

February 2025 CL & LoAR

A Quick Summary of Changes

Jeanne Marie *Palimpsest*

From Laurel: Hamlets with Old Registrations

- A branch that changes from a full branch to a Hamlet may retain any registrations they have, including branch arms.
- What this means:
 - While a new Hamlet may not register armory with a laurel wreath, a full branch that becomes a Hamlet may continue to use their arms even though they have a laurel wreath.

From Wreath: On Bird Postures and Difference

- SENA Appendix M1d states "Birds in a different category can be substantially different in type if they are in two different groups and are in a period posture for that sort of bird" and "Birds in the same category may be granted a distinct change (DC) between them when they are (a) different in period, (b) in a period posture [for that type of bird], (c) drawn correctly, and (d) there is some visual difference."
- We are simplifying our definition of "period posture".
 - The postures *close*, *rising*, and *rising wings displayed* are now considered period postures for all birds, whether those birds are found in period heraldry or not.
 - The posture *naiant*, which is a variant of *close*, is considered a period posture for all swan-shaped birds. It may be considered a period posture for birds in other categories on a case-by-case basis.

From Wreath: On Bird Postures and Difference

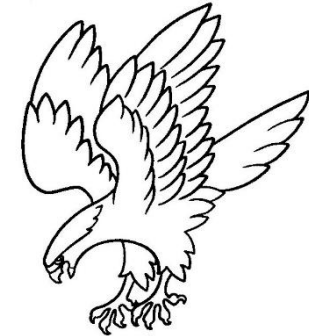
- Guidelines for birds *displayed* were set out on the April 2024 CL (and have been incorporated into SENA Appendix M1d).
- For birds that are *striking, stooping, or volant wings addorsed*:
 - There is not an SC between birds in the same posture.
 - There is generally a DC between birds in the same posture which are in different categories if they are emblazoned in a way that makes the category clear.
 - Birds in the same posture (or postures in the same group in SENA Appendix L1b) which are in the same category will conflict with each other.
- Treatment of postures not discussed on this Cover Letter (such as *hovering* or *striking affronty*) will be determined on a case-by-case basis.
- Lacking period evidence of birds in the *striking, stooping, or volant wings addorsed* posture, the use of any of those postures will be considered a step from core practice.



Striking



Volant wings addorsed



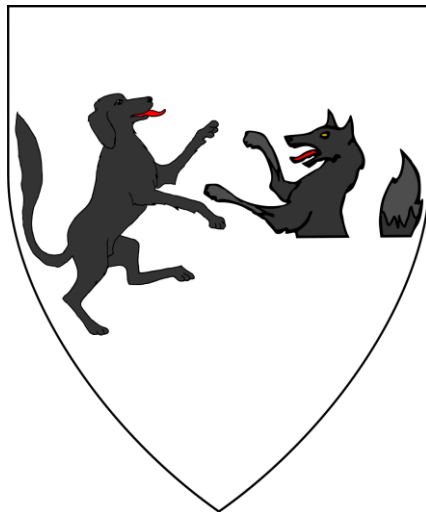
Stooping

From Wreath: SENA Updates

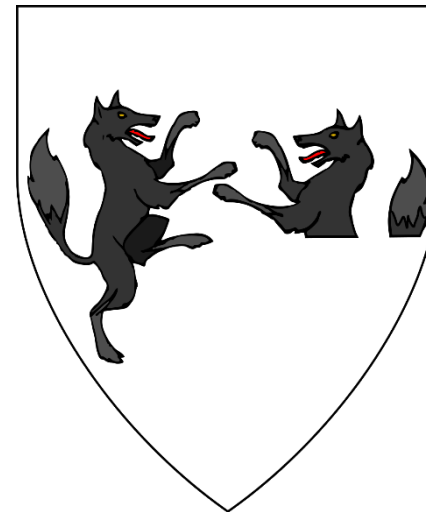
- SENA A3C, Voiding and Fimbriation, is revised to clarify that voiding and interlacing may only be considered part of their type for mullets of six or fewer points
 - What it means: You can register a *mullet of six points voided and interlaced* as a secondary or tertiary charge, or as a charge on a fieldless badge since voiding is considered part of the mullet's type. However, you can't register a *mullet of eight points voided and fimbriated* as under the revision you cannot void and interlace a mullet of more than six points.
- SENA A3D2c, Unity of Posture and Orientation, and Appendix M3 are revised to allow arrangements such as *passant counter-passant* and *naiant counter-naiant* for identical animate charges. Similarly, identical inanimate charges may face opposite directions as long as their axes are the same (e.g., *fesswise* and *fesswise reversed*).

From Wreath: SENA Updates

- SENA A3D1b, Sword and Dagger, is revised to limit in some cases the use of a charge and a demi-charge in the same armory.
 - What it means: If non-identical full charges don't have a DC, you cannot register the full charge and a demi-charge in the same armory. So, while there is a DC between *Argent, a talbot rampant sable* and *Argent, a demi-fox sable* you cannot register *Argent, in fess a talbot rampant contourny and a demi-fox sable* since there is not a DC between a talbot and a fox. You could however registered *Argent, in fess a fox rampant contourny and a demi-fox sable* since in both case the animal is a fox.



Not registerable: *Argent, a talbot rampant contourny and a demi-fox sable*



Registerable: *Argent, a fox rampant contourny and a demi-fox sable*

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.
 - February 4th LoPaD
 - Request for commentary on whether or not the use of a *mi'na* and/or *houmyou* (types of Japanese name elements) for a living person is a presumptuous/religious act, and whether it be considered religious appropriation.
 - Request for commentary on whether or not the use of the Japanese name *Rikyuu* presumes on the Buddhist monk *Sen no Rikyū* who was also a tea master and considered the most important influence on the Japanese Tea Ceremony.
 - Request for commentary on whether or not we should allow names from two regional naming groups (such as Gaelic and English) when using the Branch Name Allowance. This is currently prohibited by SENA PN2C2d.
 - April 8th LoPad
 - Request for commentary on potential changes to SENA A3D2c, Unity of Posture and Orientation with regards to different animate charges in the same group that are in different postures. In particular, Wreath is asking for period examples of such arrangements.
 - April 26th LoPaD
 - Request for commentary on how we treat letters and words – do multiple individual letters conflict with a word? And what makes a word? Commentary is also requested on whether or not we should continue to consider all abstract charges to conflict with all other abstract charges.

From the LoAR: Names

- In registering *Teitr Tott*, Pelican upheld the precedent that we do not consider mispronunciations when considering issues of offense or Obtrusive Modernity. As the name is correctly pronounced Tie-tr Taut not Tater Tot it is not Obtrusively Modern. [Teitr Tott, 02/2025, A-An Tir]
- When registering *Gunnvaldr Skorargeirson*, Pelican noted an error in Geirr Bassi. The entry Skorageirr should be Skorargeirr. This information has been added to the article Standard Source “Errata” at https://heraldry.sca.org/names/source_errata.html. [Gunnvaldr Skorargeirson, 02/2025, A-Caid]
- *Hrafna* is a pre-pended Old Norse byname, which means that it must come before the given name. No evidence was given for *hrafna* as a post-pended byname. [Haakon hrafn, 02/2025, A-Caid]
- Commenters questioned whether the feminine *Ilona* could be combined with the Latinized masculine *Corvinus*. While in Latin *covinus* (raven) is masculine, as a German surname it is not gendered. For example, FamilySearch records the christening of *Anna Maria Corvinus* in 1611. Therefore, these name elements can be combined without issue. [Ilona Corvinus, 02/2025, A-Caid]

From the LoAR: Names

- A name that combines an Anglicized Irish given name, a Gaelic descriptive byname, and an English or Scots patronymic is registrable. While there are three languages here, there are only two language groups, as Anglicized Irish, English and Scots are all part of the same Regional Naming Group under Appendix C. [Kieran Ciotach MacLeod, 02/2025, A-Meridies]
- Double bynames are seen commonly in Middle English as early as the 12th century. SENA Appendix A has been updated to reflect this. [Miriana Fulredy de Hegges, 02/2025, A-Middle]
- In Turkish we don't have evidence of a given name used as a byname. [Cem Hadar, 02/2025, R-An Tir]

From the LoAR: Updates to the Glossary of Terms Tables

- Table 4 – Conventional "Proper" Colorings
 - *A luna moth proper* is mainly vert, with a pale green or white body and brown markings, and is treated as vert for the purposes of conflict and contrast. [Zahra al-Katiba, 02/2025, A-Middle]
- Table 5 – Default Postures and Orientations
 - Like *weaver's shuttles*, *stick shuttles* default to fesswise. [Barbara Webster, 02/2025, A-Middle]
- Table 7 – Default Arrangements
 - None
- Table 8 – Default Charge Types
 - None



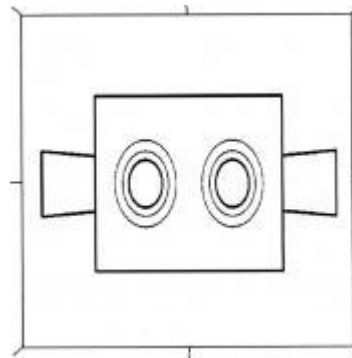
A weaver's shuttle and a stick shuttle.

From the LoAR: New/Redocumented Charges

- A *mullein* was a plant widely known to humans in period. A *mullein plant* takes its tincture from the slip and leaves for purposes of contrast and conflict. [Sigbj{o,}rg Kaladóttir in fróða, 02/2025, A-An Tir]
- Scientists have shown yaks were domesticated at least 2500 years ago, making them an acceptable heraldic charge. [Alexandra ingen Shuibhne, 02/2025, A-Atlantia]
- A *carriage axle* is a period heraldic charge found in the arms of Banchi in the mid-16th C *Insignia X: Insignia nobilium Patavinorum, impresa Ferrariensium, Pesariensium* (München, BSB Cod.icon. 275). [Willmar Grimsdyke, 02/2025, A-Ealdormere]
- A *watermill* is a type of building known in period, resembling a house charged with a waterwheel. We decline to rule at this time whether the waterwheel must have good contrast with the building, and whether it contributes to difference as a tertiary charge. [Millicent Aud Overa, 02/2025, A-Middle]



A mullein plant (registered) and from Gerard's Herball.



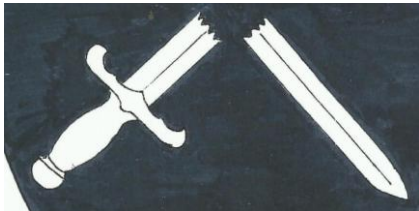
A carriage axle (registered and period)



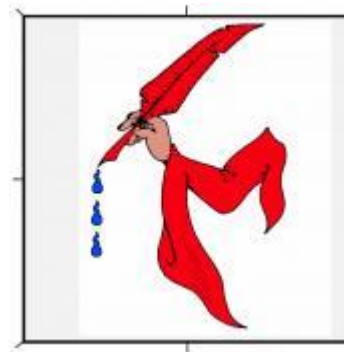
A watermill Or wheeled sable

From the LoAR: Armory

- Under SENA A6F6b, adding a point pointed to *per pale* armory does not create the appearance of marshalling. [Markus skalpr Grimsson, 02/2025, A-Æthelmearc]
- A *sword fractured in chevron* is treated as *fesswise* for conflict purposes. [Toroll Swordbreaker, 02/2025, A-Æthelmearc]
- There is at least a DC between a *bear* and a *capybara*. [Wilhelm Schnee, 02/2025, A-Æthelmearc]
- Charges maintained by held secondary charges to be in the same charge group as the secondary charge holding them. [Maminka Shevelykha the Bohemian, 02/2025, A-An Tir]
- The combination *issuant from a maunch a hand* is considered a single charge, not a maunch maintaining a hand. [Maminka Shevelykha the Bohemian, 02/2025, A-An Tir]
- For a muzzle to be a blazoned detail, it must have some contrast with the animal. [Vanya Refsson, 02/2025, A-An Tir]



A sword fractured in chevron



The badge, *Argent, issuant from a maunch gules a light-skinned hand sustaining a pen gules distilling three gouttes azure*, has two charge groups – the maunch and hand are the single, primary charge; the pen and gouttes are in the same secondary charge group.

From the LoAR: Armory

- Wreath noted that grey backgrounds should only be used for fieldless badges when there is an argent charge directly on the background. [Arcill beg mac Ruadrí big mic Sithig, 02/2025, A-Ealdormere]
- In registering *(Fieldless) A sheaf of swords inverted sable hilted Or and overall a death's head argent* Wreath noted that while sheaves of long charges are treated as a compact charge for the purposes of orientation, they are treated as an arrangement of long charges for the purposes of SENA Appendix I4 and will be registerable as long as all charges are identifiable. [Llewellyn Walsh, 02/2025, A-East]
- Ample evidence has been provided to show that fimbriation's sole purpose in period armory is not to provide contrast, though that is sometimes an effect of using it. Multiple examples were provided from English, Italian, and German armory, of fimbriation that either does not have good contrast with the charge it surrounds or does not have good contrast with the field. Based on this evidence, we are overturning precedent and will allow fimbriation that has poor contrast with either the fimbriated charge or the background. [Joanna of Braidwood, 02/2025, A-Lochac]
 - What this means: Barring conflict, *Argent, a fess gules fimbriated vert* is registrable. Likewise, *Vert, a fess argent fimbriated gules* would be registerable.

From the LoAR: Armory

- Commenters noted that an ash leaf is technically a pinnate leaf composed of multiple leaflets. As discussed on the January 2024 Cover Letter, most compound or pinnate leaves are blazoned as sprigs of leaves, and the individual leaflets are blazoned as leaves, so we have blazoned this leaflet as an *ash leaf*. [Arigh Unegen, 02/2025, A-Meridies]
- The fact that there is a step from core practice for the use of a lightning bolt outside of a thunderbolt has been added to SENA Appendix G1. [Marcus Tullius Agrippa, 02/2025, A-Meridies]



This does not have the appearance of marshalling. Under SENA A6F3, we first consider this design as though the bordure isn't there and then check A6F6 to see if the bordure changes things. Under A6F4a, the fact that the primary charge crosses the line of division means the design, when considered without the bordure, does not have the appearance of marshalling.

We then look at A6F6b. The first paragraph of this section describes situations where a design that appears marshalled can be saved by the addition of a charge group; since the armory in question does not appear to be marshalled, this paragraph doesn't apply.

The second paragraph of A6F6b describes situations where a design that does not have the appearance of marshalling can gain that appearance when a charge group is added, which is what we need to consider for the submitted design. As the submitted design does not appear to be marshalling without the bordure, and adding the bordure does not make either section appear to be distinct arms, it does not appear to be marshalling with the bordure. [Ótama drengjamóðir, 02/2025, A-Outlands]

Webbed Updates

- SENA A3C, A3D1b, A3D2c, Appendix A, Appendix G, Appendix M1b, and Appendix M3 have been updated.
- Glossary of Terms Table 4 and Table 5 have been updated.
- The Standard Source “Errata” article has been updated.