

**Heralds' Point:
The 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, the editor of *Heralds' Point*, greetings!

The highest ranking herald in the College of Heraldry of Atlantia is, of course, Triton. For a long time, that office has been ably held by Baron Michael Batcok. However, as of 12th Night, he will retire from the office of Triton, and Lord Eogan mac Ailpein will take over. Eogan has been kind enough to send me a letter to be included in this issue of *Heralds' Point*:

From Eogan:

Greetings to the Atlantian College of Heraldry from Lord Eogan mac Ailpein, Nereid Herald,

I thought I might write an open letter to the Atlantian College of Heraldry to introduce myself to those of you who don't know me and to fill in the blanks to those of you who do.

I joined the SCA in May '95. From the very beginning I was interested in heraldry in fact I joined my barony's scrivener group not as an artist but to study heraldry. I didn't become a herald right away though because my canton needed an exchequer more. After serving for a year I made a deal with the woman that wanted to step down as the canton herald. If she could find someone to take over the exchequer position, I would take over the heraldry position. She stepped down as the herald to become the A&S officer and I became the herald. Actually I was the exchequer and the herald for a short time. I don't recommend it.

Well that was about 8 years ago. Since then I have done just about all you can do as a herald. I served 2 years as the Canton herald of Elvegast, then 4 years as the Baronial Herald of Windmasters' Hill and finally for about 2 years on Triton's staff. I've done many courts, I've shouted at numerous tournaments, I have done my share of book heraldry consultation, and I've taught it all in various classes.

In addition to the heraldic stuff, I have worked as autocrat, a troll many times, a target and a combat archer and marshal, and as a chef (no, not as a feastocrat, hate that term, patoowee)

In my modern life I worked at every level of computer support available over the last 17 years. I started with databases and software support. Spent sometime as both a PC and Unix system administration, and have spent the last 6 years doing high level technical support. I tell you this for two reasons, one, yes I am a computer person through and through but I'm not a geek and two, most of the time in computers has been spent doing customer support and this affects most of my human relations.

Both in and out of the SCA I am a service person, and it is important to me to do whatever I can to help people. Whether it is helping a person to get the computer running or helping a person enjoy the SCA more, Customer support is what I am about.

I will be discussing my plans for the future at Unevent. I will also details my plans in another letter to the Herald's Point so stay tuned.

I hope to work with all of you over the next couple of months.

In service to Crown and College,

Eogan mac Ailpein
Nereid Herald

Point of Fact

Why a "king of arms"? When heralds were just specialized minstrels, they were not organized into ranks. A skilled minstrel who had found a path to favor in some great man's household might be called his "king of minstrels", especially if he led the minstrels who were employed by that great man. When heralds established themselves independently of the minstrels, they took with them the notion of a "king", and the earliest title of the office was "king of heralds of arms". This got shortened to "king of arms", especially as various countries gave heralds regulatory duties over coats of arms.

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

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.