Armory in the Proposed Rules for Submissions

A Brief Summary

Produced by the Laurel Office
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Overall Organization of the Rules

• Letters indicate the sections of the rules:
  - GP — General Principles
  - PN — Personal Names
  - NPN — Non-Personal Names
  - A — Armory

• GP talks about underlying principles and defines several key terms, like ‘period’, ‘substantial’, and so on.

• PN, NPN, and A have several parts – Content, Style, Conflict, Presumption, and Offence

• Appendices all use “Appendix” (they’re awesome!)
Some Broad Categorizations in the New Rules

- SCA items: Conflict
- Non-SCA items: Presumption
- Relationships: Conflict
- Powers, Rank, Position: Presumption
- Fielded devices, arms, and badges
- Fieldless badges
- Augmentations of Arms
### Why are SCA items counted differently from Non-SCA items?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SCA Items</th>
<th>Non-SCA Items</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Definition:</strong> “To avoid undue confusion”</td>
<td><strong>Definition:</strong> “To prevent offense due to obvious usurpation of identity or armory”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>All listed in the O&amp;A</td>
<td>Most armory listed in the O&amp;A, but few names listed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Can get permission to conflict</td>
<td>Cannot get permission to conflict</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Only protect the exact item</td>
<td>Protect names and some armory in multiple forms</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Why is it organized this way? Why is it so long?

• These Rules are 70 pages long; the Appendices are 30 pages. The old Rules were only 25 pages, but need 1000s of rulings to understand.

• These rules are designed around the most common use: working on a single submission
  - For example, Personal Names and Non-Personal Names have superficial similarities but also large differences – so they are separate.

• Approximately ¼ of the main body of these Rules is examples to help understanding.
The Picture Wins

• The picture wins because:
  ❖ Submitters decide what armory they want, but most of them don’t know blazon. Some heralds don’t know blazon either!
  ❖ Blazon practices change over time (both in the real world and in the SCA!). This means older blazons aren’t always accurate.
  ❖ The pictures are the most reliable source we have of what the submitter actually wanted

SO ….

❖ We register the picture (emblazon) not the words (blazon).
❖ Even though we register the picture … it must be blazonable (describable in heraldic terms) and recognizable (without the words)
Two Sets of Armory Style Rules

- Core Style Rules
  - Based on Anglo-Norman armory
  - Described in the Rules with more detail in Appendices, so –
  - Does not usually require further documentation

- Individually Attested Patterns
  - Every part must be documented
  - Multiple independent examples needed
  - Non-European armory usually must use this
Core Style Rules

• What most people think of as “armory”. Armory using these style rules must:
  ❖ Use documented elements; no more than one Step From Period Practice; be drawn in an identifiable, heraldic, and period way
  ❖ Have good contrast
  ❖ Have clear charge groups
  ❖ Be simple in overall design – slot machine rule, complexity count, unified posture/orientation, period arrangement of charges
  ❖ Not too far from period style (not a landscape picture, etc.)

• A couple special rules
  ❖ All parts of fieldless badges must touch
  ❖ Voiding/Fimbriation: only central ordinaries/simple geometrics
Armory Conflict

- Based on charge group theory and medieval cadency: small changes to show close relationship with original arms

- Two kinds of changes you can make:
  - Substantial: not the kind of changes used for cadency
  - Distinct: the kind of changes used for cadency
  - Bonus rules for changes to field-primary armory

- Visual Conflict: If they look too similar, even if technically different – they conflict
Armory Conflict Details

• Substantial changes (only need one)
  ✷ Adding or removing the primary charge group
  ✷ Changing the type of the entire primary charge group
  ✷ Changing (in limited cases!) the number, arrangement, posture, orientation of primary charge group

• Distinct changes (like cadency, used to be CDs or significant differences) (need two)
  ✷ Changing the field, adding/removing charge groups
  ✷ Changing the tincture, type, number, arrangement, posture, orientation of any charge group

• Field-primary armory has special rules
Armory Presumption & Offense

• Armory may not:
  ✷ Use a charge that is restricted (that is, no one can register it)
  ✷ Use a charge that is reserved unless the submitter documents the right to use it
  ✷ Claim identity or relationship with non-SCA individuals, places, entities, orders, etc. which we consider important enough to protect; same standards as for conflict
  ✷ Create an inappropriate claim through combination with a specific name even if the armory is not important enough to protect on its own
  ✷ Make a claim to a combination or inheritance of arms, known as marshalled arms, when using per pale or quarterly field divisions

• Armory must not be offensive to a modern audience; the standards are quite high
Why Use Appendices?

• Faster updates because new precedents are easier to absorb
  ✷ Changes to the Rules require Board approval in advance
  ✷ Appendices only require notification to the Board after the fact

• Information on armory style
  ✷ Documentable charge group arrangements
  ✷ Standard arrangements, postures and orientations, charges that don’t need documentation

• Collection of information that we’ve relied on senior commenters to provide late in the process
  ✷ Items that are a step from period practice
  ✷ Registerable low-contrast lines of division
Appendices are Awesome!

- Appendix F: Charges that don’t need documentation
- Appendix G: List of SFPP things
- Appendix H: Low-contrast complex lines of division
- Appendix I: Charge Group Theory
- Appendix J: Documentable charge group arrangements
- Appendix K: Standard arrangements of charge groups
- Appendix L: List of postures and orientations
- Appendix M: Resources for conflict checking