

Kingdom of Atlantia Letter of Decision, June 2012

Unto the members of the Atlantian College of Heralds and our gracious commenting benefactors from other kingdoms; greetings from Hróðný Rognvaldsdóttir , Golden Dolphin Herald.

My sincerest gratitude to each of this month's commenters. Commenting on the May Letter are Alisoun Metron Ariston, Andreas Nautilus, Daði Þorfinnsson , Domenico Boreas Pursuivant, Ealsaid MacDonald, Elena Modarova vnuka, Etienne Vexillum Pursuivant, Gawain Green Anchor, Gisela Triton, Gunnvor Orle, János Black Raven, Niccolina the Wanderer, Reginald de Beauchamp, Rohese Red Hawk, and Wynne ferch Rhodri ap Hywell . Thank you for your invaluable insight and additions to this Letter.

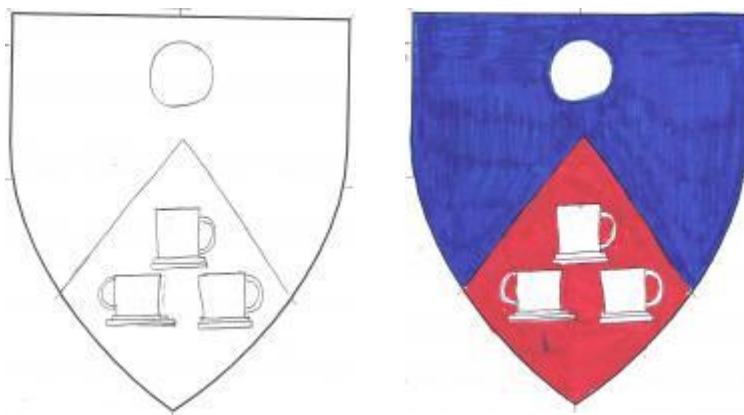
I'd also like to give my appreciation to the many heralds whose consultations resulted in this month's submissions: Alexandria Blue Shark, Deirdre O'Bardon, Dominico Boreas Pursuivant, Gaston Valmont, Isabella Sable Trident, Philipp Hartrat, Maaline Renard, Rhiannon Finsterwald.

Herewith are the results of the deliberations of the Atlantian College of Heralds & Scribes during the month of May 2012 and submitted for consideration to the College of Arms of the Society:

Acceptances

Anie O'Brian - Name & Device

Per chevron azure and gules, in chief a plate and in base three mugs one and two handles outward argent



Consulting Herald: Isabella Sable Trident

Considering the device, Gunnvor silfraharr (Orle Herald) pointed out that there was an example of period multiple charges having their handles (or other bits) pointed in differing directions. Her comment was, "When I was working on the Zurich Roll (<http://www.vikinganswerlady.com/ZurichRoll/>), I found that 323 ZVIRNLER *Gules, three sickles argent, hafted Or* had the top two sickles addorsed. I had a lot of help from the Academy of St. Gabriel, particularly Talan Gwynek, and I am pretty sure it was Talan who said something to the effect that "It was not unusual in medieval armory for the two upper charges of a group of three to be addorsed. This arrangement was not unusual; it would be equally correct to draw the same arms with all the charges in the same orientation."

It is possible that under SENA A.3.D.1.& D.2. the tankards may not be considered the primary charge group because of their position since it states "where one or more charges overlies the line of division, those charges are the primary charge group and the other ones are in a secondary charge

group." So, if one takes that literally, if the one tankard overlay the line of division, the uppermost tankard would be primary and the roundel and remaining tankards would be secondary.

For clarity's sake, we are sending the device to Laurel for further discussion and ruling.

Antoinette Delevincquiere - New Name

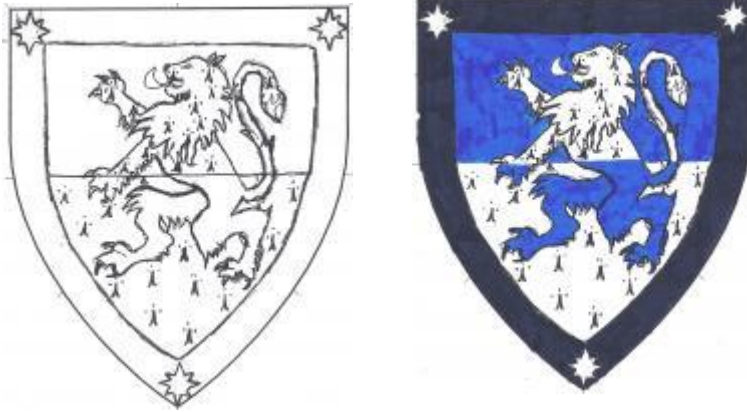
Consulting Herald: Rhiannon Fensterwald

Elizabeth Egweald - New Name

Consulting Herald: Alexandria Wright

John Arghile - New Name and device

Per fess azure and ermine, a lion counter changed within on a bordure sable three compass stars argent



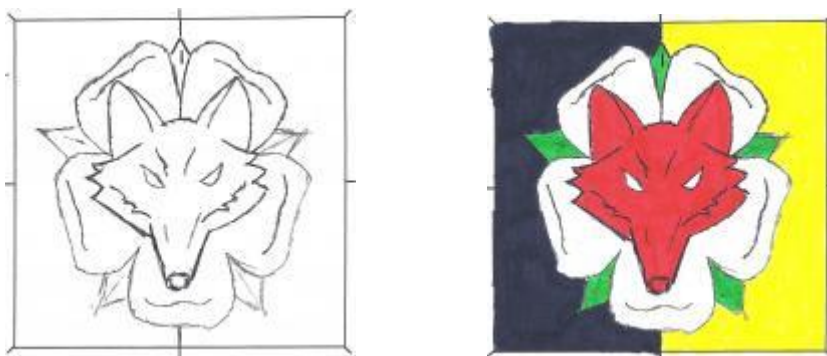
Maria Donald of Windmaster's Hill - Name (see "Returns" for device)

Consulting Herald: Dominico Barbieri

Originally, this was going to be a submission using the Modern Name Allowance for the surname, but as Metron Ariston was able to provide documentation for its period form, we have gratefully opted to use that and destroy our copy of the submitter's modern driver's license.

Nikulai Ivanovich - Badge

Per pale sable and Or, on a rose argent barbed vert a fox's mask gules



Consulting Herald: Gaston Valmont

Originally submitted with the blazon *Per pale sable and Or charged upon an apple blossom argent a fox mask gules*, commentary made it plain that the flower was less an apple blossom than a rose. The submitter wishes to have the badge sent up with the new blazon and requests a copy of the modern device showing herald apple blossoms that was found by Ealasaid MacDonald:



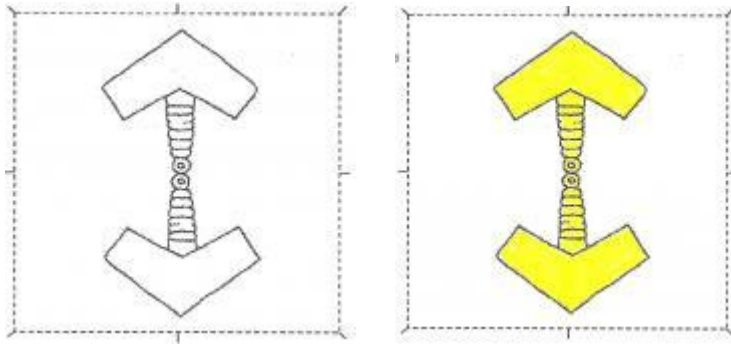
Þorbjörn Þóðvarsson - New Name (see "Returns" for device)

Consulting Herald: Isabella Sable Trident

Submitted as "Þorbjörn Þóðvarsson", the spelling of the personal name has been corrected to "Þorbjörn" (note the "ö") to match the cited example.

Þorgautr inn vikverski - Resub Badge

(Fieldless) in pale, a Thor's hammer inverted and a Thor's hammer conjoined Or

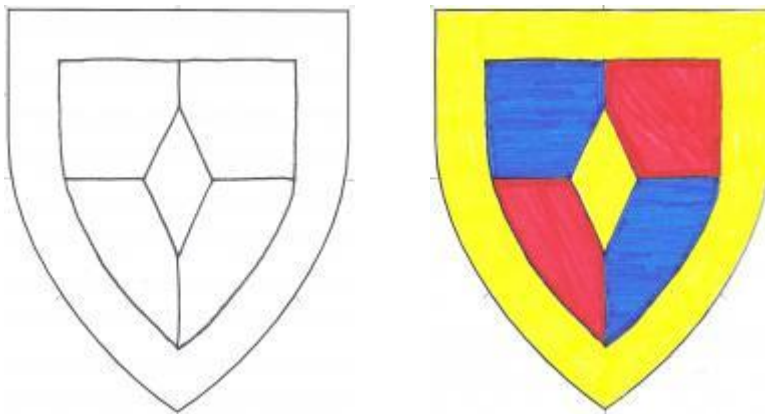


Consulting Herald: Rhiannon Finsterwald

The original submission was returned in December, 2011: "Þorgautr inn vikverski. Badge. *(Fieldless) In pale a Thor's hammer inverted and a Thor's hammer conjoined argent.* This badge is returned for conflict with the badge of Michael de Lynne, *Per pale sable and gules, in pale a Thor's hammer inverted and Thor's hammer argent.* There is one CD for fieldlessness but no difference is granted for conjoining."

Tibbe Crosier - Name & Device

Quarterly azure and gules a lozenge within a bordure Or

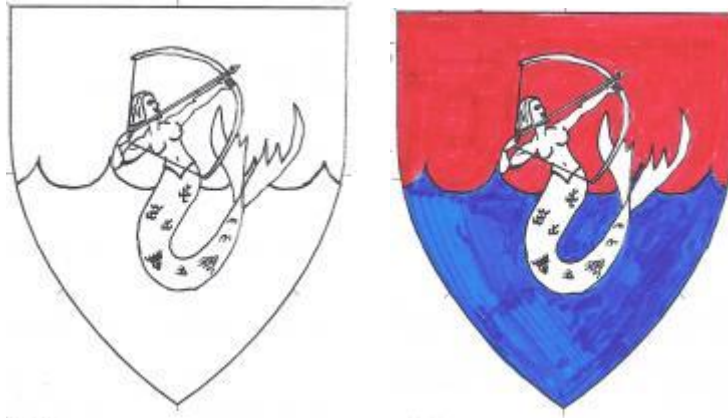


Consulting Herald: Philipp Hartrat

Vittoria Cavalieri - New Name (see "Returns" for device)

Wanda Ostojowna - New Device

Per fess engrailed gules and azure, a mermaid contourny drawing a bow and arrow aimed to sinister chief argent



Consulting Herald: Alexandra Wright

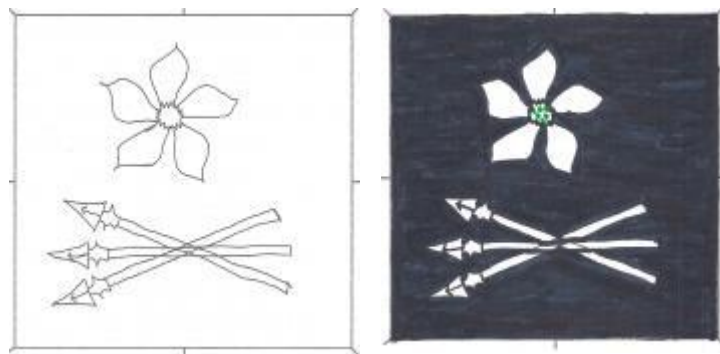
Yusuf bin Abdullah - New Name

Consulting Herald: Maaline Renard

Returns

Bright Hills, Barony of – Order Name & Badge / Order of the Oleander

Sable, in pale an oleander blossom argent seeded vert and a sheaf of spears heads to dexter argent.



Consulting Herald: Deirdre O'Bardon

"Oleander" as written is documented in <http://www.etymonline.com/index.php?search=oleander>, which documents it to c1400, derived from Medieval Latin.

The earliest citation in the *Oxford English Dictionary* with this spelling is dated 1548. The first citation appears to be mixed Latin and English, and is dated c. 1400: "Do p̄erto white litarge, elleborum nigrum, alumen vetus, oleandrum ana." And also according to the *Oxford English*

Dictionary there is a citation from an herbal dated 1562 which uses this spelling and specifically notes that the flowers and foliage of the oleander are poisonous.

While the submitted documentation said, "Naming Orders after flowers, while not the most popular naming practise, did occur. See *Medieval Secular Order Names: Fraternal Knightly Organizations* (downloaded from http://medievalscotland.org/jes/OrderNames/Fraternal_Knightly_Organizations.shtml#Crown of Roses (Germany) and its Bibliography (downloaded from <http://medievalscotland.org/jes/OrderNames/bibliography.shtml#RANFT>)" , unfortunately, in Smith's article the pattern that is adduced for the German order that is translated as "Crown of Roses" is not an order named for a flower but rather an order named for the charge, which is something quite different. This is also true for the Italian *Cavalieri di Giglio* (Knights of the Lily) which were named for the fleurs-de-lys in the arms of the Farnese family or the German *Geselleschafft der Rosen* (Society of the Rose) which also appear in Smith's article.

In the course of the commentary period, there were brought forth no examples of the oleander being used as a charge in Society heraldry, although it is possible that it may appear in late period Italian armory.

But since the actual word is clearly documentable to period, it may require either a demonstration that the flower was a charge in period armory or a specific appeal to Laurel to allow all period flowers as an extension of the use of the Order of the Rose, etc.

This information is included to aid the Barony should they decide to resubmit in light of the following information they may not have had at the time of their consultation and name/badge submission. Mistress Alisoun MacCoul of Elphane (Metron Ariston) pointed out a disquieting SCA history which may have bearing on the Barony's desire to use this as an Order name and badge, to wit:

"Many years ago, when female fighters were rather more controversial than they are now (!!!), the *Order of the Oleander* was an award bestowed on women who participated as heavy fighters at Estrella War. Most precedence listings that I have seen from more westerly climes list it as no longer given, but at least one lady in the West claims to have received it as late as February, 2009. And, indeed, the current sumptuary regulations at <http://www.atenveldt.org/portals/0/law/Sumptuary.pdf> include the following:

"K. OLEANDER FAVOR

Queens of Atenveldt who reign during Estrella War may bestow the right to wear a Queen's Favor bearing a Desert Oleander to any female fighter who fights on the Estrella War heavy weapon or rapier battlefields. Ladies who then return to do combat in additional Estrella Wars may add one Desert Oleander to this Queen's Favor for each year they fight at Estrella War. Reigning Queens who fight on the Estrella War heavy weapon or rapier battlefields are further granted the right to wear a favor bearing a gold Desert Oleander. Oleander Favors are traditionally presented by the Queen of Atenveldt to all lady fighters present at Estrella War Grand Court, regardless of the recipient's Kingdom of residence."

. . . the *Order of the Oleander* was subject of one of the biggest inter-kingdom protocol controversies in Society history . . . I can perhaps best outline why the folk of Bright Hills may not actually wish to register this name, even if the College of Arms does not find it problematic because of its associated history, by quoting the return of the submitted name from the February, 1990, Laurel letter:

"Atenveldt, Kingdom of. Name for the Order of the Oleander. As was noted at the time this submission was pended from the July, 8, meeting, this particular submission has been the subject of much dispute between subjects of the Kingdoms of Atenveldt and the Outlands (with some side commentary from Caid). As many current members of the College were not actively involved in commentary at that time, it is perhaps useful to quote the summary of the history included with the notice of "pend", even though it is somewhat lengthy:

"In February, 8, the name was submitted in conjunction with a badge by two private citizens of the Outlands, a submission which was promptly (and hotly) disputed by the then Aten Herald who demanded a retraction of the submission on the grounds that the name belonged to Atenveldt. Much discussion ensued before the name submission was returned in May, 8, when the badge submission could not be registered because of conflict.

Since that time, further commentary and controversy have ensued, raising the issue of the "property rights" in this name, with Aten's own account in his letter of intent muddying the waters as he associated the name with both Caid and Atenveldt from the beginning (thus raising the issue of whether any rights to the name must be given equally to Caid).

Public and private correspondence to the Laurel Office over the past few months has included the following allegations, many of which are extremely contradictory:

That the effort at registration from the Outlands was in response to "misuse" of the honour as originally intended by those who created it in recent courts at Estrella.

That the request from Atenveldt is an attempt to guarantee that the award would be associated with the war "to the chagrin of many fighting ladies".

That it has always been given jointly by the Queens of Atenveldt and the Caid.

That it has never been given by the Queens as Queens, but merely as representatives of the founders of the honour.

That it has been given by the Queen of Atenveldt only with no "right" of input from the Queen of Caid.

That it is an "order", as indicated by the name used in the submission from Atenveldt, albeit a non-armigerous Order.

That it is not an order, but an award, as evidenced by the fact that records of the recipients are not maintained and it does not appear in any O.P.

Since it appeared that wider issues were involved in this controversy, involving definitions of when an order becomes actively an order (and whether it can be retroactively so declared), what the rights of the Crown in "expropriation" of heraldic material are, what fealty may involve in the heraldic arena, etc., it was decided to put the broader issues to the Board of Directors at the October Board meeting and to pend the submission until the Board responded.

In October the Board opted to postpone consideration of the issues, feeling that it had not had enough time to consider Laurel's document (and, no doubt, already heavily burdened with heraldic input on the Rules for Submission adopted at that meeting).

At the January Board meeting, which Laurel attended, the Board formally referred the issue of the Order of the Oleander and the associated issues back to the College of Arms. In the wake of this action, Laurel carefully considered the evidence presented by all parties at the time of the original submissions and, in response to queries by Laurel, evidence and commentary presented by a variety of interested parties over the months since.

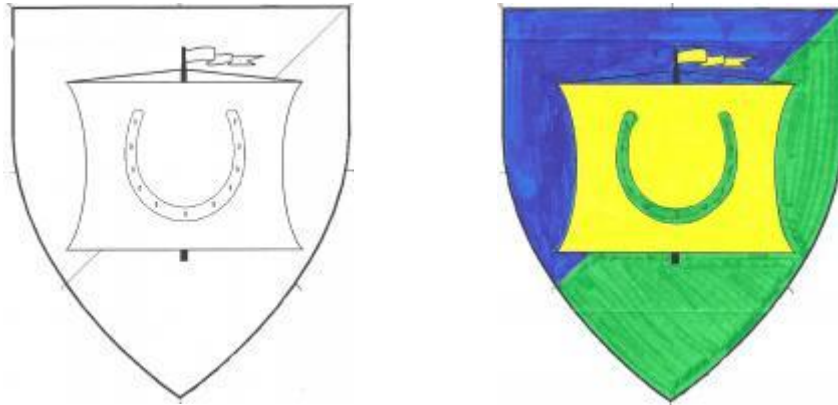
On the basis of this material, we have been forced to the conclusion that the name of the Oleander has become so notorious and controversial that it cannot be registered to anyone at this time. We realize that some may feel that there is insufficient precedent for refusing registration on the basis of Society history. On the other hand, there is ample precedent for finding against a submission because of its historical associations in the mundane sphere. It seems unreasonable and unwise to dismiss our own history as being of lesser value and less likely to carry the seeds of offense. Indeed, experience tends to indicate that the contrary is true: events that occur entirely within the context of the Society can have as long an effect and carry an odour of infamy just as strong as that of mundane events. In some cases, Society events carry a heavier effect upon Society life since many members are relatively ignorant of mundane history outside their own lifetime while Society history becomes the matter for campfire legend. In this case, the potential for offense is admittedly limited largely to a geographically restricted group of the membership, i.e., those who reside in the kingdoms regularly participating on a large scale in Estrella War. However, this is by no means an insignificant proportion of the Society membership. Moreover, those who are involved feel very strongly about this indeed and there are not merely one or two factions but a multiplicity of opinions, some of whom find offense in the very concept of an honour defined merely by gender.

No compromise appears possible between the parties and it is clear that the use of "the Oleander" is causing the same sort of disruption/offense usually associated with the sort of mundane items which have been refused registration because of their mundane historical associations. Given this, we simply cannot in good conscience register the name of the Oleander."

For this reason, we are returning the submissions to the Barony of Bright Hills so they may discuss the history written above and decide if they wish to go forward with the submission. Should they do so, it would be wise to also discuss how much they would care if the blazon were changed to “*Sable, in pale a cinquefoil argent seeded vert and a sheaf of spears heads to dexter argent*” as there does not appear to be any difference between this depiction of the oleander and any other five-(thin) petalled flowers.

Maria Donald of Windmaster's Hill - Device

Per bend sinister azure and vert, on a sail Or masted sable pennoned Or a horseshoe inverted vert



Consulting Herald: Dominico Barbieri

This is being returned for a redraw since too many commenters mistook the horseshoe for a laurel wreath. It would be much more clear that it is in fact a horse’s shoe by drawing in discernible caulks (the traction hooks) on the shoe ends. The blazon has been changed to include the mast and pennon.

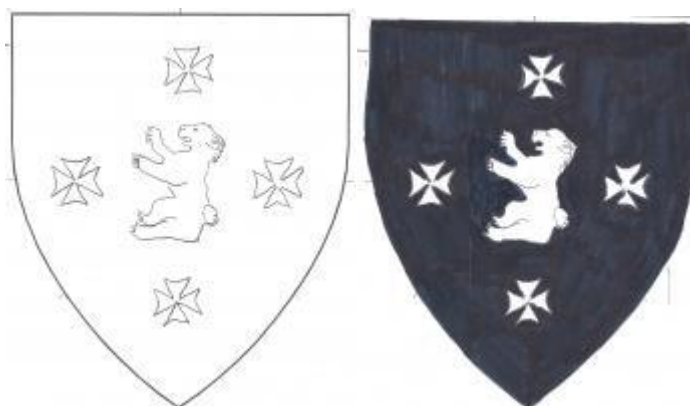
The submitting herald should be aware of Wreath’s ruling in the October 2007 LoAR Cover Letter in the section "From Wreath: Charged Sails":

“ Please note the following discussion which appears under Æthelmearc for the registration of Marianna Molin di Salerno's device, *Azure goutty d'Or, six lymphads sailing to sinister Or, each sail charged with a martlet volant to sinister gules, a base Or*:

As noted on the LoI, a charged sail is not an inescutcheon of pretense under RfS XI.4; but as a display of armory, it must still be checked for conflict. In this case, *Or, a martlet volant to sinister gules* is clear of conflict. An anomaly of our rules is that, under these circumstances, conflict is not reciprocal. Thus the registration of *Azure goutty d'Or, six lymphads sailing to sinister Or, each sail charged with a martlet volant to sinister gules, a base Or* does not protect *Or, a martlet volant to sinister gules*. A charged sail must be clear of conflict at the time it is registered, but a different person could later register armory that conflicts with that sail. “

Þorbjörn Bǫðvarsson - Device

Sable, a bear sejant erect between in cross four maltese crosses argent

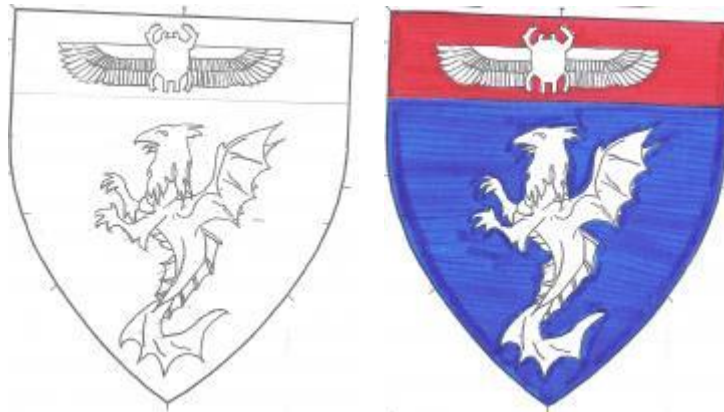


Consulting Herald: Isabella Sable Trident

This is being returned for redraw so that the charges can be enlarged on the field and the Maltese crosses drawn with more recognisability.

Vittoria Cavalieri - Device

Azure, a seagriffin and on a chief gules a winged scarab argent



This is being returned for violation of tincture rules and to correct the depiction of a sea-griffin. This sea-griffin is not drawn as a fish-tailed demi-griffin but instead it has what appear to be bat-wings. These must be blazoned, then, making this *Azure, a bat(or dragon)-winged sea-griffin and on a chief gules a winged scarab argent.*

There is danger that the winged scarab may force a return from Laurel, as SENA states in “A.1. Armory Style Principles

A. Definitions of Rule Sets: We require an armorial submission to be compatible with period armorial content and style. We consider a design that follows attested patterns for armorial content and style within our period to meet this requirement. “

and in

“A.2. Armory Content

A. Definitions: Armorial elements include tinctures, charges, lines of division, complex line treatments, postures/orientations, arrangements, and the like. Essentially, each piece of an armorial submission is an element.

On first registration of any particular element, documentation must be presented that the element and its depiction may be registered. This means presenting evidence that the element is eligible to be registered and that the specific depiction is attested or is otherwise compatible with period style. Elements which have been registered without comment in the last decade or are listed in one of the Appendices as acceptable elements do not usually need to be documented in a new submission. Items which have not been registered in over a decade, have only been registered a few times, or have recent registrations only via the Grandfather Clause may need to be documented. Occasionally new research will require new documentation of a more recently registered element.”

The College of Heraldry has registered only four winged scarabs in its history and only one of those has been within the last twenty years, although that one does fall within the last decade: the device

of Arsenda of Calais registered through Atenveldt in December, 2005 *Per chevron vert and azure, two estoiles and a winged scarab displayed, maintaining between its wingtips a roundel argent.*

In registering that armory, Laurel said:

"There is no defined form for a scarab either heraldically or in Egyptian art. The presence of the wings and the presence of a roundel between them must be specified but whether the roundel is conjoined to the wings and/or the forelegs is considered an unblazoned, artistic variant, as is the presence or absence of a smaller roundel maintained by the hind legs.

I remain,
in service to The Society and Atlantia,

Hrothny
Golden Dolphin Herald