

Society for Creative Anachronism
College of Arms
601 S Washington #137
Stillwater, OK 74074
+1 405 428 3662
laurel@heraldry.sca.org

For the February 2021 meetings, printed April 11, 2021

To all the College of Arms and all others who may read this missive, from Emma Laurel, Elisabetta Pelican, and Oddr Wreath, greetings.

From Wreath: Steps from Core Practice

As our readers are no doubt aware, the armory standards laid out in SENA present a simplified view of the design aesthetics of Western Europe in the 12th through 14th centuries, and SENA A1A1 goes so far as to say "[o]ur core style is not identical to the style of any single specific place and time, although it is based on the dominant style in medieval Western Europe, the Anglo-Norman style."

Within this framework the needs of most members of the Society have been well-served, allowing many people to add to the pageantry without the need to invest time and resources toward researching period manuscripts and treatises. However, it does not and likely never will encompass all the fevered dreams that arise from the heraldic imagination of our period (or our membership). And so for many years the armory standards of the Society have made allowances for popular content and style choices which differ *somewhat* from this approximation of period practice. As SENA GP4 reads:

A step from period practice is an element or combination of elements not found in period names or armory that we nonetheless allow. While this is mostly used in terms of armory, it may also appear in older precedents on names. In older rulings this same concept may also be described as a *weirdness*.

Some common examples may be found in SENA Appendix G (though astute readers of the LoAR may note some things mentioned in Appendix G which no longer belong). Included are plants and animals from outside of Europe, such as the New World dogwood blossom which differs from that of the European species, and elements from non-European armory, such as those found in Japanese *mon*. Additionally, extrapolating from the attested *leopard's head jessant-de-lys* to the (hypothetical) *bear's head jessant-de-lys*, or the use of "complex machines known to Europeans" have also been ruled an SFPP from time to time.

Each of these examples involve things known to period which nevertheless have not been considered part of our pre-17th century Western European core: the first is the application, to non-European species, of an established (SENA A2B2b) pattern regarding the use of plants and animals; the second is the borrowing of elements from an entirely separate heraldic tradition into an otherwise core design (a variation of SENA A2B2a); and the third is an extrapolated variant of a core motif to use a core charge in an unattested manner. Not included in the list are certain motifs such as the use of low-contrast charges we see from time to time in Germany and Italy: these are examples of motifs which require the documentation of an Individually Attested Pattern, being a step too far from the core. See SENA A4 for details.

To more accurately reflect our true intent -- which is to provide a limited allowance for otherwise innocuous design choices rather than to return with a (potentially misleading) declaration that something is simply "not period" -- we are immediately changing how we refer to these cases: instead of *steps from period practice*, we shall call them *steps from core practice*, or *SFCPs*.

From Wreath: On the Governing Documents of the Society, SENA, and Steps from Core Practice

As a step toward alignment with the revised introduction to Corpora announced in March 2021, which seeks to include non-European cultures into the definition of the Society's scope, we are considering several changes to SENA to reduce and remove bias against non-European cultures inasmuch as we can also fulfill our mission, specified in Corpora VI.C which reads in part:

[...] to provide sufficient difference from names and armory registered within the Society to avoid undue confusion, to avoid the appearance of unearned honors or false claims, and to provide sufficient difference from historical or fictional personages to prevent offense due to obvious usurpation of identity or armory. Members are encouraged to develop unique, historically valid names and armory.

An example of bias includes the imposition of *steps from core practice* for the use of East Asian dragons, the use of characters from East Asian writing systems, and the use of New World flora and fauna. Under the current standards, *Argent, a dragon and the word "dragon" sable* would not have any SFCP declared, while *Argent, an East Asian dragon and the kanji for "dragon" sable* would have two SFCPs and, thus, be returned unless documented as an Individually Attested Pattern. Similarly, *Gules, the Japanese number three within an octagon argent*, depicted on a banner in the *O-umajirushi* (identified as the same mon as Inaba Mino-no-kami) would also be returned.

Sections of SENA already identified for change include:

- SENA GP4F, defining "Step from Period [now *Core*] Practice";
- SENA A1A1, introducing "Core Style Rules";
- SENA A2B2, where we can mostly drop "European" and "non-European" from the text;
- SENA A2B4, which would undergo a significant rewrite; and
- Appendix G, listing some well-known SFCPs.

It is not expected that we will do away with SFCPs entirely. There are popular design choices, each individually within period European armory, which in combination are implausible enough to warrant an SFCP, and we anticipate implausible cases from outside of Europe to be similarly handled. It is also not expected that these changes will be completed in a single act on our part, and we anticipate a long tail of re-evaluating old precedents as they are cited in the normal course of submissions. The purpose of the current exercise is to establish the fundamental changes to support our immediate need while providing the foundation for identifying future changes.

To that end, effective immediately:

- The use of non-European armorial elements will no longer be considered a step from core practice. The standard for documentation will be the same as that used for Europe, applied to the local culture. This is a change to SENA A2B4a.
- The use of non-European plants and animals will no longer be considered a step from core practice. The standard for documentation will be the same as that used for Europe, applied to the local culture. This is a change to SENA A2B4b.
- The use of attested depictions of fantastical plants and animals from outside of Europe will no longer be considered a step from core practice. The standard for documentation will be the same as that used for Europe, applied to the local culture. This is a change to SENA A2B4b.
- We direct Palimpsest to prepare a letter so that we may discuss the specific changes necessary to enact this realignment.
- While these changes are under discussion, we will pend armory that would normally be returned for having two or more steps from core practice.

As a reminder, steps from core practice only apply to designs submitted under the standards described in SENA A2 and A3. As always, designs may be documented and registered under the Individually Attested Pattern standards of SENA A4.

From Pelican: On the Governing Documents of the Society and Naming Practice

Currently, the guidelines for registering names outlined by SENA allows for the registration of any name element from any part of the world attested before 1650. As such, the new introduction to the Society's Governing Documents does not impact how we register names at this time.

However, we are always looking for more cultures to add to SENA Appendix A and SENA Appendix C. In order for us to expand these Appendices, we need research and data. We welcome information from cultures that are currently underrepresented, such as the Indian subcontinent, Africa and East Asia.

From Pelican: English Adjectival Bynames

This month we registered an adjectival byname based on a person's reputation, *Brienne the Scorned*. This byname was registered in its past participle form based on period examples of similar bynames denoting a person's reputation. This pattern does not extend to bynames that were not based on reputation, such as "brown-eyed", "long-legged" or "fair-skinned". Bynames like this remain unregistrable in English.

Society Pages

On March 14, 2021, at their 7th Ethereal Court in the Kingdom of the East, Their Majesties Tindal and Alberic inducted Ané{zv}ka Li{sv}ka z Kolína into the Order of the Silver Wheel for her work as a herald. The Order of the Silver Wheel is the East's AoA-level service award.

Please send information about happenings to major heralds and major happenings to all heralds to Laurel, so that it can be published here.

Send What to Whom

Letters of Intent, Comment, Response, Correction, et cetera are to be posted to the OSCAR online system. No paper copies need be sent. All submission forms plus documentation, including petitions, must be posted to the OSCAR online system. While black-and-white emblazons must be included in the Letter of Intent, only colored armory forms need to be posted in the forms area.

Cheques or money orders for submissions, payable to "SCA Inc.-College of Arms" are to be sent to Trent Le Clair, 928 Frazier Dr, Walla Walla WA 99362

Send roster changes and corrections to Laurel. College of Arms members may also request a copy of the current roster from Laurel.

For a paper copy of a LoAR, please contact Laurel, at the address above. The cost for one LoAR is \$3. Please make all checks or money orders payable to "SCA Inc.-College of Arms". The electronic copy of the LoAR is available free of charge. To subscribe to the mailings of the electronic copy, please see the bottom of <http://heraldry.sca.org/heraldry/lists.html#lists> for more instructions.

For all administrative matters, please contact Laurel.

Scheduling

Items listed below in square brackets have not been scheduled yet. For information about future scheduling, please review the status table located on the Web at <http://oscar.sca.org/index.php?action=137>.

The February Laurel decisions were made at the Pelican meeting held on Sunday, February 7, 2021 and the Wreath meeting held on Saturday, February 6, 2021. These meetings considered the following letters of intent: Meridies (01 Nov, 2020), Calontir (05 Nov, 2020), Middle (05 Nov, 2020), An Tir (09 Nov, 2020), West (17 Nov, 2020), Gleann Abhann (21 Nov, 2020), Ealdormere (24 Nov, 2020), Æthelmearc (27 Nov, 2020), Lochac (27 Nov, 2020), Avacal (28 Nov, 2020), Atlantia (29 Nov, 2020), Ansteorra (30 Nov, 2020), Drachenwald (30 Nov, 2020), East (30 Nov, 2020), Northshield (30 Nov, 2020), Laurel LoPaD (02 Jan, 2021) (redraws). **All commentary, responses, and rebuttals should have been entered into OSCAR by Sunday, January 31, 2021.**

The March Laurel decisions were made at the Pelican meeting held on Sunday, March 7, 2021 and the Wreath meeting held on Saturday, March 6, 2021. These meetings considered the following letters of intent: Meridies (01 Dec, 2020), Trimaris (01 Dec, 2020), Calontir (02 Dec, 2020), Laurel LoPaD (03 Dec, 2020), Middle (03 Dec, 2020), Palimpsest Rules Letter (08 Dec, 2020), An Tir (09 Dec, 2020), Artemisia (15 Dec, 2020), Æthelmearc (18 Dec, 2020), Palimpsest Rules Letter (23 Dec, 2020), Ealdormere (24 Dec, 2020), Atlantia (28 Dec, 2020), Caid (28 Dec, 2020), Palimpsest Rules Letter (29 Dec, 2020), Avacal (30 Dec, 2020), East (30 Dec, 2020), Outlands (30 Dec, 2020), Ansteorra (31 Dec, 2020), Caid (31 Dec, 2020), Drachenwald (31 Dec, 2020), Northshield (31 Dec, 2020), Palimpsest Rules Letter (31 Dec, 2020), Laurel LoPaD (07 Feb, 2021) (redraws). **All commentary, responses, and rebuttals should have been entered into OSCAR by Sunday, February 28, 2021.**

The April Laurel decisions were made at the Pelican meeting held on Sunday, April 11, 2021 and the Wreath meeting held on Saturday, April 10, 2021. These meetings considered the following letters of intent: Laurel LoPaD (03 Jan, 2021), Lochac (04 Jan, 2021), Calontir (06 Jan, 2021), Palimpsest Rules Letter (07 Jan, 2021), An Tir (10 Jan, 2021), Palimpsest Rules Letter (10 Jan, 2021), West (13 Jan, 2021), Middle (17 Jan, 2021), Æthelmearc (19 Jan, 2021), Æthelmearc (23 Jan, 2021), Outlands (23 Jan, 2021), Ealdormere (24 Jan, 2021), Ansteorra (30 Jan, 2021), Atenveldt (30 Jan, 2021), Caid (30 Jan, 2021), Northshield (30 Jan, 2021), Atlantia (31 Jan, 2021), Avacal (31 Jan, 2021), Drachenwald (31 Jan, 2021), East (31 Jan, 2021), Palimpsest Rules Letter (31 Jan, 2021), Laurel LoPaD (10 Mar, 2021) (redraws). **All commentary, responses, and rebuttals should have been entered into OSCAR by Wednesday, March 31, 2021.**

Not all letters of intent may be considered when they are originally scheduled on this cover letter. The date of posting of the LoI, date of receipt of the Laurel packet, or other factors may delay consideration of certain letters of intent. Additionally, some letters of intent received may not have been scheduled because the administrative requirements (receipt of the forms packet, receipt of the necessary fees, et cetera) have not yet been met.

REMINDER: Until all administrative requirements are met, the letter may not be scheduled.

Pray know that I remain,

In service,

Emma de Fetherstan
Laurel Queen of Arms