

Name Consult 101 by Signora Giada Alberti

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The first rule is that this website is your best friend, search it, read it, know it, love it:

<http://heraldry.sca.org/welcome.html> (particularly) <http://heraldry.sca.org/laurel/sena.html#PN1>

You should especially love this page: <http://heraldry.sca.org/articles/withoutbooks.html> which is a more comprehensive guide on name research without books. So, you're "the herald" and you've been asked about a name someone desires to register. This class provides a quick process of helping them (especially when you don't have books or know offhand a lot about the name construction in the time/place they desire). Ready for the quicksteps?

The first step is to find out where they came up with the name. Ask for sources and explain that for a name to be registered it must meet the standards of the College or Arms. Basically, the name (or device) must be not only plausible for a particular time and place but must also be shown found (yes, documented, like in college) before 1650 in the specific language or culture and constructed appropriate to naming conventions in said time/place. To prevent headaches, familiarize yourself with names that are not register-able at this point in time. Go here at your leisure <http://heraldry.sca.org/laurel/names/returned-names.html> for the short list.

Next, (if the name isn't on that list, or invented from LOTR/Anime characters) go to this site and get a feel for if their desired name phrase (e.g. given name byname) is appropriate:

<http://heraldry.sca.org/laurel/names/patterns.html>

Then, get your documentation started (if the client hasn't already) by:

- Google-ing it. This is a quick way to see if Wikipedia or such site has info on the name origin or root. This will also tell you if they *did* get it from Anime.
- Searching for the name on OSCAR, <http://oscar.sca.org/> and copying the documentation
- Searching for the name on St. Gabriel, <http://www.s-gabriel.org/names/> and copying the documentation.
- Searching the O&A here: <http://sca.uwaterloo.ca/heraldry/OandA/> or name articles here: <http://heraldry.sca.org/laurel/names.html> and...you get the pattern.

Forms can be found here: <http://fleurtyherald.wordpress.com/araldica/>

If none of this helps, dig deeper by using the resources found here:

<http://heraldry.sca.org/articles/withoutbooks.html> or asking your kingdom submissions herald. You will likely need to peer into the books listed here: <http://heraldry.sca.org/laurel/admin.html#APPENDIXH> which can be found at the library ☺