

# HERALD'S POINT

*The Occasional Journal  
For the College of Heraldry & Scribes  
Of the fair Kingdom of Atlantia*

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## A Word from the Newsletter Editor



reetings unto all to whom these presents may come from Lady Patricia, Manticore!

This is a somewhat abbreviated issue of *Herald's Point* – abbreviated so that I could get it out to you before the Known World Heraldic and Scribal Symposium, which the Kingdom of Atlantia is proud to host this year. Thanks to the kindness of Lord Sovany Barcsi János, we will even have some printed copies for our out-of-kingdom friends.

If you are reading this newsletter for the first time, welcome! The Atlantian College of Heraldry (now the College of Heraldry and Scribes) has been publishing a newsletter, off and on, for more than a decade (early issues had no volume numbers). Over the years, we've printed some entertaining and thought-provoking articles on SCA protocol, submissions and other administrivia, and heraldic history; please feel free to browse the *Herald's Point* archives at <http://herald.atlantia.sca.org/hp.htm>. (I'm working on author and subject indexes to make it easier to find materials in the back issues.)

I welcome contributions from all heralds, even from outside Atlantia; just make sure you're not confusing our Atlantian readers when mentioning policies specific

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to your kingdom. If you're up to tackling inter-kingdom heraldic anthropology, that would be fine. I would also like to print some articles on scribal issues that also pertain to heralds. Some suggestions:

- ❖ Tips for heralds who try to decipher unusual calligraphic hands "on the fly";
- ❖ Best practices for providing heralds with a copy of the text to read (taped on the back of the scroll or whatever);
- ❖ What scribes wish heralds knew and what heralds wish scribes knew.

And, of course, articles on historical heraldic arms and naming practices are always in demand!

In this issue, I have some "Ask Auntie Rhiannon" columns from our own Mistress Rhiannon ui Neill, Pearl Herald for ceremony. She's been submitting them to *The Acorn*, the Kingdom of Atlantia's newsletter, but it's certainly handy to have them in a more permanent archive. Feeling blue about protocol? Auntie Rhiannon will put you back on the right track! I also have a book review and word puzzle from János. I shall catch up with the Letters of Acceptances and Returns in the July/August issue.



I close this letter with the admonition that Rhiannon frequently made during her second term as head of our College: Now that the hot weather is here ... **DRINK LOTS OF WATER!!!**

*Respectfully submitted,  
Patricia of Trakai  
Editor and Manticore Pursuivant*

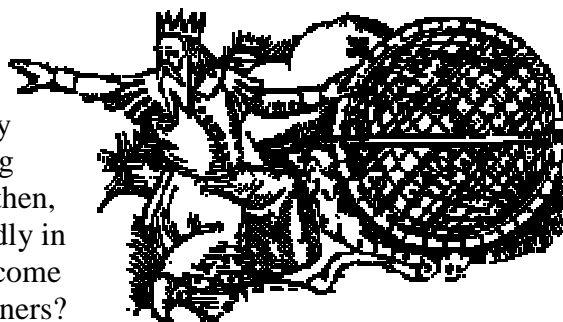
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## POINT OF PROTOCOL (or Ask Auntie Rhiannon)

*By Mistress Rhiannon ui Neill, Pearl Herald*

Dear Students of Protocol,

I don't have a question this month, but rather, some observations. I personally witnessed some poor choices in court behavior recently from both the retainers and the populace, where they were bantering back and forth right over the heads of the territorial baronage, and then, was told of another court where the Queen was interrupted repeatedly in Her address to the populace! This saddens me greatly. Have we become such a group of brutish louts, who don't remember our church manners?



What is truly unfortunate about these incidents (besides that they happened at all), is that the offenders were not new to the SCA! In fact, some have been in nigh twenty years! How can we expect good behavior out of our newcomers when us older members don't practice it?

So, this month is a quickie refresher course in how to behave in court.

First of all, everyone needs to adopt a mindset regarding the atmosphere and solemnity of court. While not as solemn as a funeral, the audience should behave as expected AT a funeral, wedding, church service, graduation, etc. In other words, sit quietly and politely. Laugh when appropriate, clap when appropriate, cheer when

appropriate. Respond *only* if spoken to directly by the Crown/Baronage. But don't burst out with your own comments or observations, and never interrupt the person(s) holding court (the Crown or the Territorial Baronage). My momma would have pinched a welt on my arm had I done that to the preacher, and honestly, it's what I wanted to do when I witnessed it in the SCA! And if you cannot contain yourself, then *remove* yourself.

For those behind the thrones, retainers should be like the invisible servants of Dracula. Present and attentive to the needs of the Crown/Baronage, but unheard. Like statuary, even. Don't talk, scratch, belch, lean on the thrones, etc. Heralds are the emcees for the Crown/Baronage, but are not The Show. The Crown/Baronage set the tone, and the herald should follow their lead. Neither retainers nor heralds should EVER respond back to hecklers from the audience. You are reinforcing their bad behavior with bad behavior of your own!

When you speak out of turn, heckle, misbehave in the audience or behind the thrones, or pull the focus of the attention away from the Crown/Baronage, you are not only being highly disrespectful of the Crown/Baronage, you are ruining the moment for the other people in the room, especially that person getting their first award. You are not the focus; you should not attempt to make yourself the focus. (And please turn your cell phone ringer off.) Court is not a comedy club. Court is the recreation of historical ceremony, and where we recognize of the hard work of others. Why would you spoil their moment?

Court is normally only an hour long. Surely for that period of time, we can all be respectful, attentive and patient. It only requires practice and being considerate in thought of others.

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## **ANOTHER POINT OF PROTOCOL (or Ask Auntie Rhiannon)**

*By Mistress Rhiannon ui Neill, Pearl Herald*

*Dear Auntie Rhiannon,*

*I used to see ladies escorted into court and there seemed to be a proper protocol for that, which made it look elegant and romantic. But now, it seems quite haphazard and I even see women escorting MEN! What ARE we supposed to do?*

*-- Longing for Days of Wine and Roses*

Dear Longing,

There is actually a proper protocol for escorting single women into court, but first, let's address that women-escorting-men idea. I see that as something that stemmed from a one-time joke, and has just carried through, even though it's not in the least bit medieval. When a gentleman was summonsed before the king in the Middle Ages, he and he alone was expected to arrive, unless his spouse/children had been summonsed as well. And in some instances, the person in question probably wanted to keep their family away from whatever hammer was about to be lowered upon them! The Middle Ages were not a feminist time, so when a gentleman gets called into court, in our endeavors to be more medieval, he should proceed under his own power and authority.

As for ladies, however, an escort is an act of courtesy, one that should be offered, but only under the *correct* circumstances.



1. When a lady is simply a lady: If a lady is called into court as herself, individually, then it is proper and courteous, should she not have a male companion to escort her, for a gentleman of the audience to quietly rise and offer his hand. Should she refuse his offer (courteously, I would hope!), he should smile, bow and return to his seat, and not take it personally! Hooray to you for offering! It's okay, if she has reason to not desire an escort, or if perhaps, she has someone else already available.
2. When a lady is an officer or official: If a lady is called into court under the auspices of her office or position (such as "the autocrat," "the kingdom seneschale," or "dean of pages," etc.), then in that case, she should NOT be escorted. She is being called before the Crown to conduct official business, and wears the mantle, power and authority of her position, rather than the gentility of her sex.

One other thing to note about escorting is that the Royal Guard/Champion(s) really should not leave the king/queen's side to escort ladies, especially if they are perhaps, the ONLY guard present. It is not appropriate for them to (1) leave the king/queen unattended and vulnerable; and (2) distract the flow of court and call attention to themselves. The only time that this would be acceptable is if the Crown has stationed a chosen guard for this specific purpose, at the back of court, and that were his sole duty during that court. A guard also might beg leave to serve as escort for his own spouse, but this should be done on a very limited basis, and planned ahead, so that there is not a lot of kerfluffle behind the thrones and disruption of his crossing in front.

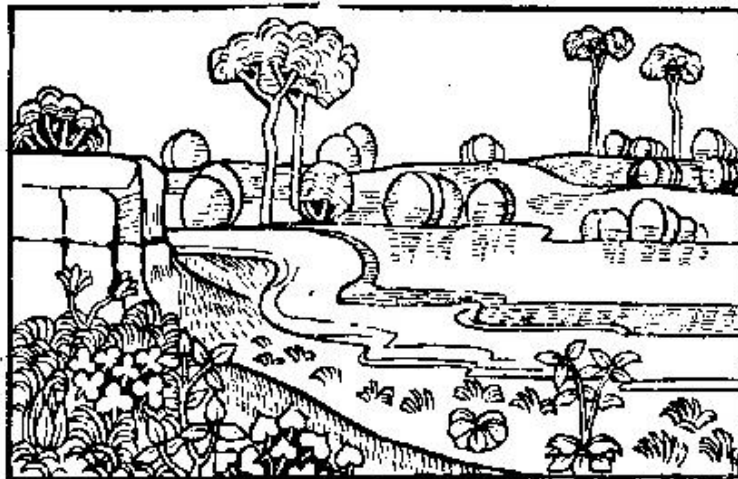
We ought to note that when you DO escort a lady into court, you should stop and release her at the last row of seats before the Crown, and kneel quietly during her business. Within our Society, tradition suggests that a gentleman offers his *right* hand to escort the Lady forward. Therefore, when ready to withdraw, he should cross to the other side of the aisle, the couple should render curtsy and bow to the presence and then individually turn. The lady then places her hand once again on the right hand of her escort to walk back into the audience

Such niceties are what make those special moments in our Society and hopefully, with this wee guidance, and a little practice, you'll see a resurgence of them!

And thank you so much for your question!

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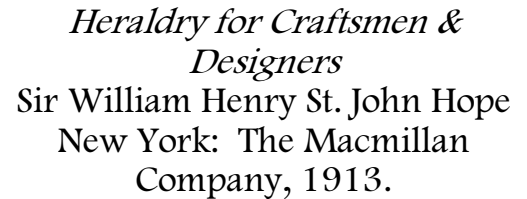
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## The Herald's Bookshelf

By Lord Sovany Barcsi János, *Black Raven Herald*

As always, I find my best stuff looking for something else. In this case, I was looking for a good “ethnic” heraldry book (for example, German or Polish heraldry), and found this one. In my opinion, this book will be very good for scribes and heraldic artists, of some good value for senior heralds, and not as much for new folks.

A look at the table of contents shows the usual culprits: treatment of the shield, mantling, marshaling, supporters, etc., but getting past that is where the good part starts, because this book is meant for craftsmen (I prefer the term *artisan*, but that's just my preference) there's less focus on designing an achievement and more emphasis on how it looks and examples of how it should look. An example – there was recent discussion about placing men's arms on lozenges on the Kingdom herald's mailing list; here illustrations of period examples are provided. There's even a section of a chapter on coloring of medieval mantling, with illustrations of dated examples provided.



*Heraldry for Craftsmen & Designers*  
Sir William Henry St. John Hope  
New York: The Macmillan Company, 1913.

Interesting stuff: The discussion on medieval shield shapes in heraldry is good; I like “round bottom” shields and an English example from 1298 AD is provided along with some period unshield-like shapes. The whole chapter on Tudor heraldry – a field I didn't know existed as a separate, definable aspect of heraldry.

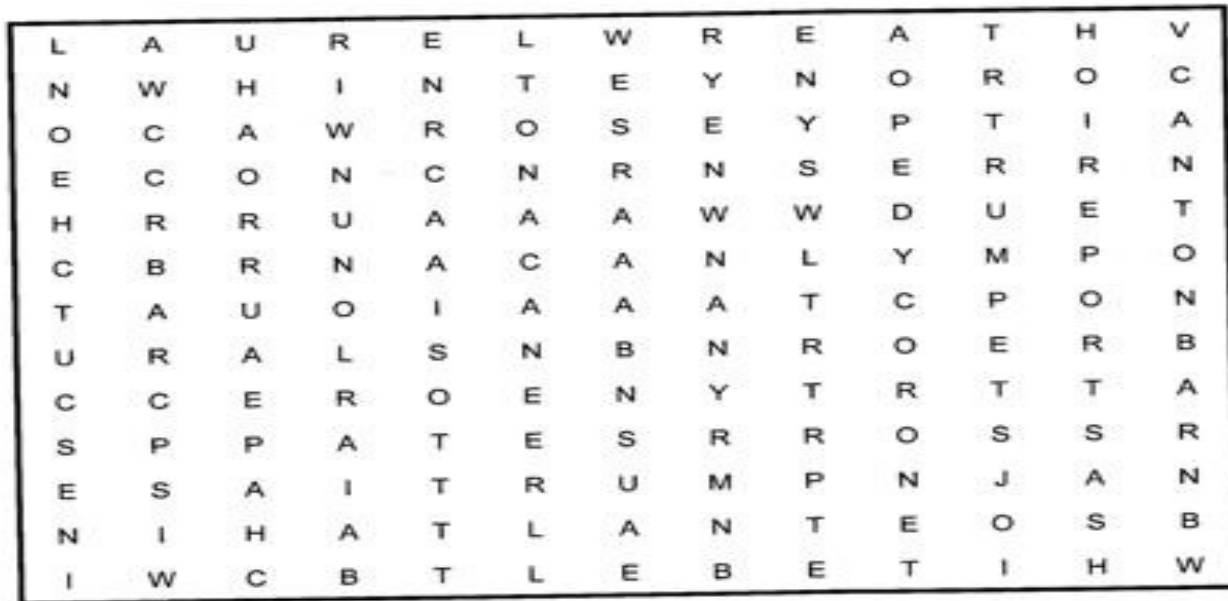
What I don't like: The author focuses exclusively on English heraldry – my main interest is further east. Also, there are no color examples – all photographs and illustrations are black and white – heraldry is beautiful in color and the illustrations provided don't have enough contrast without full color.

Where to find it: First of all, this book is free. You can find it – the whole thing – at Google Books ([http://books.google.com/books?id=PDcEAAAIAAJ&pg=PA139&dq=medieval+heraldry&hl=en&ei=cDrRTbi6LsHY0QHg1eDgDQ&sa=X&oi=book\\_result&ct=result&resnum=9&ved=0CFwQ6AEwCDgU#v=onepage&q&f=false](http://books.google.com/books?id=PDcEAAAIAAJ&pg=PA139&dq=medieval+heraldry&hl=en&ei=cDrRTbi6LsHY0QHg1eDgDQ&sa=X&oi=book_result&ct=result&resnum=9&ved=0CFwQ6AEwCDgU#v=onepage&q&f=false) OR <http://tinyurl.com/3dumd6a>).

*Looking for a PDF copy of the latest draft of the proposed revision of the Rules for Submission? Here is the URL for it: <http://heraldry.sca.org/rules2010/rules-2011-draft.pdf>. (No, I'm not going to publish the whole thing in this newsletter; it's 59 pages long.) Lady Marie du Blois of the East Kingdom will lead a discussion of the proposed rules changes at KWHSS. The subject will also come up during two sessions of “Heraldic Rules Roundtable” scheduled for Pennsic University during War Week.*

## Word Puzzle: Reserved Charges

By Lord Sovány Barcsi János, *Black Raven Herald*



WORDS TO SEARCH FOR: Canton, Chapeau, Coronet, Crown, Inescutcheon, Laurel Wreath, Pelican, Roses, Trumpets, White Baldric, White Belt

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### Point of Fact

Starting in the late 14<sup>th</sup> century, the nobles of northern Italy began the tradition of *impres* – badges that were often accompanied by a personal motto. Some noble families had only one badge; the Rusconis of Valtellina had a badge displaying an ice crampon – a useful tool for getting around in the mountains during winter. Others, such as the Visconti family of Milan, had many badges, one depicting a bird drinking from a bowl with the motto *Adeso el tempo* (probably “now the time”). This fad of mixing mottos and badges soon migrated to the jousting lists of France and England.

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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, or if you have a question you would like to ask of all the heralds of Atlantia, send me a message at [Patoodle AT aol DOT com](mailto:Patoodle AT aol DOT com)! I prefer that any articles or other messages come as plain text (ASCII), as opposed to HTML or some other format. Thank you!

*In Service, Patricia of Trakai*

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