

September 2025 CL & LoAR

A Quick Summary of Changes

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From the Sovereigns of Arms - On Diversity and Internationalism in the SCA

- Over the past few years, we have had several armory and names submissions that have had to be returned under SENA PN53B, NPN5B3, and A7B3 - Derogatory Stereotypes. In many of these cases, the name or armory in question has been submitted innocently, with the submitter unaware of the negative connotations involved, or only tangentially aware that there may be an issue in countries other than their own country of residence, or their own communities. As an international society, we must consider offense across the known world, rather than solely in an individual submitter's place of residence or community, and this should be borne in mind when submitting any sort of name or armory for registration.

From Wreath – Parallel Lines

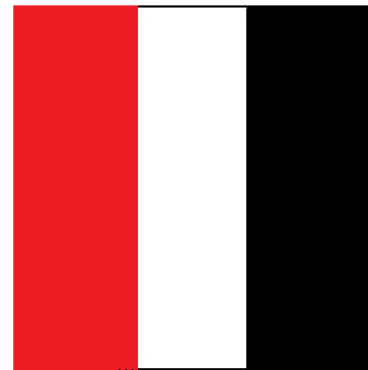
- A new section, A3D1c, is added to SENA disallows the registration of a two-part field division with a roughly parallel peripheral ordinary unless there is a charge overlying the line of division, if the two lines have different styles that don't appear to be part of the same central ordinary, or as part of an Individually Attested Pattern.



*Per fess argent and sable, a chief embattled gules is not registerable because it can be seen as *Per fess gules and sable, a fess embattled argent* as fesses are embattled to chief by default.*



*Per fess argent and sable, a chief indented gules is registerable because it cannot be seen as *Per fess gules and sable, a fess indented argent* as we do not allow fesses to be indented on the upper edge only.*



*Per pale argent and sable, a tierce gules is not registerable because it can be seen as *Per pale gules and sable, a pale argent*.*



*Per pale argent and sable, a sun Or and tierce gules is registerable because it cannot be seen as *Per pale gules and sable, a pale argent and overall a sun Or* as the sun would be on the pale and the sinister portion of the field, which is not a valid depiction of an overall charge.*

From Wreath: Armorial Balance

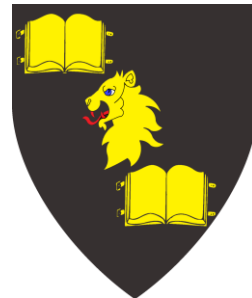
- A new section, A3D3f, Armorial Balance, is added to SENA. In period armory, when charge groups consisted of two types of charge they were typically arranged in a balanced way around the center of the group. For this reason, charge groups that contain two types of charge with three or more charges in an unbalanced arrangement will only be registered with documentation of such a pattern. This section provides guidelines for what is considered balanced.
- These guidelines apply to all armory appearing on Letters of Intent dated after February 1, 2026.



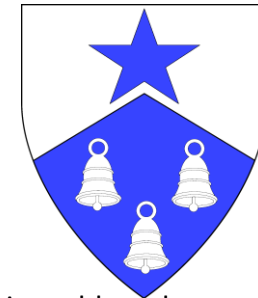
Registerable – charges are balanced



Registerable – charges are balanced



Registerable – charges are balanced



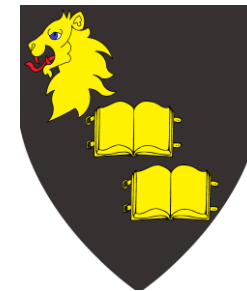
Registerable – charges are in their default arrangement



Not registerable – charges aren't balanced



Not registerable – charges aren't balanced



Not registerable – charges aren't balanced

From Wreath: SENA Appendix G

- SENA Appendix G, Some Specific Elements that are a Step from Core Practice, has been revised. G1 and G2 have been combined, and the lists have been converted to a table with references.

Field Divisions		
	The use of charges on a field with an offset line of division	Novius Octavius Primus, 08/2025, A-Atenveldt
Charges		
General (applies to both animate and inanimate charges)		
	A central charge on a gyronny arrondi field drawn with the corners of the field in the center of a gyron	07/2005 CL
	Charges oriented in annulo which are not in their default palewise orientation	08/2019 CL; Stargate, Barony of, 06/2025, R-Ansteorra
	Charges in orle not in their default orientation	Danimacus filius Denbecan, 08/2025, R-East
	Counterchanging a field treatment across a field and ordinary	Ursula Bienaimé, 05/2005, A-Trimaris
	An overall charge surmounting a fimbriated ordinary	James de Beaumont, 07/2023, A-Northshield
Ordinaries (including peripheral ordinaries)		
	Bend bevilled with charges around it	Kilian MacAd, 04/2010, A-East
	Bendlets enhanced with any other charges	Abigail Tylton, 08/2025, A-An Tir
	Charged gores, charged gussets, and charged complex-line tierces	08/2019 CL
	Chief doubly-enarched	Catalina Damiana Flores de la Montaña, 12/2011, R-Lochac
	Counterchanging a bordure over a central ordinary	Éadaoin Ghormshúileach, 01/2013, A-Middle
	Non-identical charges in more than two different tinctures	09/2020 CL; Lorette di Palmieri, 06/2025, A-Caid
	An ordinary nowy, except for a fess nowy and the "cross nowyed" as depicted in <i>The accedence of armorie</i>	Jean-Jacques Renart, 02/2024, A-Caid
	A pile which extends between 75% and 85% the length of the shield	02/2008 CL

From Wreath: SENA and "Multiply Divided"

- Various sections of SENA are revised to clarify that multiply divided means more than one division. That is, *Barry argent and gules* is multiply divided while *Per fess argent and gules* is not. The affected sections are:
 - SENA A3B4b, Identifiability - explains multiply divided and adds examples,
 - SENA A5F1a, Total Addition or Removal of Division - clarifies that all furs are considered plain tinctures for purposes of this rule, and
 - SENA A3B3b, Elements Divided in Three Parts - changes "multiply divided" to "further divided". (The CL has the wrong title for this section.)

Open LoPaDs and Lols

- The following LoPaDs are currently open. Please review and comment. If you lack commenting privileges, comments may be mailed to the relevant Sovereign of Arms.
 - September 20th LoPaD
 - Request for discussion of whether or not non-SCA names we protect should be added to the O&A or listed elsewhere. If the list of protected names should exist outside the O&A, suggestions are requested as to where such a list should live.
 - October 12th LoPaD
 - Request for period examples and discussion on how we treat charges within charges for purposes of style and conflict rules.
 - Request for discussion on how information about independent displays can be presented more coherently in SENA. Currently, this information is discussed in multiple sections, including A3A2, A3A3, A5C4, A6F, and A6C.
 - November 19th LoPaD
 - Request for period examples and discussion on how we should treat birds affronty (other than *displayed*).

Rules Letter

- A Rules Letter has been opened to address issues raised on the September LoAR. If you lack commenting privileges, comments may be e-mailed to Palimpsest (rules@heraldry.sca.org) and/or the relevant Sovereign of Arms.
 - **Admin Handbook IV.C.2** – a proposal to change the information required for attestation of a legal name.
 - **SENA PN4D, Claim of Identity or Close Relationship with an Important Non-SCA Person**– a proposal to modify the rules to allow protection only of a person’s well-known name(s) rather than all names they are known by. For example, protecting Guy Fawkes but not his alias John Johnson or protecting the penname George Eliot but not the author’s legal name (Mary Ann Evans).

From the LoAR: Names

- "Faire Names for English Folk: Late Sixteenth Century English Names" by Christian de Holacombe uses modern (20th century) spelling of bynames. The article should not be used to document bynames. The 14th-16th century spellings of these bynames can often be found in Janell K. Lovelace's article "English Names from Pre-1600 Brass Inscriptions", which is linked to in "Faire Names". [Angela di Francesco Sartore, 09/2025, A-An Tir]
- The byname, *the Timid* is a plausible lingua Societatis translation of the Middle Low German *de(r) Schuwe*, found in Brechenmacher, s.n. Scheu, dated 1383. Bahlow/Gentry, s.n. Scheu glosses this byname as [the] "shy, bashful". Timid is a reasonable synonym for this byname. [Lissa the Timid, 09/2025, A-Artemisia]
- Submitters are reminded that the documentation of a name element should match the desired spelling, unless proof for common letter swaps is also cited. [Paulus van der Haagen, 09/2025, A-Artemisia]
- When registering the alternate name Dubnus Lugotorix Pelican noted that the pattern of two Celtic language given names combined into a single Romanized name is a rare, documented pattern. [Dáire Ó Lochlainn, 09/2025, A-Avacal]

From the LoAR: Names

- The name *Vercingetorix* may be a given name or may be a title or an epithet meaning “high warrior king“. Given the academic debate, Pelican ruled that going forward this name will be treated like Regina, it will not be registered when combined with a locative or an ethnonymic, but will with other forms of byname. [Vercingetorix of the Treveri, 09/2025, A-Calontir]

From the LoAR: Updates to the Glossary of Terms Tables

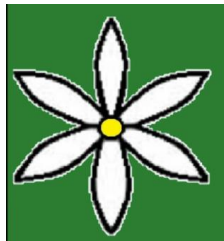
- Table 4 – Conventional "Proper" Colorings
 - A *coconut* proper is brown. [Kuroi Akimori and Facon du Pray, 09/2025]
- Table 5 – Default Postures and Orientations
 - There is no default for a fox's tail, the orientation must be specified. [Murtagh mac an Ghail, 09/2025, A-Ansteorra]
- Table 7 – Default Arrangements
 - None
- Table 8 – Default Charge Types
 - None



*A fox's tail, tip
to base*

From the LoAR: New/Redocumented Charges

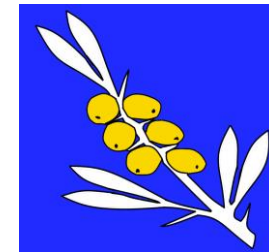
- *Ramson flowers* can be found in chapter 89 of *The Herball Or Generall Historie of Plantes* by John Gerard from 1597, so are acceptable charges per SENA A2B2b. [Pora Gyldennstiernn, 09/2025, A-An Tir]
- *Coconuts* grow in many areas that were inhabited by people in period, and were known in Europe by the 15th century, so are an acceptable charge per SENA A2B2b. [Kuroi Akimori and Facon du Pray, 09/2025]
- *A sea buckthorn* is a plant found in many places inhabited by humans in period, so is an acceptable charge per SENA A2B2b. [Mærith aff Weselax, 09/2025, Drachenwald]



A ramson flower – registered and from Gerard's *Herball*



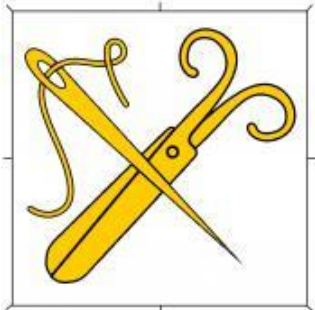
A coconut from *Tractatus de Herbis*, Sloane MS 4016, British Library



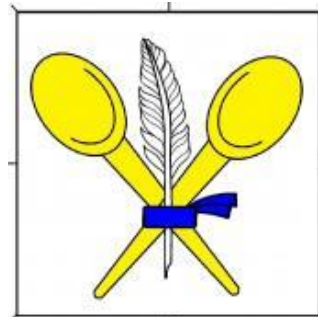
A sea buckthorn – registered

From the LoAR: Armory

- Scissors with rounded blades are found in period heraldry, such as those in the German armorial BSB Cgm 8030 (<https://www.digitale-sammlungen.de/en/view/bsb00110005?page=356>). [Angela di Francesco Sartore, 09/2025, A-An Tir]
- (*Fieldless*) *In saltire two spoons Or surmounted by a pen argent all banded azure* was ruled clear of *Azure, two spoons in saltire Or, overall a fleur-de-lys argent* with an SC for the number of primary charges. The first is considered to be equivalent to three charges *in sheaf*, the second has two primary charges and an overall charge – it cannot be considered *in sheaf* as the fleur-de-lys is not a long charge.
- In many cases we do have to consider *chaussé* fields as equivalent to piles. However, SENA A5C1 says, "Blazons that are unregistrable under our core style rules ... or that require unlikely understandings of an armorial design do not need to be considered for conflict purposes". As a pile charged with two different charge groups is unregistrable under core style, we don't need to consider *Or chaussé gules, a brown raccoon rampant proper marked sable maintaining an axe azure hafted proper as Gules, on a pile Or...* [Beatrix Elizabeth Helen Blythe., 09/2025, A-Atenveldt]



Registered and period scissors with rounded blades.



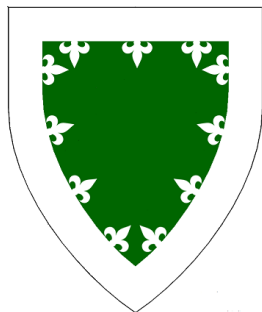
Three charge *in sheaf* vs. two charges *in saltire* and an overall charge.



Elizabeth's device. This cannot be considered a charged pile as it has two charge groups on the pile.

From the LoAR: Armory

- There is a step from core practice for the use of a bordure flory. [Anne von Talstadt, 09/2025, A-Ealdormere]
- Wreath ruled that the pieces of fracted charges may be disjoint on fielded armory. [Robin Goblin, 09/2025, A-Lochac]
- Wreath upheld the precedent barring charges gyronny of greater than eight pieces. [Angela di Francesco Sartore, 09/2025, R-An Tir]
- While a *mullet elongated to base* is considered a *comet*, we currently lack evidence of period comets being depicted with mullets of four points. Therefore, *mullets of four points elongated to base* are considered mullets, not comets. [Henry Foster, 09/2025, R-Ealdormere]
- Period armory used mullets and mullets pierced interchangeably, therefore Wreath upheld the precedent that grants no difference between a spur rowel (a mullet pierced) and a mullet. [Henry Foster, 09/2025, R-Ealdormere]
- Wreath upheld the precedent that there is a step from core practice for the use of mullets of four points elongated to base. [Henry Foster, 09/2025, R-Ealdormere]



A bordure flory



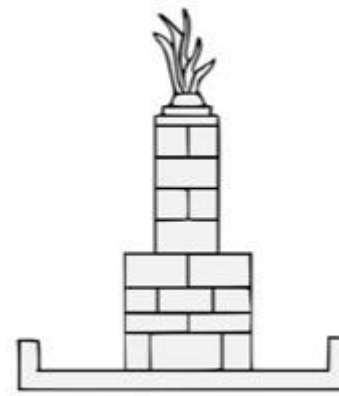
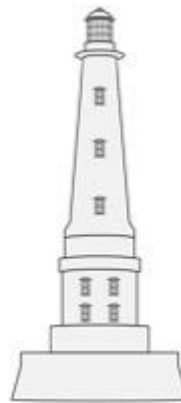
A tower fracted
palewise gules

From the LoAR: Armory

- Though by precedent there is typically "a DC for adding a crown on an inanimate charge" [Tsyra tsheere Nanoup, 07/2023, A-Caid], as noted on the July 2021 Cover Letter the presence of a crown doesn't contribute difference to the restricted charges with crowns listed in Table 3 of the Glossary of Terms. This is because we have examples of those royal symbols being used both with and without the crown. [Østgarðr, Crown Province of, 09/2025, R-East]
- For a snail, or a monster such as a cat-headed snail, there is no difference for the exact point where the creature's head emerges from the shell, as period examples of snails in armory have very little consistency on that detail. [Leylan de la Haye, 09/2025, R-Lochac]
- There is a DC between a whelk and a snail (the animal, not the shell). [Leylan de la Haye, 09/2025, R-Lochac]
- There is at least a DC between a lighthouse and a beacon. [Trimaris, Kingdom of, 09/2025, P-Trimaris]

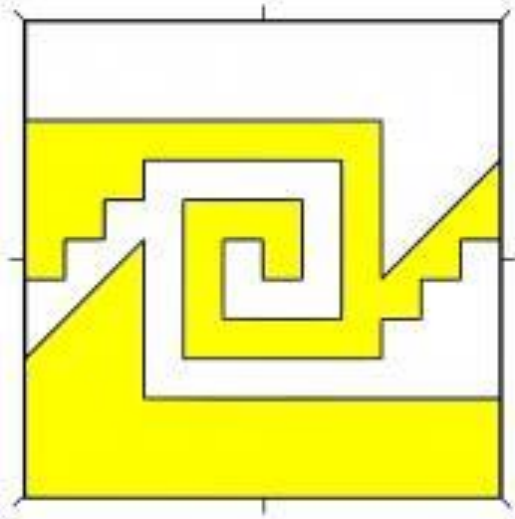


Returned for conflict with the non-SCA royal badge for Ireland, (*Fieldless*)
A harp Or stringed argent crowned proper. There is a DC for adding the field but nothing for removing the crown.



Cordouan lighthouse (unregisterable), a more period style lighthouse, and a beacon (from heraldicart.org).

Armory Registered via an IAP



Xicalcolihqui chimalli argent and Or.

This four-part field was registered based on post-period copies of *Lienzo de Tlaxcala* which show this division in Or and argent supported by the late 16th century *Florentine Codex* which has example of the related *xicalcolihqui* repeating pattern in Or and argent. This was enough to give the submitter the benefit of the doubt that the examples from *Lienzo de Tlaxcala* are accurate. [Salvador Rodrigo de Granada, 09/2025, A-An Tir]

Webbed Updates

- SENA A3B3b, A3B4b, A5F1a, and Appendix G has been updated. Sections A3D1c and A3D2f have been added.
- Glossary of Terms Table 3, Table 4, and Table 5 have been updated.
- The Standard Source Errata article has been updated.