DISPATCHES FROM THE FUTURE

CREATING A COLLEGE OF ARMS IN THE ROYAL MANTICORAN NAVY, INC., AND WHAT WE CAN LEARN ABOUT THE EARLY SCA COLLEGE
INTRODUCTION

• The Right Honorable Rear Admiral of the Red Lord Sir Matthew Parker, Baron Camera Stellata, QCB KSK CE SC OG.
  • Judge Advocate General
  • Gryphon King of Arms
  • Yes, that title stacking is correct.

A.K.A. The Honorable Lord Saito Takuji, CCC CCL
Gold Falcon Emeritus
Uji Prime
WHAT IS THE ROYAL MANTICORAN NAVY, INC.?

• The official fan-club for the Honor Harrington novels by David Weber.
  • Horatio Hornblower meets Admiral Nelson...IN SPACE!

• Founded in 2008 by former members of Starfleet, International (SFI).

• Members pick a persona in one of the friendly militaries of the novels, or civilians, and:
  • Increase rank
  • Take examinations and fill billets
  • Receive ribbons and medals
  • Receive Knighthoods and Peerages
KNIGHTHOOD AND PEERAGE IN THE STAR KINGDOM AND ALLIES

• Knighthood - Five major orders (do not currently have their own heraldry):
  • Order of the Star Kingdom (KSK)
  • Order of Merit (OM)
  • Order of King Roger (KR)
  • Order of the Golden Lion (KGL)
  • Order of Queen Elizabeth (KE).

• Four levels of Peerage (all currently get their own heraldry):
  • Baron
  • Earl
  • Duke
  • Steadholder (Special, Grayson only)
  • Grand Duke

Loosely based on the English/British System
ROYAL MANTICORAN COLLEGE OF ARMS

Established 2018

Earl Marshal of the Star Kingdom (Sir Scott Bell)

Manticore King of Arms (Earl Westmarch)

Sphinx King of Arms (Earl White Lion)

Gryphon King of Arms (Lord Camera Stellata)

(aka THLord Conal Mor MacNachtan)

(aka THLord Saito Takauji)
WHY THE COLLEGE OF ARMS WAS FOUNDED

• To provide for a consistent style in chapter emblems;
• To provide for a consistent style and uniformity in peerage arms;
• To answer questions of protocol;
• To work with the Bureau of Communication on visual representations for the organization.
• To adjudicate any other issues which arise and are related to ship crests and/or heraldry.

(Sound familiar?)
SOME EARLY TRMN HERALDRY

Duke of New Scania
Earl Westmarch
Duke of New Ulyanovsk
Baroness Silver Heath
Steadholder Pittman
MORE RECENT TRMN HERALDRY

- Baron Camera Stellata
- Earl White Lion
- Baron Clipper Island
- Baron von Baudenvost
ISSUES AND EARLY DECISIONS

• Quartering
• Inconsistent Submission Shape
• What is an Appropriate Charge?
• Mottos
• What is “Core Style”?

Note how many of these parallel early SCA issues
Quartering is not disallowed in TRMN heraldry, nor is the implication that one is an inheritor of multiple armigerous families. Due to its prominence in several early achievements, however, the College of Arms has encouraged armigers to consider other designs unless they have a strong desire for quartering; and then to consider what it represents.
INCONSISTENT SUBMISSION SHAPE

Duke Mountain View

Countess Wilson

The above arms were all submitted on the shields they are displayed on. Inconsistent submission shape makes it hard sometimes to determine what is a bordure and what is part of the arms (such as on Countess Wilson’s). The CoA is moving to a standard submission shape, after which it may be displayed on any shield shape the armiger wishes.
WHAT IS A PROPER CHARGE?

Treecats, Super Dreadnoughts, Windmills, and Atoms: Oh My. The College of Arms has adopted a broad approach to what is an allowable charge. To date it has not rejected any specific charge, but only required armigers to submit heraldically consistent versions. The CoA has privately discussed charges and motifs it would not register as being offensive, but has not needed to yet.

Note: The key thing is a recurring Grayson motif, that’s not unusual.
In the SCA, there has been discussion over Latin mottos in achievements because they were significantly less common in period than other languages. TRMN’s problem is slightly different: The author has authoritatively declared there are no Latin mottos for Manticoran peers because Latin is a dead language. As the arms above demonstrate, a lot of TRMN peers had Latin mottoes before this was communicated to us. As a result the policy of the CoA has changed, and the achievement of Camera Stellata will be changing to English in solidarity with the newer Peers.
Like the SCA, TRMN is constantly working to define what its “core style” is. Because we operate in the context of a society 2,007 years in the future, that is naturally going to be much more expansive than a society whose end date is capped at 1600.

But there is still a distinct style developing for Manticoran arms, Grayson arms, and Andermani arms. And one will soon be developing for Havenite Senatorial Crests.

Broadly speaking, TRMN core style is classic heraldry with modern twists; not dissimilar from Canada, but IN SPACE!
SCA PARALLELS

• The growing pains of the TRMN CoA doesn’t tell us what the SCA CoA should do, but give us a look in to how it developed.

• Sometimes the past decisions of Laurel can be opaque, but the growing decisions of their future fellow sovereigns provide context for them.

• Facing many of the same issues as the SCA CoA, the TRMN CoA has often found similar decisions to be the best path.
THANK YOU FOR COMING!

• And if TRMN has seemed interesting to you, please visit us at www.trmn.org or look us up on Facebook!