

## ***Herald's Attire***

*compiled by Modar Neznanich, Jadwiga Marina Majewska & Briana Etain MacKorkhill*

Traditions and law vary from Kingdom to Kingdom concerning the attire a herald may wear. In some Kingdoms a herald has to obtain a certain rank before they are allowed to wear a tabard, although a baldric is okay for any herald at any rank in any Kingdom. In Calontir, a herald or pursuivant of any rank may wear either a baldric or a tabard.

The most common symbol used for the heralds in the SCA has been the insignia of the crossed gold trumpets. [Vert, two straight trumpets crossed in saltire, bells to chief, Or.] Although some places are switching to using the arms of the group (which emulates historical practice). Many are utilizing both. For baldrics, a green sash with the gold cross trumpets and a small shield with the group arms beneath it. For tabards, the front and back are composed of the group arms, with the sleeves being green with gold crossed trumpets on it. In Calontir, any of these practices may be utilized.

It is important for vocal heralds to wear some kind of distinguishing garb to make them highly visible. (This is doubly important when heralding in combat situations!) So whenever you are performing the duties of a herald, but especially during formal tournaments and other occasions of "high estate" such as courts, you should have on your "greenwear". There is something satisfying in seeing heralds "in uniform," both for the heralds and for the populace.

Another useful piece of heraldic "regalia" is a staff. Although not required, it can be extremely useful. It can be pounded on the floor, or waved in the air after a cry of "Oyez" to get attention, and it lends dignity to the herald. It can also be used as an emergency marshalling staff, should you be "overrun" at a tourney. However, a staff can get in the way when you are juggling a set of index cards on the tourney field, so the decision on whether to utilize one or not, is up to each individual herald. A good heraldic staff is usually between five and six feet tall. It can be made from a natural piece of wood or made from a manufactured piece (such as a two-inch dowel used for stair railings). Some heralds use plain staves, other will decorate them to add to its appearance and overall effect. It can be decorated with green and gold ribbons, painted (plain or with designs), carved or have bells attached. Historically, a herald carried a white baton, many times with a knob on the ends.

Another important accouterment is a pouch with index cards, pens, pencils, etc. If you always carry a few of these items with you it can help avoid a last-minute panic.

### Some suggestions for making heraldic paraphernalia:

The baldric is the easiest to make. This is a simple green sash with crossed gold trumpets on the front. Additionally, your group arms can be added underneath the trumpets. It is a long rectangular piece that is usually worn from the left shoulder to the right hip, and pinned there. While some people will make these out of velvet or satin for a fancier appearance, it is suggest that you use a sturdy and washable material instead, such as broadcloth or trigger.

A simple type of tabard is simply two yards of cloth, approximately shoulder width, sewn at the top with an opening for the head. A slight curving of the neckline is recommended, and ties at the side can help hold it in place when worn. The simplest are made of green cloth with the gold crossed trumpets on the front and back. In many areas, heralds use the device of their group instead. When a group's arms are used, many will then add cap sleeves that are green with gold crossed trumpets on them.. (The cap sleeve is a semi-circle with the straight edge sewn onto where the front and back pieces are sewn together at the shoulder.)

Copyright © Ron Knight, Sheryl Knight and Joan Wroblewski. Permission given for members and groups of the Society of Creative Anachronism, Inc. to use physical copies to be passed out for heraldic consultation or educational purposes, or on SCA-related websites provided they are presented in their entirety and credit is given.