

Heralds' Point:
The Occasional Journal for the College of Heraldry of Atlantia

From the Editor:

Unto all who read this missive, now and in the future, from Pedro de Alcazar, Drekkar Herald and editor of *Heralds' Point*, greetings!

I hope that your tabard has kept off the worst of the rough weather of the season, and that your holidays have been wonderful. This autumn and winter saw some changes in the Atlantian College of Heraldry and at the Laurel level.

First, in October, the successors to our current Laurel, Pelican, and Wreath Kings of Arms were picked by the Board of Directors. The successor to the current Wreath is an Atlantian, Master Evan da Collaureo, who was made a member of the Order of the Pelican on the 21st of February. Then, at Twelfth Night, Lord Gorm of Berra took off the tabard of Golden Dolphin Herald, and Mistress Alisoun MacCoul of Elphame took it up. I am happy to say that Lord Gorm and Master Evan were kind enough to write something for this issue of *Heralds' Point*. Mistress Alisoun's article will appear in the next issue of *Heralds' Point*.

At the most recent session of the University of Atlantia, Baron Michael Batcok, Triton Principal Herald of Arms, held a heralds' court:

- Master (then Lord) Evan da Collaureo resigned from the office of Kraken Herald, and took his retirement title, Sackbut Herald.
- Lady Rowen ferch Rhys was promoted to pursuivant extraordinary.

At the investiture of Marcellus and Belphoebe as the baron and baroness of Ponte Alto, Baron Michael Batcok, Triton Principal Herald, held a heralds' court:

- Master Evan da Collaureo was confirmed in his title of Sackbut.
- Lady Isabella Benalcazar resigned from the office of Sea Urchin Herald, and took her retirement title, Rastrillo Herald.
- Lord Rouland Carre, her husband, and former Crescent Principal Herald and Palimpsest Herald, was created Owen Herald

From Gorm of Berra

Unto the Heraldry of Atlantia does Gorm of Berra, no longer Golden Dolphin Herald, send greetings:

Well, what a long strange trip it's been. Three summers ago, after Alannah announced she would not be renewing as Golden Dolphin, sitting around Highland River Melees between the end of the fighting and the start of Court, I spoke with Herveus and Pedro, intending to lay a roadmap for how I could get the Golden Dolphin job...in 2004.

Little did I know then that it would fall into my lap two years ahead of schedule. I had great plans. Some of them worked out well, some of them worked out exceptionally poorly, some of them worked out about how I figured they would.

Without the help of the many heralds and non-heralds who came to decision meetings, manned the consultation tables, commented on the submissions list, colored in forms, sent notification letters, did decent art to cover the fact I can't draw to save my life, helped file folders, and did the 27,000 other little things necessary to maintain this most difficult of offices, I would have completely drowned. To each and every one of you, too many to list here, I thank you.

At 12th Night, Mistress Alisoun assumed the heavy mantle of duty for this position. I have nothing but the highest confidence in her ability to take things to the next level. She has plans to leverage the successes and failures of my ideas and make things better. She has already begun, and is doing an excellent job. I couldn't leave the office in more capable hands.

But it is not at all too early to start thinking about who will succeed her when her term ends. Anyone can do the job, armed with enough knowledge and assistance ahead of time. To those who may be considering it, I offer some free advice. Remember, it is worth what you paid for it.

Assemble a working staff now. You will need three times as many folks as you think you do, because not everyone will be able to support you through the entire two years. Make sure you have folks with strong name skills. Armory is relatively easy, as there is one core style and some add-ons. Names, on the other hand...well...in my two years, I encountered Norse, Kipchak, French, Mongolian, Japanese, French, English, Celtic, German, Hebrew, and many others, with a time range from 250 BC to 1642 AD. One person can't have all that knowledge, your head would explode. Find others who you can lean on.

Work to get access to many Kingdom's LoIs. There is a writing style that the CoA prefers, and it takes time to get used to. Many are sent out electronically, or posted to websites. If you can contribute commentary, you can even get added to the College of Arms mailing list now, and by the time you are ready to step up to Golden Dolphin, you'll be rolling right along.

Have a backup plan in case of natural disaster. You will have one during your term. Once you get behind, catching up is four times as difficult as keeping up.

Realize that you will be approached constantly by folks asking "What happened to X?" This gives you the chance to meet many people, and is excellent, but it also means you need to have constant access to a way to either dig through your files, or at least get their name and phone number so you can get back to them later.

Reserve at least one event per quarter to remember that the SCA is more than just consultation tables and paperwork. Watch the fighting (or fight in it), shoot some archery, dance, cook, cry camp, whatever you enjoy, do it.

The job has its benefits, you will learn a lot, and you will meet many people. Enjoy that. The more prepared you can be going in, the more successful you will be coming out.

As for me, my plans are to settle into a less active retirement, remaining on Triton staff as Blue Pike Herald supporting the submissions process through both the internal Kingdom and SCA wide Laurel commentary, as well as focusing on education, vocal heraldry, and my arts and crafts. I'm always willing to talk Heraldry (well, if I'm on the field in the middle of a Melee, I may not be able to talk right now, but you get my meaning), if you want to discuss things, please look me up. I'm not going away, I'm just returning to my stronger base.

In short, it's been fun, really it has. Exasperating at times, expensive at times, and exhausting at times, but also exhilarating and exciting at times. It's a good job, and it is time to turn it over to Alisoun.

In Service,

Gorm of Berra
Blue Pike Herald

From Evan da Collaureo

Your Invitation to Join the Armory Decision Team

Greetings unto the Heralds of Atlantia, and all others who read these presents, from Evan da Collaureo.

Many of you know, and the rest of you are about to be told, that I will be warranted this spring as one of the incoming Sovereigns of Arms for the SCA. The incoming Laurel Sovereign has designated me to make the decisions on all armory registrations for the Society, beginning in April. This is not a task to be handled alone. And while I have a core team of folks who have volunteered their efforts to help (you know who you are, and **thank you!!!**), there is always room for more.

As my predecessor, Dame Zenobia, told me: "Always have multiple sets of eyes to look at the picture." I'm looking for people to help out by being eyes, as well as discuss rules issues and relevant period heraldry. There is also some (though not much) administrative work to handle which requires little or no heraldic experience, though some heraldry is bound to rub off. :-) And there is opportunity to be support staff, making sure the heralds stay hydrated and occasionally fed. (A good opportunity to meet with the Cooking side of the Great Heraldic Culinary Conspiracy we've got going.)

There's no need to show up every month. What I figure is, if there are enough volunteers in general, then whoever CAN show up each month will constitute enough people to do the job well.

So, if you're interested, please let me know and I'll put your name down on the contact list. Most of this contact will be by email; if you want to be on the email list please write to me, evan@scadian.net and I'll put you on the meeting announcement/discussion email list. If you prefer some other method of contact, please let me know how to contact you and I'll try to notify you that way, but the news is likely to be slower in coming. In any case, I look forward to hearing from you, and also to seeing you starting this spring.

Yours in service to the Society,
Evan

Heraldry is an art as old as Henry II and Eleanor of Aquitaine, and as young as the newest submission. I welcome you to join in exploring it with your colleagues, the heralds of Atlantia- this is *your* journal. If you have always wanted to write an article that would be read by every Atlantian herald, if you have a question you would like to ask of all the heralds of Atlantia, send me a message at pedro@scadian.net! I would prefer that any articles or other messages come as plain text (ASCII), as opposed to HTML or some other format. Thank you!

In Service,
Pedro de Alcazar, Drekkar Herald

Point of Fact

Why is red "gules" and not "rouge", when most of the other tinctures' names are derived from French?

It's thought that gules comes from one of the Latin words for throat, *gula*, and alludes to the bright red color of the throat's inside.

Herald's Point is the newsletter for the members of the College of Herald's of Atlantia. *Herald's Point* is not a corporate publication of the Society for Creative Anachronism, Inc. (SCA) and does not delineate SCA policies. *Herald's Point* **does** delineate policies specific to the Kingdom of Atlantia. Copies of this newsletter are available from Pedro de Alcazar (Craig Levin) 6700 Belcrest Road #1105, Hyattsville, MD 20782