the Heralds and Pursuivants of Adria, and all members of the Empire for my recent lack of communication.

In the past two months, my mundane life has taken quite a bit of a turn; including starting a new career (for which I grossly underestimated the off-the-clock time commitment) and a move to a new city. As a result, my time to dedicate to the Empire and the College of Arms has been lacking.

Hopefully, my time commitments have reached an equilibrium in which I can now recommit to my duties as Imperial Sovereign of Arms.

I thank you all for your patience with me in these past two months as I worked through getting settled in to my new mundane routine. My amazing Deputies have been working diligently to assist me as needed; particularly Codex, who has worked with multiple chapters in the Southwest to get their heraldic needs taken care of. Dama Antonia is certainly a credit to the College of Arms, and I thank her greatly for all the work she has done across the region.

One of the things that Dama Antonia has been working on as Codex Herald is the transition of arms from the former Kingdom of Albion to the chapters of Albion-Rayonne and Glynmore.

At approximately the first of the year, a formal request was made of me to assess the heraldic issues at hand in the Albion split. There were people in both of the emerging chapters who wished to claim ownership of the arms of the ministers,

awards, and orders of the former Kingdom of Albion. With two chapters wishing to claim devices from the same armorial pool, it was requested that I, as Imperial Sovereign of Arms, make a Heraldic Ruling as to the fate of those arms formerly owned by the Kingdom of Albion.

Over the past several weeks, I have examined the wording of the Imperial Estates Minutes of November, 2014, spoken to individuals involved in the decision-making process, examined the proposal for the chapter-division as was presented to the Imperial Estates, and looked for precedence within the College of Arms.

As such, I hereby issue the following ruling:

Be it known that I, Baron Sebastian Javier de la Cruz, Fleur-de-Lis King of Arms and Principal Herald of the Empire of Adria do make the following pronouncement:

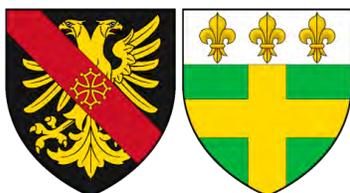
The primary flag of the Kingdom of Albion, blazoned as "Azure, a Lion of Albion," shall now and forever more be held in trust by the College of Arms as an Historical Estate. This flag, like all Historical Estates, may be flown by any and all members of the Empire who wish to honor the memory of the Kingdom of Albion.

All other flags, devices, and badges formerly registered to the Kingdom of Albion shall remain registered and owned by the Kingdom of Glynmore.

All flags, devices, and badges registered to Houses, Baronies, Counties, or Marches within the Kingdom of Albion shall remain registered and owned by the appropriate Local Estate, be they now in the Kingdom of Glynmore or the Archduchy of Albion-Rayonne.

All devices and badges registered to the members of the Kingdom of Albion shall remain registered and owned by the respective member to whom they were registered.

By my hand, on this the second day of March, 2015.



Baron Sebastian Javier de la Cruz
Imperial Sovereign of Arms

Finally, before the registrations, it has been brought to my attention that there is some misinformation floating about in the Empire regarding registration proposals and how they are handled by the College of Arms.

Apparently, some people are of the mistaken belief that it is the blazon (the word description of a device) which is registered within the College of Arms and that the emblazon (the picture of the device or badge) is secondary. This is untrue. When a device is registered, it is the *emblazon* which is of paramount importance.

The reason for this has to do with what the emblazon and the blazon actually are. The emblazon is the actual device or badge, in graphic form, which will be reprinted, painted, sewn, or etched in many different ways. While exact shades of a tincture or artistic style of a charge may change from artisan to artisan, the arms will not.

However, the blazon of a device can change from herald to herald. Take, for example, the blazon “Gules, a lion Proper” and “Gules, a lion rampant Or.” While, on the surface, those may appear to be describing two separate sets of arms, they are in fact the same device.

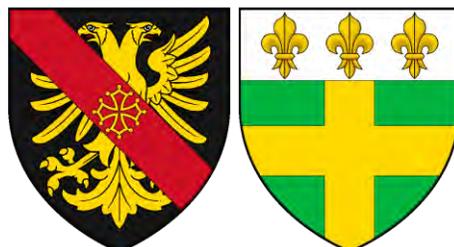
When the posture of a lion is not mentioned, the default would be “Rampant.” As well, the “Proper” color for a lion is Gold/Or. Thus, we have two different blazons, but only one device.

When submitting a registration within the Adrian Empire, it is of the utmost importance that the emblazon properly represent what you would like. If the blazon is not 100% accurate, that is alright. The College can correct that. So long as the elements listed in the blazon are represented in the image (such as an eagle in both words and image), there is no problem. Minor blazoning issues which do not contradict the emblazon pictured will not hold up registration.

In Service to the Empire,

BARON SEBASTIAN JAVIER DE LA CRUZ

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



RELEASED:

Auroch's Fjord



Barony of Serenity

Device

Sable, a pomegranate Or seeded Gules, and on a chief Or three roses Gules, barbed and seeded Or.

TRANSFERRED:

Constantinople



House Cu Taigh

Device

45-02

Argent, a chevron between three talbots passant Sable.

Transferred From: York

Transferred To: Constantinople

REGISTERED:

Adrian Empire



Imperial Archer's Guild

Device

00-06

Quarterly Vert and Or, a cubit arm habited maintaining three arrows bendwise sinister Argent.



Imperial Archer's Guild

Device

00-06

Quarterly Gules and Or, a cubit arm habited maintaining three arrows bendwise sinister Argent.

Albion-Rayonne



March of Mortis

Device

76-02

Sable, in fess three skulls de Mortis Argent and a border Or.



First County of Mortis

Device

76-02

Sable, in fess three skulls de Mortis and a border Argent.



Barony of the Great Company of Mortis

Device

76-02

Sable, in fess three skulls de Mortis



House of the First Company of Mortis

Device

76-02

Sable, a skull de Mortis and a border Argent.



Bella Donna von Riesig

Device

5128

Gules, a chevron inverted rampu Or.



Matilda Cloud Hawk

Device

5867

Per fess engrailed Argent and Azure, in chief five mullets (two and three) Sable.



Erik McGiver

Device

5862

Per saltire Argent and Purpure, a tankard inverted, lid open, Sable and in base a gouttee d' sangre.



Gemma

Device

7241

Quarterly Sable and Argent, in pale three otters statant Or.

Auroch's Fjord



Estate of Auroch's Fjord

Device

61-00

Sable, a bull's head caboshed Argent.



County Crows

Device

61-02

Per chevron enhanced Sable and Argent, four winged arrows inverted in cross Counterchanged.



Barony of Bryn Mawr

Device

61-02

Gules, upon a saltire Argent, two arrows inverted in saltire Counterchanged.



Barony of Serenity

Device

61-02

Per pale Purpure and Sable, a winged sword and in chief three mullets Or.



House Black Rose

Device

61-02

Sable, a winged sword and on a chief Argent a rose, all Counterchanged.



House Iron Quiver

Device

61-02

Azure, a sheaf of arrows inverted and in chief three mullets all within a border Argent.



House Thunderchild

Device

61-02

Per pale Sable and Azure, a winged sword between three mullets Argent.



Desmond Wallace

Badge

5477

[Fieldless] A bear's head caboshed Or.



Nani Hurley

Device

7473

Gules, a turtle tergant Or.



Trinity

Device

6461

Per pale Purpure and Sable, a hare rampant Argent.



Galen O'Seanachain

Device

5108

Per pale Purpure and Sable, a wolf's head erased contoured Argent, langued Gules.



Kathryn Zor'zi

Device

8133

Quarterly Azure and Sable, a wolf rampant contoured and a border Argent.

Connacht



Bashalda Chergari

Device

7421

Gules, a harp and on a chief Or, three trefoils Vert.



Manfred Silberhirsch

Device

8627

Per pale Vert and Azure, a chevron between three stags springing Argent.

Varheim



Estate of Varheim – Gjallahorn

Badge

75-07

Or, a horn and a border embattled Sable.



Estate of Varheim – Gungnir

Badge

75-07

Or, a spear palewise and a border embattled Sable.



Estate of Varheim – Hand of Tyr

Badge

75-07

Or, a dexter hand apaumee and a border embattled Sable.



Estate of Varheim – Idunn's Apples

Badge

75-07

Or, an apple and a border embattled Sable.



Estate of Varheim – Kvasir's Mead

Badge

75-07

Or, a chalice and a border embattled Sable.



Estate of Varheim – Loki's Fire

Badge

75-07

Or, a flame and a border embattled Sable.



Estate of Varheim – Molljnir

Badge 75-07

Or, a Thor's hammer and a border embattled Sable.



Gabrielle Silverhand

Badge 5965

Per pale Or and Purpure, a crown Sable

RETURNED:

Auroch's Fjord

Estate of Auroch's Fjord

Device 61-00

Sable, upon a sun Or, a bull's head caboshed Argent.

[ISOA Note: Per the heraldry manual {VIII.H.9} the only thing a sun may be charged with is a roundel, also known as the "sun eclipsed."].

Etoile Machou

Device 5691

Sable, a tree stump eradicated Argent.

[ISOA Note: The blazon calls for a tree stump, but the emblazon does not match. Return for redraw].

Kathryn Zor'zi

Device 8133

Sable, a chevron Purpure between three lions rampant Argent.

[ISOA Note: This submission has two problems. First, the blazon calls for a lion while the emblazon seems to show a leopard. However, more problematic is the use of a purple chevron on a black field. This is a RoT violation {VII.B.2}].

Kathryn Zor'zi

Device 8133

Quarterly Purpure and Sable, a lion rampant contourne Argent.

[ISOA Note: The blazon calls for a lion, while the emblazon seems to picture a leopard. Return for redraw].

Connacht

Ede de Chochrane

Device

8628

Per bend Argent and Vert a linden branch and a mortar and pestle counterchanged.

[ISOA Note: This is being returned for a marshalling violation. {XI.A.1-2}].

Amsel Einzbern

Device

6678

Vert, a pale Or and overall a martlet contourne Sable.

[ISOA Note: This is a violation of the Rule of Tincture {2.IV.G}. While I understand what the submitter was looking for, there is too much of the black bird layered over the green field. Redrawn with the bird entirely, or mostly, over the gold pale would allow this to pass].

Varheim

Estate of Varheim – Brisngamena

Badge

75-07

Or, a torc and a border embattled Sable.

[ISOA Note: I can find no period use of a torc in heraldry. If the submitter has any documentation, I will be happy to reconsider].

Estate of Varheim – Odin's Wolves

Badge

75-07

Or, three wolves sejant and a border embattled Sable.

[ISOA Note: The blazon lists the animals as sejant, but the emblazon shows them with heads back as if howling. This is not a period posture. If resubmitted in a class sejant pose, this would be easily passed].

HELD OVER:

Varheim

Barony of Belicus Apri

Device

75-02

Sable, a medusa's head caboshed Argent.

[ISOA Note: Held over to research the period nature of a medusa head].



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

On Heraldic Titles

Greetings unto the College of Arms of the Adrian Empire and may your winter season be a bright one.

While I was on sabbatical, Fleur de Lis wrote about heraldic titles and upon my return he was gracious enough to allow me to expand on the subject this month. My first point is about how to use those titles; my use of Fleur de Lis was an example. They take the place of a name, much like the name of one's territory as a nobleman would, i.e. the Earl of Essex is known by those of equal or greater rank as "Essex." You should address someone else in the college by their heraldic name, and you sign your missives in that fashion – I can be addressed as Beltazure. It doesn't matter that I am Dame Constance, in the context of the college it matters what office I hold within that body. They may also be addressed more formally using both their title and rank, such as Phoenix King of Arms, rather than just Phoenix.

There are three ranks of herald and two types, and all may be addressed in this fashion. Those ranks are Sovereign (King or Queen) of Arms (Kingdom Heralds and High ranking officials of the College), Herald (Archduchies and Duchies) and Pursuivant (Shires and Estates), and the types are Ordinary and Extraordinary. While a high ranking herald is a King/Queen of Arms, they are **not** a King or Queen and should **not** be addressed as Your Majesty. I should add that while these are called "heraldic titles", none of them are titles in the same sense as noble titles; they are titles in the vein of job titles, names for the offices.

Ordinary heralds in Adria are ones that hold a given posting, whether for the college (Fleur de Lis, Tyger, etc.) or chapter, while Extraordinary heralds are ones that have been given a permanent title as reward for good service; most have been an Imperial Herald of some rank. In the real world, heralds in Ordinary are ones that are attached directly to the College of Arms; in the United Kingdom, they are considered part of the Royal Household and are appointed by the Monarch. Heralds Extraordinary, then, are ones that are not part of the Royal Household or considered part of the College of Arms, at least in the UK. This concept does seem to be used in many other countries as well.

Chapters should find a title for their minister of arms to add flavor and accuracy to their Courts and correspondence; this name belongs the office, not the individual holding the office; there have been many Beltazures, for example. In the Duchy of Somerset, for instance, there is the Rampart Herald, named as a cant on the rampant lions featured on the Duchy's device and as a tribute to the home city of the Duchy, Fort Wayne – forts often had ramparts. The Rampart Herald's badge is a Shakefork azure for the three rivers that run through the town. (As a side reminder, heralds should wear the arms of the chapter or estate they represent. As the mouthpiece of the royal or noble crown, they are seen as an extension of them. Their badge of office can then be added onto that tabard.)

Where do these titles come from? Examining the titles of both modern and medieval heralds, they seem to be derived from:

- the family name of the person the herald serves (Fitzwalter, D'Anville)
- the place that the person rules (Exeter, Navarre, Wittenberg)
- the motto of the person (Ich Dien, Vostre Vueil)
- the name of a noble order that the herald serves (Garter, Arbre d'Or)
- the name of a heraldic charge (Drake, Corbie, Griffin)
- or a positive trait (Comfort, Valiant)

The easiest modern data to examine is the roster of the English college of arms. There are only thirteen members and six extraordinary heralds associated with them. There are three kings of arms – Garter is from the Order of the Garter, Clarenceux is from the name Clarence, and Norroy and Ulster combines a location (Ulster) with Norroy, a word that appears to have combined North and Roy (king). All six heralds have location names. There are four pursuivants – three have charge titles and one has an unusual regalia title (Bluemantle). The five heralds extraordinary have location titles and the pursuivant extraordinary has a name derived title.

There were many, many more heralds in our time period, but it was true then that more than half of all titles were location titles and it becomes even more skewed when examining only those with the rank of Herald, rising to 90% of all heraldic titles. Kings of Arms were most likely to have odd titles that don't fall into the above categories. Pursuivants are the most likely to have titles from mottos, positive traits, and charges though they sometimes used the lesser titles of the people they served.

In Spain, they actually lay out a pattern for heraldic titles:

"To the pursuivants one should give the name of an insignia [a badge with a motto],.... and when the pursuivant is made a herald, he ought to be given the name of a city or province,... and when a herald is made a King of Arms, he should be given the name of the province or kingdom." (Garci Alonso de Torres, *Blasón y recogimiento de armas* cited in [Riquer Castellana](#)).

If your chapter has no title or badge for its Minister of Arms, consider having a discussion. It can only add to your collective enjoyment. Once you've found the right title and badge, it should be submitted to the Fleur de Lis for approval and to verify that it hasn't been claimed and you can then begin happily signing your correspondence within the college in a proper period fashion.

"Docendo Discimus"
Beltazure

The Officers of Arms of the UK College of Arms:
<http://www.college-of-arms.gov.uk/about-us/heralds-officers>

Heraldic Titles from the Middle Ages and Renaissance:
Overview, Julia Smith
<http://medievalscotland.org/jes/HeraldicTitles/>