

January 2026 CL & LoAR

A Quick Summary of Changes

Jeanne Marie *Palimpsest*

From Laurel: Name Similarity

- The requirement for names to differ in pronunciation has always had its problems. These problems have become gradually more severe over the past four and a half decades, as the Society has spread to cover most regions where English is spoken natively in a wide variety of ways, and as our scope has expanded to cover new languages and name systems. Even in English alone, pronunciation varies enough that the names *John*, *Jean*, and *Jane* can all be pronounced identically, and as we deal with languages unfamiliar to even most of our senior name heralds let alone the membership at large, the concept of aural difference is breaking down.
- At their January meeting, the Board of Directors agreed to start a discussion within the College of Arms regarding our rules on name conflict, with the understanding that any major changes will need to be presented to both the Board and general membership for their input.
- As a first step, the April 14th LoPaD asks the College for input on four options:
 - Option 1: No changes to the name conflict rules at this time.
 - Option 2: Drop aural conflict requirements without changes to the visual conflict requirements.
 - Option 3: Drop aural conflict requirements while enhancing the visual conflict requirements.
 - Option 4: Modify the aural conflict rules.

From Pelican: Updating Appendix A

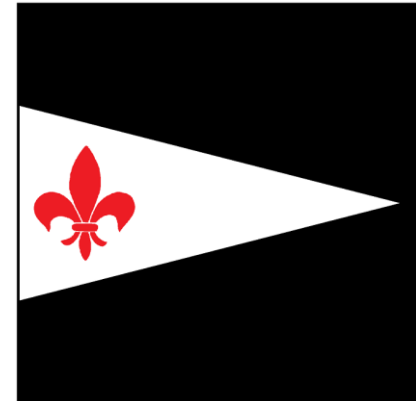
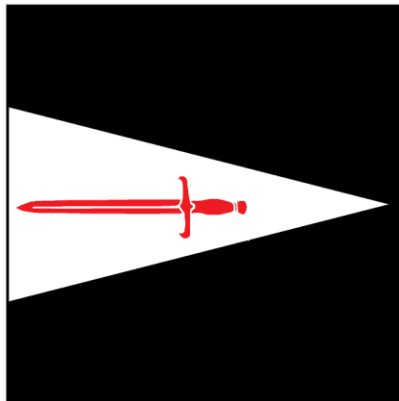
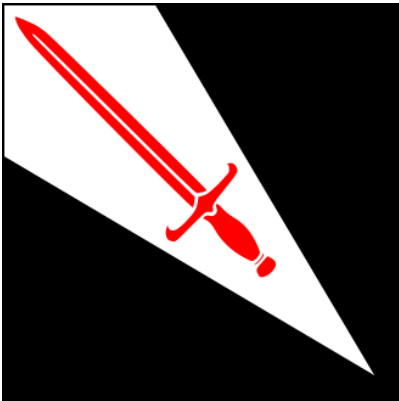
- Updates to SENA Appendix A, Patterns That Do Not Need Further Documentation by Language Group, and Appendix C, Regional Naming Groups and Their Mixes were proposed on Palimpsest's October 11th Rules Letter. The proposed updates to Appendix C are returned for further work. Work has begun on revising this appendix, and some of the proposed changes will be included in this revision.
- The proposed changes to the Greek section of Appendix A are partially accepted. The additions of Minoan (1800 to 1450 BCE) and Mycenaean Greek (1400 BCE to 1200 BCE) are returned for further work. The sections dealing with later Greek dialects are accepted.

Greek

	Double Given Names	Locative	Patronymic	Other relationship	Descriptive/ Occupational	Dictus	Double Bynames	Order
Classical Greek (800 BCE to about 400 CE)	No	Yes	Yes, marked only except in Egypt (see notes)	Yes	Yes, both descriptive and occupational	Yes, marked with <i>ho kai</i> (m) <i>hē kai</i> (f)	Yes	given+byname For complex byname patterns, see notes
Koine, Classical and Byzantine (Early Medieval) Greek (400 to 600 CE)	No	Yes	Yes	Yes, primarily in the manner of a Roman Republican formation	Yes, both descriptive and occupational	Yes	Yes	given+byname For complex byname patterns, see notes
Koine/Byzantine (Early Medieval) Greek (600 to 1100 CE)	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes, primarily family names	Yes, both descriptive and occupational	Yes	Yes	given+byname given+given+byname For complex byname patterns, see notes
Byzantine (Later Medieval) Greek (1100 to the mid-15th century CE)	Yes	Yes	Yes, marked and unmarked	Yes	Yes, both descriptive and occupational	Yes	Yes	given+byname given+given+byname For complex byname patterns, see notes

From Wreath: Top of the Pile

- Tertiary charges on piles bendwise, fesswise and bendwise sinister default to the same orientation as those on the corresponding bend, fess, or bend sinister; That is, the default orientation of long charges will have their long axis follow the long axis of the underlying ordinary, and the default orientation of compact charges will be bendwise sinister, palewise, and bendwise respectively.
 - NOTE: Wreath has noted an error in this text that will be corrected on the February LoAR. The last part should read “the default orientation of compact charges will be bendwise, palewise, and bendwise sinister respectively.”

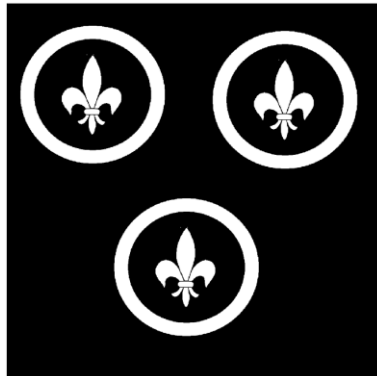


From Wreath: Charges Within Charges

- Charges on the field fully enclosed within other charges in the center of a design will be considered the primary charge, and the enclosing charge will be considered secondary, regardless of the comparative visual weight of the two charges.
- Charges on the field in the center of a design that are entirely within a crescent or wreath will be considered the primary charge, and the crescent or wreath will be considered secondary. Other surrounding charges that do not enclose the central charge will be considered as they arise.
- Central charges drawn extremely small compared to the surrounding charge, to the point where it is impossible to consider them primary, will be pended for redraw or returned.
- When a charge within a charge on the field is not in the center of the design, the two charges are part of the same charge group.
- Regarding charges between the horns of a central crescent: if the crescent is primary then the other charge is a secondary, and if the crescent is secondary, then the other charge is part of the same secondary charge group as the crescent.



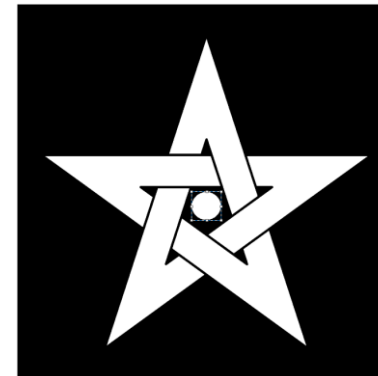
Primary fleur-de-lys,
secondary annulet



Co-primary fleurs-de-lys
and annulets



Primary mullet,
secondary laurel wreath




Returned or pended for
redraw due to the small size
of the roundel



Primary crescent,
secondary tree

From Wreath: Augmentations and Arms of Pretense

- SENA A3A3a is revised to include a list of style rules that augmentations may violate.

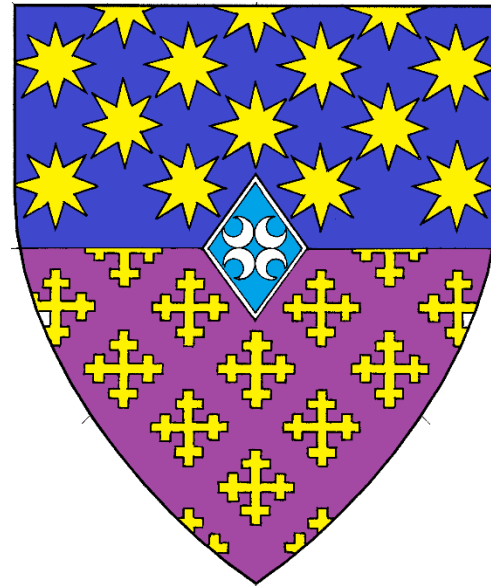
 a. While the right to an augmentation is bestowed by the Crown, its specific form must be determined through the normal registration process. Both the augmentation itself and the augmented device must follow the style rules and restrictions on charges. Because an augmentation adds complexity, augmented devices are often allowed to violate certain style rules, including:

- The use of identical types of charges in multiple charge groups on the field, in violation of SENA A3D1, Clarity of Charge Groups.
- Charged cantons, charged inescutcheons, and charged chiefs (when they are an augmentation) may have poor contrast with whatever they happen to overlay, whether the field or another charge, in violation of SENA A3B, Armorial Contrast. On a case-by-case basis, they may have zero contrast across most of their edge. Other augmentations may not violate the rules on contrast.
- Complexity count may exceed 8, in violation of SENA A3E2, Complexity Count.
- The use of charges on tertiary charges (quaternary charges), in violation of SENA Appendix I3, Tertiary Charge Group.
- The use of multiple tertiary charge groups on the same underlying charge, in violation of SENA Appendix I3, Tertiary Charge Group.
- Maintained charges may be charged (have tertiary charges), in violation of SENA Appendix I3, Tertiary Charge Group.

In all cases, identifiability of the charges and design must be maintained.

From Wreath: Augmentations and Arms of Pretense

- SENA A3A3b is revised to clarify that fimbriating a charge that is a form of independent display being used as an augmentation is effectively adding a bordure to that display, and will be blazoned and checked for style and conflict as such.



Submitted as a lozenge fimbriated, registered as on a lozenge a bordure. [Astra Christiana Benedict, 01/2026, A-Caid]

From Wreath: Augmentations and Arms of Pretense

- SENA A6C1 is revised to include points pointed as valid displays of augmentations.
- SENA A6C1 is also revised to note that unless they are part of an augmentation and contain either a peripheral ordinary or an ordinary terminating at the edge, we do not consider the charges treated as forms of display, such as those listed in SENA A3A2 (excluding charges discussed elsewhere in this section), in fielded armory to be displays of independent armory nor their use to be presumptuous. These charges in fieldless designs are still governed by the restrictions in SENA A3A2.
 - What this means: In most cases, charges such as sails and banners are not considered to be arms of pretense or unearned augmentations when on fielded armory. This doesn't apply to charges such as escutcheons.
 - Charges such as sails and banners may still be considered as other independent displays under A6C2.

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.
 - 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.
 - April 6th LoPaD
 - Two items that were pended for discussion on how we treat mixed primary charge groups.
 - April 14th LoPaD
 - A survey and request for discussion as the first step in determining whether or not we should revise name conflict rules in SENA.

Rules Letter

- Two Rules Letters have been opened to address issues raised on the January LoAR. If you lack commenting privileges, comments may be e-mailed to Palimpsest (rules@heraldry.sca.org) and/or the relevant Sovereign of Arms.
- April 12th Rules Letter, dealing with heraldic displays of armory:
 - **SENA Appendix P – Independent Displays** – proposed new appendix that details how to handle heraldic displays that may appear to be independent displays of armory.
 - **SENA A3A2 – Fieldless Designs** – proposal to remove paragraph and example that are better covered in the new, proposed Appendix P
 - **SENA A3A3b** – proposal to delete section and move to A5C4
 - **SENA A5C4 – Augmentations** – proposal to add the text here that is removed from A3A3b
 - **SENA A5C5 – Independent Display** – proposal for a new section
 - **SENA A6C1 – Claims through Arms of Pretense and Unearned Augmentation** – proposal to remove a paragraph dealing with quarterly devices.
 - **SENA A6C2 – Other Independent Displays** – revision to add a reference to the new Appendix P
 - **SENA A6F – Claims through Marshalling** – editorial change to remove a reference to A6C.
- April 14th Rules Letter, dealing with other issues raised on the LoAR
 - **Glossary of Terms** – Adding the term *Undivided*
 - **SENA Appendix I7 – Charges within Charges** – new section

From the LoAR: Names

- There is a pattern of descriptive animal bynames in Old Irish, such as *Sinnach* (fox), *Damán* (little stag or ox), and *Cu*. Thus, the Old Irish word *fiach*, meaning raven, is a plausible constructed byname, and *the Raven* is a reasonable lingua Societatis translation of it. [Medb the Raven, 01/2026, A-Atenveldt]
- The Spanish byname *de la Encrucijada* means *of the crossroads*. [Victoria de la Encrucijada, 01/2026, A-Atenveldt]
- Commenters questioned whether the byname *Mayumanta* was appropriate to period. It is a Quechuan term meaning "of the river", corresponding to the Spanish byname "del Rio", which is attested as being used in the region from the mid-16th century onward. We do not have any evidence that Spanish bynames were translated into Quechua; however, due to the lack of information, Pelican gave the submitter the benefit of the doubt and registered the name. [Kispe Mayumanta, 01/2026, A-Atlantia]
- Rúnfríðr Rocket and Elisabetta Makejoye were able to document a pattern of n/nn swaps in central and southern Italian dialects. [Octavianna of Alexandri, 01/2026, A-Atlantia]

From the LoAR: Names

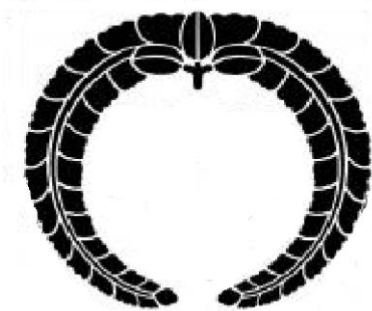
- The byname here, *from Beyond the Mountain* utilizes the preposition from, rather than the more usual of. SENA PN1B2f: Branch Name Allowance states that "The name phrase must use a *lingua Societatis* form meaning 'of Branchname' or 'person from Branchname'." In this case, *lingua Societatis* for the submitter is English. Therefore, this byname fulfills the wording of SENA PN1B2f, and is registerable. [Finn from Beyond the Mountain, 01/2026, A-East]
- Greek theophoric names arise as a result of a cult based around a given deity. Without evidence of a cult of a particular deity, that name cannot be used to form a theophoric name. [Eurykr{o}n Lykaiou, 01/2026, A-Meridies]
- A submitter's Hebrew name may be used as a religious name under the Legal Name Allowance. [Ashira Ravenscroft, 01/2026, A-Middle]
- Pelican noted "This name blue heralds at the meeting away with its richness and tone. Only a cyanic would return this." [Woad Indigo Lapis Azure, 01/2026, A-Middle]
- The household name *Clann Seanchaiseal* was constructed using a clan-name pattern, using a descriptive byname meaning "old castle" to create the clan name. We do not have sufficient evidence to support the pattern of a clan being named from a descriptive bynames. As this is not constructed using a given name, the household name was returned. [Rhiannon Morgaine, 01/2026, R-Atlantia]

From the LoAR: Updates to the Glossary of Terms Tables

- Table 4 – Conventional "Proper" Colorings
 - A *drop spindle* when loaded or threaded takes its tincture from the thread. [Archibald the Red, 01/2026, A-An Tir]
- Table 5 – Default Postures and Orientations
 - A *wreath* is circular, either a full circle or with the tips of two branches nearly touching to chief. [Yvette du Bois, 01/2026, A-Atlantia]
- Table 7 – Default Arrangements
 - None
- Table 8 – Default Charge Types
 - None

From the LoAR: New/Redocumented Charges

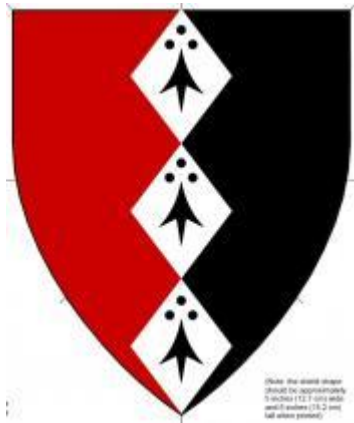
- A *fuji wreath* is a charge found in period Japanese armory, comprised of a wreath of two sprigs of wisteria blossoms with a small sprig of wisteria leaves overlapping the place where the sprigs cross. Though period depictions typically have the opening at the bottom, we will blazon this [opening to base] as inverted to align with our typical depictions of other sorts of wreaths. [Fujitani Kintar{o-} Yorikazu, 01/2026, A-Middle]



A fuji wreath inverted

From the LoAR: Armory

- The *Dictionary of British Arms* shows examples of pales of three, four and five fusils being used interchangeably, so we decline to consider there to be change for the number of charges between these groups. [Léon Fitzwalter de Clare, 01/2026, A-Artemisia]
- In registering *Per pale azure and sable, a lion and a stag combattant and on a base argent a fret sable, a chief embattled argent* Wreath noted “A fess embattled on the upper edge is certainly not uncommon in period armory; however, the combination of the divided field and the large width of field required to fit the primary charges makes it less likely that this design would be interpreted as *Argent, on a fess embattled per pale azure and sable, a lion and a stag combattant argent, in base a fret sable*, so in this case we are inclined to give the submitter the benefit of the doubt.” [Angus Grave Tran, 01/2026, A-Atenveldt]



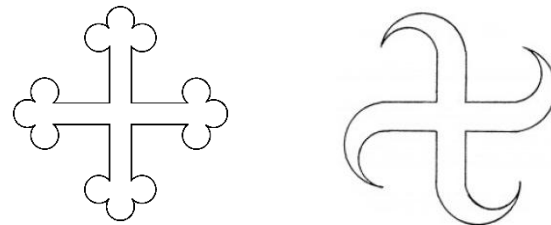
Conflict with a single DC for the tincture of the fields.



Per pale azure and sable, a lion and a stag combattant and on a base argent a fret sable, a chief embattled argent

From the LoAR: Armory

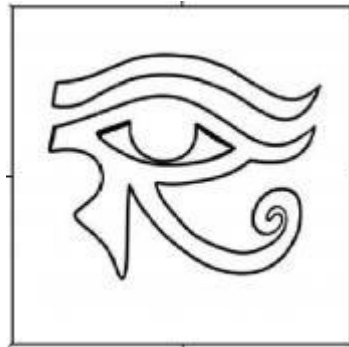
- There is at least a DC between a cross bottony and a cross gurgity. [Caelia Clementiana, 01/2026, A-Atlantia]
- Period depictions of wreaths in heraldry show full circles like this depiction, rather than the two circular near-touching branches familiar from later depictions. Either is a reasonable depiction of a wreath in Society heraldry. [Yvette du Bois, 01/2026, A-Atlantia]
- A DC will be granted between types of sprig depending on the type of leaf as found in SENA Appendix M1j, provided they are drawn in such a way that the leaf type is identifiable. As with the standard for leaves, sprigs with leaves in different categories have a DC between them, sprigs with leaves within the same category will generally conflict with each other, and sprigs that fit in more than one category will be considered on a case-by-case basis. [Dushenka de la Marguerite, 01/2026, A-Caid]



A cross bottony and a cross gurgity.

From the LoAR: Armory

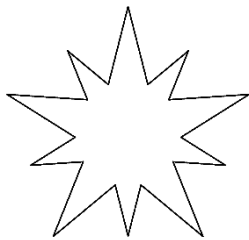
- Though some evidence was provided in commentary by Bruce Batonvert that oak leaves and holly leaves can look quite distinct from each other and were not conflated in period heraldry, at the decreased size required by being part of a sprig this distinctiveness is reduced, and thus we do not grant a DC between oak sprigs and holly sprigs, both examples of "oak-shaped" leaves. [Dushenka de la Marguerite, 01/2026, A-Caid]
- Despite being a hieroglyph, this armory does not violate SENA GP2A, which prohibits armory consisting solely of abstract symbols, as we treat an Eye of Horus as an eye rather than as an abstract symbol for purposes of style. Symbols will not be considered to violate this restriction where they are determined to be more easily interpreted by the layperson as representations of non-abstract charges than as writing. [Mekety Nakhthor, 01/2026, A-Calontir]
- An Eye of Horus is disjoint by definition, and may be used in fieldless designs. [Mekety Nakhthor, 01/2026, A-Calontir]



(Fieldless) An Eye of Horus argent

From the LoAR: Armory

- There is a DC between a bridge and a castle. There may be a visual conflict between the two. [Melchior Noteisen, 01/2026, A-East]
- There is a step from core practice for the use of a *mullet of five greater and five lesser points*. [Galli Wyn of Ansteorra, 01/2026, A-Meridies]
- A *fuji wreath* does not presume on the reserved charge of a laurel wreath, as the individual wisteria blossoms are not leaf-shaped. [Fujitani Kintar{o-} Yorikazu, 01/2026, A-Middle]
- Wreath declined to rule whether a charged banner is still considered presumptuous under SENA A6C2 when the armory on the banner is registered to the submitter. [Red Spears, Barony of, 01/2026, A-Middle]
- Using another charge on a field with “flora issuing from a line of division” motif is not a step from core practice as a similar example, *Per chevron flory at the point gules and argent, a cinquefoil gules*, was found in Stephan Brechtel's Wappenbuch (mid 16th C). [Svala Vís, 01/2026, A-Trimaris]



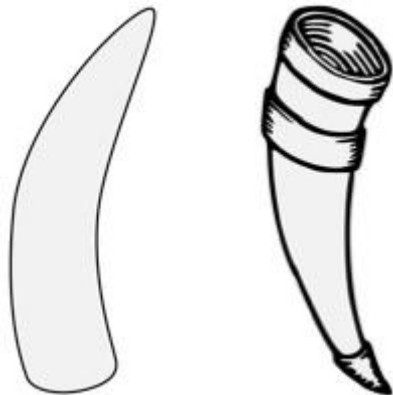
A mullet of five greater and five lesser points



Period and registered armory (Svala Vís).

From the LoAR: Armory

- The posture *tergiant in annulo* is an unattested posture for a natural salamander. [Sefa Holtadóttir, 01/2026, R-East]
- There is not a DC between a *boar's tusk inverted* and a *drinking horn*. [Tiberius Iulius Rufus, 01/2026, R-East]



A boar's tusk and a drinking horn

Webbed Updates

- SENA Appendix A3A3, A6C1, Appendix A (Greek), Appendix G, and Appendix M have been updated.
- Glossary of Terms Table 4, Table 5, and Appendix 1 have been updated.