

December 2025 CL & LoAR

A Quick Summary of Changes

Jeanne Marie *Palimpsest*

From Laurel: AH IV.G Heraldic Wills

- Laurel approved an update to section IV.G of the Administrative Handbook to clarify that an heir may grant permission to conflict or release armory even if they are not able to (or not willing to) accept the transfer.
 - Assuming that the BoD approves this revision at their April meeting, the AH will be updated about a week after that meeting.
 - The expected wording of that revision is

If the heir is unable to accept the transfer of an item because they are not entitled to an augmentation or a restricted or reserved element in the armory, or is unwilling to accept the transfer for any reason, they may still grant permission to conflict with the registered armory or release it. They may also elect to transfer the armory to someone who is entitled to an augmentation or is entitled to display the restricted/reserved charge.

From Pelican: Adding Protected Names to the O&A

- Based on feedback from the September 20th Letter of Pends and Discussion, Pelican decided not to add protected, non-SCA, names to the O&A at this time.
 - What this means: To find if a name has been ruled important enough to protect in the past, search the LoARs. An LoAR search can be found at <https://heraldry.sca.org/searches/loar.html>.



Search the LoARs

Enter a search term to find matching pages in the [Letters of Acceptances and Returns](#).

Google Search Tips

- You can use double-quotes around a multiword phrase such as "in bend".
- The search matches the text of entire letters, but you can use AROUND to find words in close proximity (such as within the decision of a single item); for example a search for castle AROUND(20) bridge will find cases where those two terms are used within twenty words of each other.
- After submitting your search term, an option will be available to limit your query to cover letters.

From Pelican: Non-Personal Names

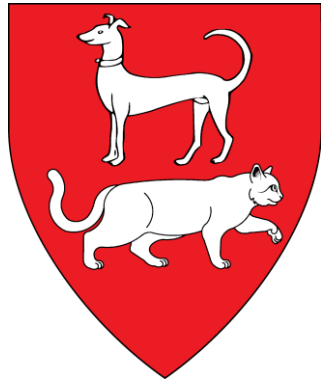
- SENA NPN1B2, Order and Award Designators, is revised to clarify when the language of an article or preposition must match the designator and when it must match the substantive element.
 - The first article and/or preposition is considered part of the designator and must match the language of the designator. Subsequent conjunctions, articles and/or prepositions, if not used under the Branch Name Allowance, are considered part of the substantive element and must match the language of that element.
- SENA NPN1C2g, The Existing Registration Allowance (ERA), is revised to allow necessary grammatical changes to place a name phrase in the genitive case and to clarify when a branch must have permission from a member (or their heir) to incorporate a name phrase under the Existing Registration Allowance.

From Wreath: Unity of Posture and Orientation

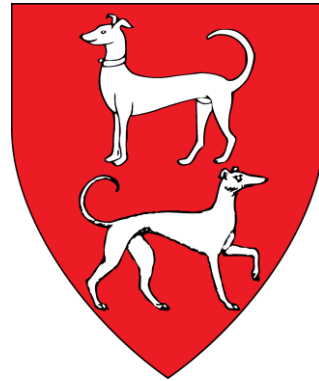
- SENA A3D2c, Unity of Posture and Orientation, is revised to allow non-identical charges with comparable postures (such as owls and ravens) to be in different postures when those postures are less than a DC apart. These differences include changes in head or leg postures.



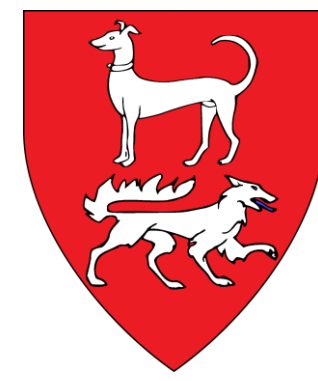
Allowed – Charges have a DC between them and the posture difference is less than a DC.



Not allowed as identical charges must be in the same posture.

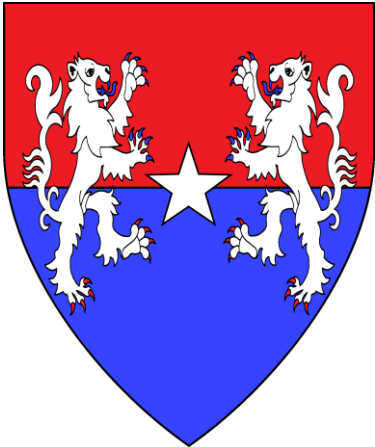


Not allowed – non-identical charges without a DC between them (sword and dagger).

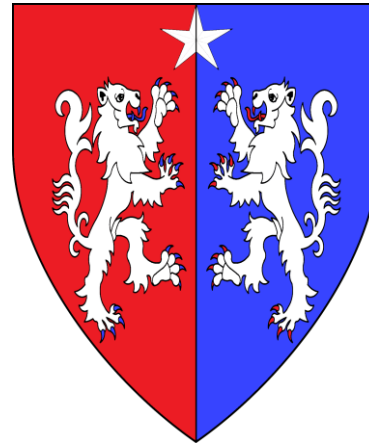


From Wreath: Primary Charge Group

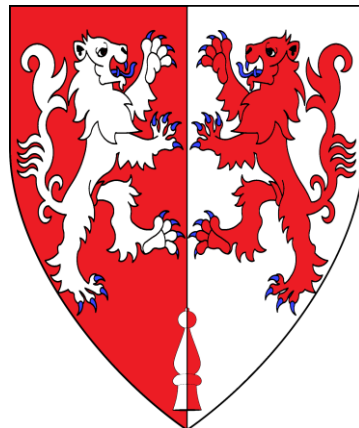
- Clarified in Appendix I1, Primary Charge Group, that just because a charge crosses the line of division, it is not necessarily the primary charge. This brings SENA in line with how we treat charges overlying a line of division in practice.



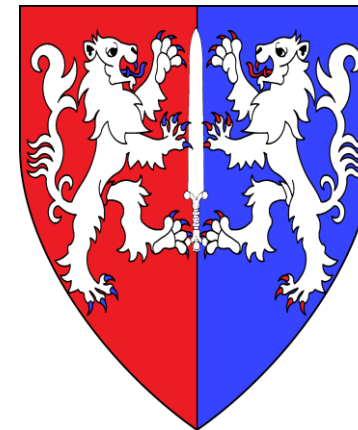
The mullet is much smaller than the lions. It is a secondary charge even though it crosses the line of division and is in the center of the device.



The mullet is much smaller than the lions. It is in chief while the lions cross the nominal per fess line. Even though the mullet crosses the per pale line and the lions don't, the mullet is a secondary charge and the lions are primary charges.



The lawn bowling pin is much smaller than the lions. It is in base while the lions cross the nominal per fess line. Even though the pin crosses the per pale line and the lions don't, the pin is a secondary charge and the lions are primary charges.



The sword is much smaller than the lions maintaining it. It is a secondary charge even though it crosses the line of division and is in the center of the device while the lions do not cross the line of division.

Open LoPaDs and Lols

- The following LoPaD is currently open. Please review and comment. If you lack commenting privileges, comments may be mailed to the relevant Sovereign of Arms.
 - January 31st LoPaD
 - Request for commentary on whether using a vairy field is supported under the guidelines of SENA A4, Individually Attested Patterns in the device *Vairy Or and sable, on a fess dancetty between three foxes courant gules two swords in saltire proper, on a chief gules a sun between two crescents Or.*
 - Two devices were pended for discussion of the correct emblazon as they were included in the documentation summary, but no indication was given that these emblazons were the intended submissions until well past the seven days allowed by Admin Handbook section VB2h.
 - February 22nd LoPaD
 - A request for more information to determine when the phenomenon of English surnames used as given names was first documented and what kind of surnames were used as given names.
 - A pend to discuss whether we should overturn current precedent and grant a DC for the addition of a collar and chain to an animate charge, now that we grant DCs for maintained charges generally.
 - A pend for discussion of the correct emblazon as a timely redraw was completed but the emblazon was inadvertently not made available for commentary.

From the LoAR: Names

- Submitters are reminded that if a source is not listed in Appendix H of the Administrative Handbook, photocopies or screenshots of the source are required. [Cassia of Tanwayour, 12/2025, A-Atlantia]
- The byname *the Genuine* is a reasonable lingua Societatis translation of the Old English *le Trewē*. [Gideon the Genuine, 12/2025, A-Caid]
- Commenters circled the waters over whether *Flundrepool* is a reasonable constructed placename. The name is clearly meshed together from the sense of a pool or estuary where flounder are found, which seems perfectly on porpoise. We have plenty of examples swimming around in the historical record of placenames formed with the pattern [animal] + pool. These include Froggepol (1320), Endepole (circa 1300, where Ende means duck), and Fishpool (1550). Given this shoal of evidence, the construction of Flundrepool is neither fishy nor a red herring, but a thoroughly plausible name that fits neatly into documented streams of topographic place names. [Winifred de Flundrepool, 12/2025, A-Lochac]
- We do not have any evidence of the word *Annex* being used as part of a place name pre-1600 CE. [Cassandra of Crosston, 12/2025, R-Æthelmearc]

From the LoAR: Updates to the Glossary of Terms Tables

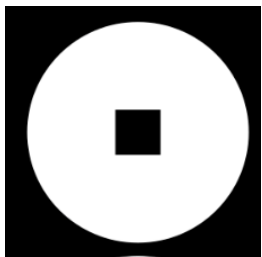
- Table 4 – Conventional "Proper" Colorings
 - *A king penguin proper* is sable bellied argent with spots of Or on its head and neck and is considered neutral for the purposes of contrast. [Maesie Maddox, 12/2025, A-Atlantia]
- Table 5 – Default Postures and Orientations
 - None
- Table 7 – Default Arrangements
 - None
- Table 8 – Default Charge Types
 - The default *foot* is a human foot. [Jóhann Steinarsson, 12/2025, A-Calontir]



A foot

From the LoAR: New/Redocumented Charges

- A *square-holed coin*, with or without text on the face of the coin, is a common charge in Japanese sources such as *O-umajirushi*. For conflict purposes, a square-holed coin is equivalent to a roundel charged with a tertiary delf. [Sanada Mitsuhide, 12/2025, A-Artemisia]
- The *king penguin's* range includes the southern tip of South America, which has been inhabited by humans for thousands of years, so it is an acceptable charge per SENA A2B2b. [Maesie Maddox, 12/2025, A-Atlantia]
- An *escoffion* is a type of period headwear. [Sysselye Bulleyn, 12/2025, A-Atlantia]
- A *Meroe pyramid* is a period type of building, so is an acceptable charge per SENA A2B2d. It is depicted affronty by default. The temple portion of the pyramid is an artistic detail not worth difference. [Musa Kem, 12/2025, A-Caid]



A square-holed coin



A king penguin displayed proper - registered



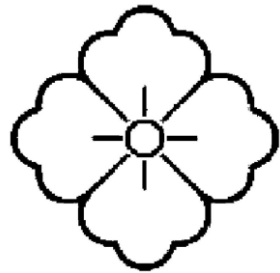
An escoffion – registered and period



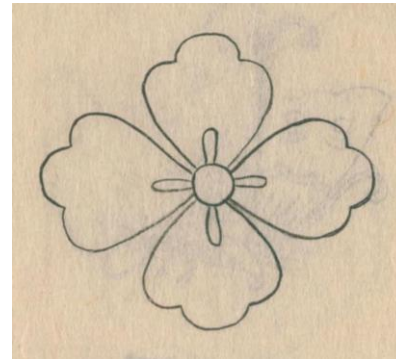
A Meroe pyramid – registered and period ("The Forgotten Pyramids of Meroë", *The Atlantic*, 4 May 2015)

From the LoAR: New/Redocumented Charges

- A *hanakaku* is a four-petaled flower found in Japanese armory, stylized to be approximately a bendwise square in shape, equal in width and height; as opposed to *hanabishi*, a similar flower that is lozenge-shaped, taller than it is wide. [Sadb ingen uí Cherbail, 12/2025, A-Calontir]



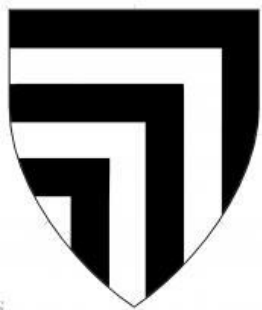
A *hanakaku* - registered



A *hanabishi* – period (from Kihō's Japanese Heraldry Database)

From the LoAR: Armory

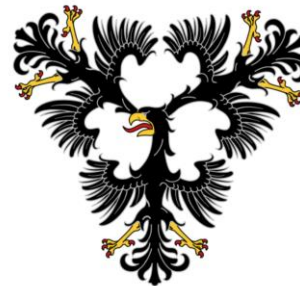
- There is a step from core practice for the use of a chevron couched diagonally. [Edmund Courtecuisse, 12/2025, A-An Tir]
- There is a step from core practice for the use of fewer than three wolf's teeth. [Panfilo de Amante y Caminante, 12/2025, A-An Tir]
- The spots on a cow are a type of *marking*. As such, they are not worth difference and do not require good contrast with the tincture of the beast. [Sibbe Kalbin, 12/2025, A-An Tir]
- There is a step from core practice for the use of a tricorporate bird. [Odo Atzinger, 12/2025, A-Atenveldt]
- We don't consider *two orles/tressures* to be the equivalent of *orly*. [Forannán Glórach, 12/2025, A-Atlantia]
- There is a DC between a caltrop and a mullet of five or more points. [Rúni Jameson, 12/2025, A-East]



Edmund's device, *Chevronelly couched from dexter base sable and argent*



Sibbe's device, *Per saltire purpure and sable, a cow couchant argent armed, crined and spotted Or*



A tricorporate eagle



Orly



A caltrop

From the LoAR: Armory

- Wreath upheld a March 1991 precedent stating that we "treat mundane mon as tinctureless armory for purposes of conflict checking." [Sanada Daigoro Nobukatsu, 12/2025, R-Æthelmearc]
- Table 5 of the Glossary of Terms states that the orientation of an oak leaf is optionally blazonable. This is only true for the location of the stem on leaves with the same long axis (such as palewise versus palewise inverted, or fesswise versus fesswise reversed). There is still difference granted for changing the orientation of the long axis of the leaf. [Vika Novgorodskaya, 12/2025, R-Atlantia]
- Table 4 of the Glossary of Terms notes that a *dandelion plant*, which has multiple flowers and stems, takes its tincture from the stems and leaves; however, *dandelion blowballs slipped and leaved*, like most flowers slipped and leaved, take their tincture from the flower itself. [Aelia Dryantilla, 12/2025, R-Outlands]

Webbed Updates

- SENA NPN1B2, NPN1C2g, Appendix G, Appendix I1, and Appendix M1g have been updated.
- Glossary of Terms Table 4 and Table 5 have been updated.