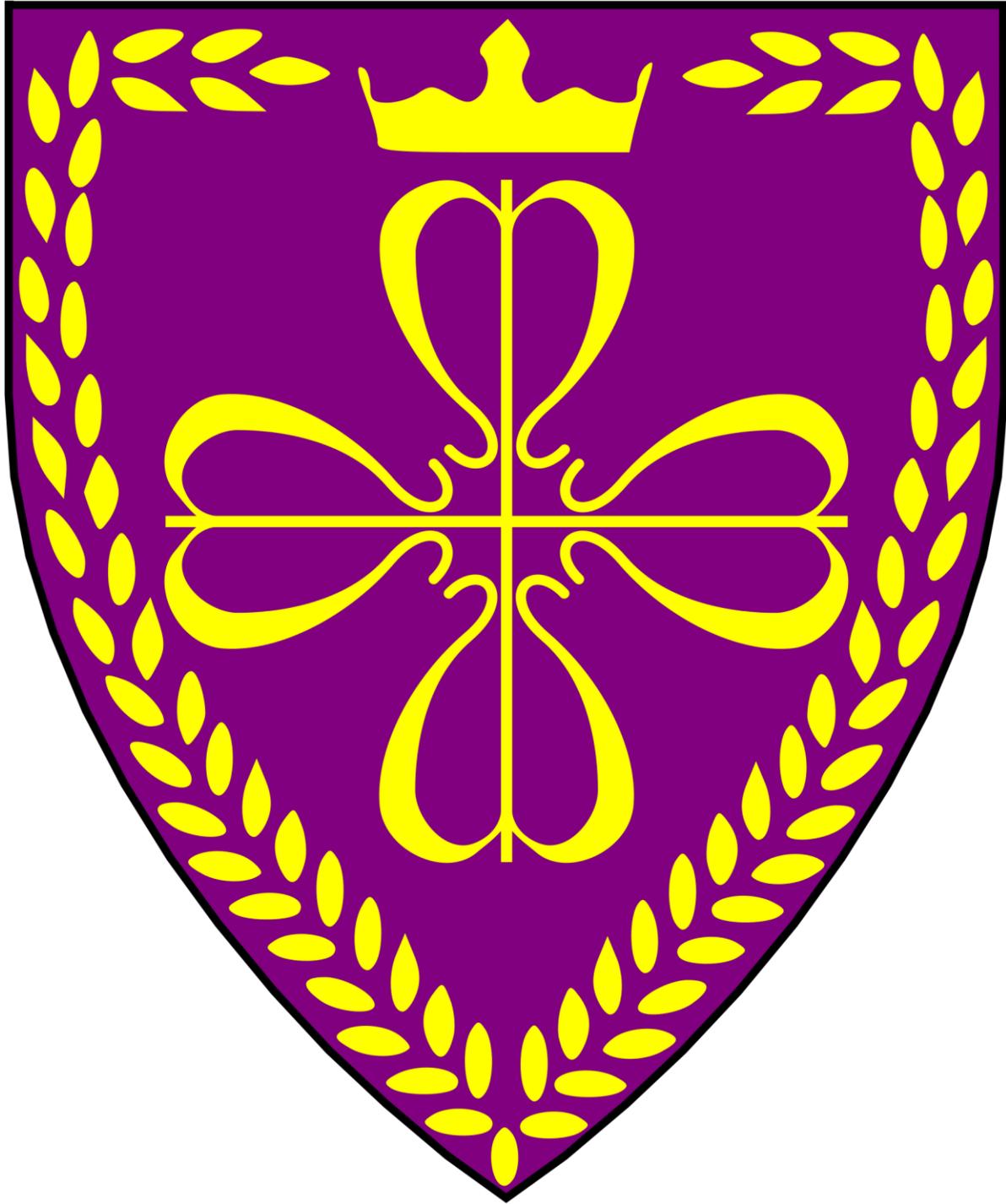


Calontir New Herald's Handbook



First Edition

Introduction

If you're reading this handbook it probably means that you are interested in Heraldry. If so, welcome! If you're just terribly bored and found the handbook, welcome as well.

Heraldry is one of the most visible aspects of the Society. At an event you'll likely see a Herald making announcements, running a consult table, and helping to run court. Heraldry is an activity in the Society which brings pageantry, pomp and circumstance, to the populace.

The purpose of this handbook is not to be an intense or exhaustive explanation of heraldry – there are other, better guides for that that you'll find links to later on. Instead it is designed to provide all the information a new Herald needs to get started, regardless of what kind of heraldry they intend to do. Think of it as the 100 level introduction course: It will give you a broad overview of the point and kinds of Heraldry, the structure of the College of Heraldry and the College of Arms (and the difference), and provide a pool of resources for to use to get started.

Also note that while this information is specific to the Kingdom of Calontir in parts, much of it will be applicable no matter what Kingdom you're in. If you have any questions about whether any particular piece of information you find here is relevant to your Kingdom, contact your local Herald or your Kingdom's College of Heraldry.

Most of all we hope that you find the information herein useful, and that it inspires you to continue your journey in Heraldry. If it does then we will have accomplished what we set out to in writing this.

And pray know we remain,

Yours in Service,

Saito Takauji, Gold Falcon Principal Herald

Lelia Corsini, Purple Quill Herald

A.S. 52.

Table of Contents

I.	The Purpose and Types of Heraldry.....	4
a.	Book Heraldry (Saker Herald, Eyas Herald, Various Baronial Herald).....	5
b.	Court Heraldry (White Hawk Herald, Various Baronial Herald)	6
c.	Field Heraldry (Battleur Herald)	7
d.	Administrative Heraldry (Laurel Sovereign of Arms, Gold Falcon Principal Herald, various other offices).....	8
II.	Structure of the College of Arms and the Calontir College of Heraldry.....	10
a.	Structural Notes.....	10
i.	Two Colleges (What's the Difference?)	10
ii.	Heraldic Ranks and Titles	10
b.	The College of Arms.....	11
i.	The Sovereigns (Kings or Queens) of Arms	11
ii.	Laurel Staff	11
c.	Calontir College of Heraldry	12
i.	Gold Falcon Principal Herald and Deputies (Purple Falcon, Purple Quill)	12
ii.	Saker Herald and Eyas Herald.....	12
iii.	Battleur Herald	13
iv.	Habicht Herald	13
v.	Red Hawk Herald	13
vi.	Lanner Herald	14
vii.	Reporting Deputies (Kite, Harrier, Buteo, Gerfalcon, and Sparrow Hawk Herald)	14
viii.	Good Hand Herald.....	14
ix.	Local Herald	14
x.	Other Staff Herald.....	15
III.	Tips and Tricks	16
a.	Vocal Heraldry (Field and Court)	16
b.	Book Heraldry.....	17
c.	Administrative Heraldry	18
	Appendix A: Useful Links.....	20

I. The Purpose and Types of Heraldry

The purpose of Heraldry was, historically, identification; the easy identification of individuals and units on the battlefield. Over time that evolved into inheritable symbols of the nobility and gentry. In that capacity it served much the same role; identifying aristocratic families on and off the battlefield for generations. It still serves that role, to the extent that the English College of Arms and the Court of the Lord Lyon still grant Arms to this day. In the Society, rather than serve to identify families, it identifies individuals and Households. Households in the SCA more often a confederation or affiliation of individuals than a group of people related by blood.

Heralds were thus those who were concerned with heraldry, with the tracking of family arms and lineages throughout the ages. However far from serving as just genealogists they served in a variety of roles: announcer and Master of Ceremonies, messengers, officers to the Crown, and diplomatic agents. To this day the chief heraldic representative of England and Scotland are officials of the Queen. Heraldry in the SCA serve many of the same roles: Announcing courts and tournaments, serving as officers, delivering announcements, and creating atmosphere at events.

Within the SCA there are four kinds of heraldry, and any Herald may be involved in any number of them. These are:

- **Book Heraldry**, the researching and submission of names and devices;
- **Court Heraldry**, helping to run court at the Baronial or Royal level;
- **Field Heraldry**, announcing tournaments and delivering messages around events
- **Administrative Heraldry**, those Heralds who hold office and help run the College of Heralds and the College of Arms (which are different things).

While there will be a section on tips and tricks for people who are getting into these areas later in the handbook, what follows is a brief overview of what each type of Herald does and good ways to get involved for someone early in their career.

All heralds were once new. They understand heraldry can seem intimidating at times and are generally happy to assist those interested in any way they can. One of the most important things to remember is that, whichever type/s of heraldry you ultimately choose to participate in, you will make mistakes. That's okay. The intricacies of the various types of heraldry can't be mastered overnight. Every herald, no matter how experienced, has stories of names/devices they consulted on that weren't successfully registered and/or mistakes they made while announcing court. Perfection isn't required to participate, only a desire to learn and do your best.

a. Book Heraldry (Saker Herald, Eyas Herald, Various Baronial Heralds)

Book Heraldry involves the researching, submission, and commenting on names and arms/devices/badges that are submitted by, and for, your fellow members¹. The Society allows for the registration of names and arms to protect them against other people registering ones that are too close, but in order to register them they must conform to the historical patterns that we've observed. SCA "core style" is broadly that of English heraldry in the middle ages, with some variations.

A book Herald is responsible for helping clients come up with names or arms that they would like that also conform to the SCA's rules. They do this through researching both the SCA's heraldic rules² and the historical practices for the time and place that the submitter wants to be from. Especially at the front line level this involves a lot of customer service – clients (the people submitting things) don't come in knowing the rules, or they wouldn't need you. They often come in with an idea for what they want and sometimes that idea won't work with the SCA's rules. It is the job of the local book Herald to walk the line between what the rules state and what the client wants.

Once a client has decided on what they'd like, the consulting Herald fills out the form - with the appropriate information. (In the case of a name this may include additional documentation to demonstrate why the chosen name fits the SCA criteria for the name's location and time period.) The client pays a fee which is then submitted along with the form by the consulting Herald to the Kingdom submission Herald³. This Herald enters the information into the SCA's online heraldry system OSCAR⁴, where it goes through the commentary process. The whole process from submission to approval takes approximately nine months.

The goal of commenting is for a broad cross-section of Heralds across the SCA to review the submission and any documentation and ensure it fits our rules and isn't too close to another already registered submission (called a conflict). It serves a vital purpose because there may be rules that others miss, or a conflict that no one else saw. A submission goes through two levels of commenting – in Kingdom and out of Kingdom⁵. In some Kingdoms the first level is restricted to only Heralds from that Kingdom, while in others both levels are open to Heralds from any Kingdom.

¹ The difference between Arms and a Device is that someone without an AoA has a Device, and someone who has an AoA has Arms. The difference between Arms and a Badge is that Arms were inherited family symbols while a badge was a symbol someone chose to represent themselves and their stuff (see Richard III's arms—those of England—versus his badges like the white boar.

² Called 'SENA': Standards for Evaluation of Names and Armory. <http://heraldry.sca.org/sena.html>

³ In Calontir it is submitted to Eyas Herald, the internal submissions Herald.

⁴ Online System for Commentary And Response. <http://oscar.sca.org>

⁵ Hence why in Calontir there is an internal submission (Eyas) and external submission (Saker) Herald.

Commenting privileges in your Kingdom are generally open to anyone, and your Kingdom's commenting area – referred to as the Kingdom garden – is a great way to cut your teeth commenting in OSCAR. But remember the goal of commenting is to provide useful information; it is perfectly acceptable to ask questions in the Kingdom garden while you're leaning, but generally it is better to only read the higher levels of commentary until you have a good idea of what is helpful or useful.

The best ways to get involved with Book heraldry are either volunteering at a local consult table, where Heralds set up at an event to help people find names or devices, or signing up for an OSCAR account and beginning to read and comment on submissions.

b. Court Heraldry (White Hawk Herald, Various Baronial Heralds)

Court heraldry is one of the most visible kinds of heraldry, because it is when a Herald stands and acts as the voice of the Crown or Coronet. The goal of this kind of heraldry is to communicate the words of the Crown or Coronet (which we will call 'Noble' to avoid repetition) to the audience in an audible, enunciated, and engaging way. In Calontir the official Court Herald for their Majesties is the White Hawk Herald.

Generally a given Noble will have one person designated as their Court Herald, who will be responsible for running their courts for either the Noble's tenure (mostly 6 months for Crowns⁶ and Territorial Princes/ses, and 2-5 years for Baronages) or the Herald's tenure. Oftentimes while there will be a single official Court Herald there will also be a pool of people to draw on if that Herald can't be at the event. This is especially important at the Kingdom level where there can theoretically be an event every weekend on different ends of the Kingdom.

Typically, before court there will be time with the Nobles in their privy chamber where the docket for the day is gone over. This is where the order of events for the court is finalized. It's also an opportunity to practice the various texts being read as well as the names of anyone who will be called into court that day.

The most important thing to remember as a Court Herald is that you are there to make the Nobles you are representing look good. That's true for every kind of heraldry, but it is especially crucial when you are wearing the tabard, standing behind them, and helping to run court. Your voice is their voice and your actions reflect upon them.

It's also important to note that we keep saying 'helping' run court. A Court herald is a Master of Ceremonies, a verbal troubleshooter, and the band which keeps the rock stars

⁶ Except for the West.

(the Nobles) looking good. The Herald is never the star of the show, only there to make sure that the star shines as brightly as they can under the circumstances⁷.

Court heraldry is also one of the more difficult areas of heraldry to get involved in, primarily because it is seen as being so high stakes. Nobles don't like to use completely untested Heralds to represent them, which leads to a feedback loop where it can be difficult to get experience. The best way to get involved in doing court heraldry is to approach a Baronial Herald you know and talk to them about stepping in for a few pieces of business at a local event. This way you have the support of a more experienced Herald and aren't solely responsible for doing it on your own.⁸

c. Field Heraldry (Battleur Herald)

Field heraldry is very much related to Court heraldry, and they are sometimes both lumped under the same category of Vocal heraldry. But they are also different and deserve different considerations. Field heraldry is the heraldry of tournaments and event announcements. The officer responsible for field heraldry in Calontir is Battleur Herald.

Heralding a tournament involves announcing the combatants of the tournament (including their titles), announcing the order the combatants will fight in and keeping that updated, running the combatants through either full honors or abbreviated honors⁹, calling the victors and running the results of each round back to the list table. They work closely with the person running the list (and thus the tournament itself), and help ensure that it runs smoothly; and equally importantly that the fighters know when they will be fighting so they will be properly prepared to go from resting to fighting.

Announcement heralds are the people who go around events, either in a coordinated or ad hoc fashion, and provide both the time and any updates or announcements. At major events, especially multi-day events like wars, this can be especially important because people will often be unaware of what time it is (having often left their cell phones and watches in their tents or cars). It also often involves walking around often very large sites and having to deliver the same message multiple times.

Field heraldry is one of the easiest kinds of heraldry to get involved in, especially at Lilies or other wars. If you want to get entry level vocal heraldry experience just find where Herald's Point¹⁰ is, show up, and ask when the next announcements are. You'll

⁷ Including prep time, docket review time, unexpected last minute items, hydration, and anyone passing out mid-court.

⁸ Or be asked by a Noble who knows you're interested and run Court with zero experience your first time and no backup. It takes all kinds.

⁹ See later for the difference.

¹⁰ Or its equivalent; this is what it is often called.

have the opportunity to travel around site, figure out where all the camps are if you don't already know, and practice your projection. To get involved in heralding tournaments the best thing you can do is find a smaller, local tournament (don't start with Crown Tournament) and find out who the herald in charge is. Ask them if they need help, and most likely you'll find yourself heralding at least a few rounds of the tournament.

Just like a Court Herald it is important for a Field Herald to remember they are there to be an aid, not the main event. Even seemingly 'minor' tournaments are still very meaningful to the people who are fighting in them, and they deserve to be respected while doing it. Finally, make sure to take steps to protect your voice. These activities can be surprisingly taxing and many a herald has ended up hoarse at the end of a tournament or a long trek around a site giving announcements. Make sure to drink regularly. Cough drops or hard candy can also be helpful in keeping your throat from becoming sore and compromising your voice.

d. Administrative Heraldry (Laurel Sovereign of Arms, Gold Falcon Principal Herald, various other offices)

Administrative heraldry is the often un-discussed fourth kind of heraldry. It is serving the College of Heraldry and the College of Arms as a whole by tracking activities, filing the required reports, and keeping everything running. It deserves to be discussed more than it does because the skills to be an officer are different than those of a Book, Court, or Field Herald. Often times people with those backgrounds get pushed in to being an officer without truly understanding what it means.

If you are a Canton, Shire, Baronial, or Kingdom Herald, it means you have to file a report on time every reporting period¹¹. Filing the reports is important and there are consequences for missed ones. If you neglect report filing you can be asked to step down, removed, or get your group in trouble. You're also expected to oversee heraldic activities in your area, which could range from a specific type of heraldry up to all types.

Despite the work administrative heraldry can also be very rewarding, because as much as any other kind of heraldry it helps keep the whole thing going. Administrative heraldry is also often fairly easy to get involved with. If you are in a small to mid-size College, Shire, or Barony, odds are that your group's Herald would love someone to train either as a deputy or a replacement¹². While at higher levels it not infrequently

¹¹ In Calontir this is quarterly.

¹² This is almost always true of any officer.

resembles herding cats, it is also one of the easiest ways to know you are doing good work for your group¹³.

Administrative heraldry also offers the opportunity to not just participate in an area of heraldry but oversee and help encourage it in your group or Kingdom. At the Kingdom level each kind of Heraldry is overseen by an officer, who not only works administratively but as a cheerleader and promoter of that kind of heraldry.

¹³ Because for groups larger than a Shire, Herald is a required office.

II. Structure of the College of Arms and the Calontir College of Heraldry

a. Structural Notes

i. Two Colleges¹⁴ (What's the Difference?)

When a Herald refers to the 'College', they are most often referring to what is properly called the College of Heraldry of their Kingdom. Each Kingdom has its own College of Heraldry, which is made up of all the titled¹⁵ and untitled heralds in the Kingdom. It is led by the Principal Herald of the Kingdom, may or may not award its own ranks, and as a whole is responsible for all heraldic activities within the Kingdom.

Over the Kingdom Colleges is the College of Arms. The College of Arms is made up of the three primary heraldic officers of the SCA (Laurel, Wreath, Pelican) and their staff, the Principal Heraldry of the Kingdoms, and the Submissions Heraldry of the Kingdoms. They are considered more responsible for Heraldry in the SCA as a whole.

ii. Heraldic Ranks and Titles

In period there were a number of different kinds of heralds, and you've seen some of those differences referenced in this handbook already. The College of Arms of the UK (founded in period, and still exists) currently has 3 Kings of Arms, 6 Heraldry of Arms in Ordinary, 4 Pursuivants of Arms in Ordinary, 8 Officers of Arms Extraordinary, and 1 Special Officer of Arms Extraordinary.

If you look at the heralds in your Kingdom you will notice many of these being used around you; you may hear someone referred to as "So-and-so" Herald or being given a new heraldic rank. What does it all mean?

Almost every heraldic office has a title and a rank. Laurel Queen of Arms, Gold Falcon Principal Herald, Purple Quill Herald, and Anser Pursuivant are all examples. The first part is the title, and the second part is the rank. A King or Queen of Arms outranks a Principal Herald, who in turn outranks a Herald, who in turn generally outranks a Pursuivant. While holding an office a herald can refer to themselves as that title, either by itself or in conjunction with their name¹⁶, but only as long as they hold the office.

Similarly in some Kingdoms heralds can be given personal ranks that are independent of the rank of an office they hold. Thus someone could hold the position of "So-and-so"

¹⁴ College here is used in the older sense, such as used by the Romans to indicate a group of people living together under common rules and for a common purpose. For example, the Roman College of Pontiffs (*Collegium Pontificum*) was not a University.

¹⁵ A titled herald is one that has an office with a title they use, or who have been given a personal heraldic title.

¹⁶ Takauji Gold Falcon, Lelia Purple Quill, Juliana Laurel, etc

Herald and have the rank of Herald while they hold the office, but their personal rank is that of Pursuivant.

Calontir doesn't award personal heraldic ranks except for one – Herald Extraordinary¹⁷. Herald Extraordinary is a Society wide award for service and achievement, and can be awarded by any Principal Herald or Laurel Sovereign of Arms. A Herald Extraordinary is also allowed to register a personal heraldic title, which they are allowed to use even when not holding an office.

b. The College of Arms

i. The Sovereigns (Kings or Queens) of Arms

The top three positions in the College of Arms are all referred to as Sovereigns of Arms, but the person holding them is referred to as a King or Queen of arms depending on their gender or preference.

The three Sovereigns of Arms are Laurel, Wreath, and Pelican. Laurel is in charge of all heraldry in the whole of the Society – the one to whom all reports flow, and who reports to the Board in turn. They are ultimately responsible for all of the Society level decisions regarding heraldry, including ultimate decisions over all names and devices submitted across the SCA.

Wreath and Pelican Sovereigns of Arms are Laurel's primary deputies, each responsible for overseeing one area of submissions. Wreath is responsible for decisions about arms and devices, while Pelican is responsible for decisions about names. While Laurel is ultimately responsible for making a call in a difficult or unprecedented case, they most often rely on their Wreath and Pelican as experts in those areas.

ii. Laurel Staff

Laurel has a number of staff members to assist her and the other Sovereigns in running the College of Arms:

- Clarion Herald – Education
- Codex Herald – Website
- Morsulus Herald – Maintains the Ordinary and Armorial (listing of all names and devices registered)
- Palimpsest Herald – Rules and rule changes
- Ragged Staff Herald – File clerk
- Sign Herald Deputy – Silent Heraldry (sign language)

¹⁷ Extraordinary here means 'outside of the normal officers' rather than 'of incredible value or worth', although many Heralds Extraordinary are that as well.

- Chancellor of the Exchequer – Financial
- Precedents Editor – tracks and edits the precedents of the College

c. Calontir College of Heraldry

Note that while Saker is often considered to be the second leading herald in the College. After Saker this list is not in order of precedence or leadership; it is only listed in the order which seemed most logical to the authors.

Greater descriptions of these offices can be found in the Calontir Herald's Handbook, Fourth Edition.

i. Gold Falcon Principal Herald and Deputies (Purple Falcon, Purple Quill)

Gold Falcon Principal Herald is the head of the College of Heraldry, a Great Officer, and a member of the Witan¹⁸. They are responsible for reporting to Laurel on the activities, strengths, and weaknesses of the Kingdom College, as well as any issues that may be upcoming. They also oversee a staff of officers who are responsible for the various areas of heraldry within the Kingdom. They serve on the Witan and swear fealty as a Great Officer of State.

Gold Falcon's most visible task is being primarily responsible for Crown Tournament every six months. While they do not have to call every tournament match themselves, and for the sake of their voices they most often don't, they are involved throughout the tournament and almost universally announce the finals. This is because at Coronation Gold Falcon must testify confirming the identity of the victor, and that the victor is in fact the person before them waiting to be crowned.

The two Deputies who assist Gold Falcon are Purple Falcon and Purple Quill. Purple Falcon Herald is officially nothing more than the Emergency Deputy for the office (what used to be called a 'drop dead' deputy), but not infrequently acts as a sounding board and special projects deputy. Purple Quill Herald is the Secretary for the office, which means precisely whatever Gold Falcon and Purple Quill decide it means. It often involves keeping Gold Falcon on agenda and reminding them of important tasks.

ii. Saker Herald and Eyas Herald

Saker and Eyas are responsible for submissions – Saker in charge of the joint submissions office and external submissions in specific, and Eyas for internal submissions. When a Calontiri or their herald sends in a name or device, they send it to

¹⁸ The advisory council to the Crown, which consists of the Great Officers and the Rush Chancellor.

Eyas who processes it and posts it on OSCAR in the internal letter for commentary. After the appropriate time roughly one month, Saker then posts the name/device to the external letter for roughly two months more commentary, before sending the approved items to Laurel for consideration. Many people liken it to having a baby, because the whole process takes about 9 months.

One of the ways Eyas is providing internal commentary at this time is by hosting monthly online commentary meetings. This allows a certain number of heralds to log in to a chat and discuss the internal letter for that month, while others can watch on YouTube.

Originally Saker was responsible for all submissions and Eyas was their deputy, but it was changed to fit the pattern most other Kingdoms found more successful in 2017. As of the release of this edition of this Handbook, there is no title for a deputy to either Saker or Eyas although they can have them.

Saker is most often considered to be the second most important herald in the Kingdom, which is reflected by the fact that they are the other official member of the College of Arms in the Kingdom. While it is not a requirement to serve as Saker to serve as Gold Falcon, many former Sakers have served a term as Gold Falcon.

iii. Battleur Herald

Battleur Herald is responsible for field heraldry in the Kingdom, including the training and recruiting of field heralds. If a tournament requires a herald and they don't know where to find one, Battleur is often their first bet. Their most visible task, like Gold Falcon, is Crown Tournament where they are often in charge of making sure everything is in place before the finals.

iv. Habicht Herald

Habicht is the education herald, and their job is to ensure that there is Heraldic education in the Kingdom. This can take the form of publications (coordinated with Kestrel Herald, below), of classes at RUSH/Lilies/other events, or any other way of communicating education. This often ends up being a behind the scenes role and can vary greatly based on the person holding it.

v. Red Hawk Herald

Red Hawk is the commenting herald for the Kingdom. This means that they are responsible for reviewing the external commentary letters from other Kingdoms and providing commentary on them; helping to provide information for the submissions process. At this time one of the ways they do so is by hosting a monthly online

commentary meeting, where heralds can join an online chat and go through letters to comment on.

vi. Lanner Herald

Another office that can be as visible or behind the scenes as its holder desires, Lanner is responsible for writing ceremonies. They are most frequently approached by incoming Crowns or soon to be made Peers (or the person who begged the boon for them) who need help making a ceremony. Lanner is also responsible for archiving ceremonies and has sample ceremonies for those who need help.

vii. Reporting Deputies (Kite, Harrier, Buteo, Gerfalcon, and Sparrow Hawk Herald)

These are Heraldic deputies responsible for covering the different regions of Calontir and ensuring that all the group heralds within them are reporting properly. They are also the first line of support for any problems that arise in the groups they are responsible for. Different Gold Falcons have had different views of whether the reporting deputies should live in their regions or not, but there are no hard and fast rules on the subject.

Their most visible time is in the lead up to the quarterly reporting periods, where they will be posting in various places reminding their group heralds to report.

viii. Good Hand Herald

Good Hand is responsible for Silent Heraldry in the Kingdom, the use of American Sign Language and custom SCA signs to report to the populace announcements and Court business. Calontir is proud to have been one of the first Kingdoms to have an official deputy for Silent Heraldry. It is the job of Good Hand Herald to make sure a sign language herald is present at events when requested if at all possible. Like the other heraldic areas, Silent Heraldry is always looking for those interested in participating. Full fluency in American Sign Language is not required to volunteer and Good Hand may arrange for classes periodically to teach SCA specific signs.

ix. Local Herald

Every group can have a Herald, but they don't all have or get titles; in Calontir only the six Baronies, one Shire, and one Canton have titled heralds. They are:

- Hippogriff Pursuivant (Barony of Three Rivers)
- Fountain Pursuivant (Barony of Forgotten Sea)
- Caltrop Pursuivant (Barony of Vatavia)
- Cabochard Pursuivant (Barony of Coeur d'Ennu)
- Anser Pursuivant (Barony of the Lonely Tower)

- Gemshorn Pursuivant (Barony of Mag Mor)
- Talon Herald (Shire of Cum on Iolair)
- Sea-Sheep Herald (Canton of Aston Tor)

Why some of these are Pursuivants and some Heralds is an artifact of history, which is gone to in greater depth in the main Herald's Handbook. Suffice to say here that it represents a former practice no longer followed.

x. Other Staff Heralds

The following Heralds serve in key roles in the College, and their listing here is in no way a sign they are less important; only that their job titles or descriptions are more easily explained:

- White Hawk Herald (Personal herald to the Crown)
- Falconet Herald (Protocol for the Prince and Princess)
- Blue Hawk Herald (Order of Precedence)
- Vert Hawk Herald (Keeper of the Armorial)
- Kestrel Herald (Publications)
- Historian
- Archivist

III. Tips and Tricks

So what if you are already taking your first steps in to heraldry, and want to know how to make sure you're doing it as best you can? These are a series of tips and tricks to make sure that you're succeeding. They are by no means the only ones, and heralds across the Kingdom can provide you with many more.

a. Vocal Heraldry (Field and Court)

- **Treat Your Body Like You Are a Fighter**

This ties in closely with the one below, but whether you are standing in Court or calling a tournament, you are going through a physical exertion. The best way to do it without a huge amount of pain is to treat it like it is. Stretch before-hand, cool down after. And of course:

- **Hydrate**

Drink as much water as you possibly can. Your voice is your instrument and it will depart you at the worst time if you aren't careful. Even when properly hydrated there have been courts where heralds felt their voices going. Yes, soda hydrates as well; but water before and during vocal heraldry is best.

- **Plan for Weather**

If you know you are going to be heralding, make sure to find out what the weather is supposed to be; and then plan for what the weather could be as well. The easiest way to be miserable is for the Lilies weather to turn damp and cool when it was supposed to be hot and dry. Don't forget sunscreen and/or a hat. While heralding it's entirely too easy to stay out in the sun longer than intended and end up with a nasty burn.

- **Check the Acoustics**

After enough time in the SCA almost everyone has a story about being unable to hear the Royal Herald; and a lot of times it isn't their fault. Every venue has different acoustics, and one of the best things a vocal herald can do is make sure before they make announcements or herald court is that they know how their voice will carry.

- **Wear Comfortable Shoes**

As a voice herald you may be on your feet for extended periods of time. In addition, calling announcements may cause you to walk long distances over uneven terrain.

b. Book Heraldry

- **Focus on Customer Service**

Remember first and foremost that your job is to sit with a client, and make sure that they can find something they love that they can probably register. It isn't your job to protect the College or defend the honor of heraldry; you are an advocate for that person. And if they say they want to submit something even if you know for sure it won't pass, submit it.

- **Don't Be Afraid to say 'I Don't Know'**

The worst thing someone can do at a consulting table is answer a question they don't actually know the answer to, because they're embarrassed to not know or too proud to admit it. You can lead someone down a path they will be upset to be on by doing this; it is far better to say you don't know.

- **Use the SCA's Resources**

Don't be afraid to say you will look something up and get back to a client. The SCA has a number of available resources for names and devices (see the 'Useful Links' appendix), and you can always take their desires and go do more research. Many times, heralds will become especially knowledgeable about a particular aspect of heraldry and they can serve as valuable sources of information. Don't be hesitant to consult with other heralds if you are unsure or need a second opinion.

- **Use OSCAR as a Teacher**

OSCAR is a great place to learn rules, precedents, and best practices. And the best thing is you don't even have to post anything in order to take advantage of that. Log in, read commentary, and when you find some discussion you don't understand ask someone.

- **Sit at Consult Tables, Even if You Don't Talk**

Very much the in-person equivalent of the above point about OSCAR. Sit next to a more experienced herald at a consult table, and you will both find yourself helping with the consultation and learning about both the rules and the process. Even as you get better at doing consultations and heraldry, there is almost always a more experienced herald to sit next to.

c. Administrative Heraldry

- **Remember Reporting Dates**

In Calontir all reports (save for those of Gold Falcon to Laurel) are due on the fifteenth of the month after the end of the quarter; that is April 15th, July 15th, October 15th, and January 15th. Forget at your peril, or at least embarrassing email explaining why it will be late – and if you are going to be late, email the person to whom you report.

- **Carrots Before Sticks**

As an officer you are going to be wrangling, begging, pleading, and cajoling with people all the time. Remember that we are all volunteers in this giant game of pretend fun time dress up time, and that people are much more likely to respond to a carrot you can offer than a largely non-existent stick.

- **First Find a Deputy**

A deputy can be a lot of things, ranging from simply someone who is there when you can't be to a sounding board and project helper. And it makes it easier to step down at the end of your tenure if you've already got someone who is trained to do the job – assuming they want it. We're opposed to press-ganging for the most part.

- **Use Your Seniors**

Whether you're serving in a local group or at the Kingdom level, there are other people who have done your job. Use them! Just because a situation seems completely unique doesn't mean it is – and even if it is, they may have insight they can give you about similar situations they faced.

IV. Conclusion

Like so many other things in the SCA, and life, heraldry is a path; a journey without a real destination besides growth and fun and doing something helpful. No handbook can do more than serve as a guideline, or maybe a roadmap; but remember that the map is not the territory. Your journey will be different than anyone else's, and that's ok. It wouldn't be yours if it belonged to anyone else.

Remember: you are providing a valuable service that is both useful and artistic. Without heralds, running courts or tournaments would be far more difficult. They help people to know where to be and what's going on. Heraldry also contributes to the medieval atmosphere of an event and also helps individuals to design names and devices that become part of their SCA identity. Whenever you see someone displaying their badge or device, remember that heralds like you helped with registering it. So be proud of the good work you do and have fun.

Remember to have fun, and remember you are a Herald of Calontir (or of your own kingdom). You walk in a proud tradition with many other pilgrims beside you – do it with a smile on your face, and you will rarely have cause to regret it.

Appendix A: Useful Links

- SCA College of Arms: <http://heraldry.sca.org/>
 - Letters of Acceptance and Return (LOAR): <http://heraldry.sca.org/loar/>
 - Precedents: <http://heraldry.sca.org/precedents.html>
 - Ordinary and Armorial (O&A):
<http://heraldry.sca.org/OandA/index.html>
 - Basic Heraldry Articles: <http://heraldry.sca.org/education.html>
 - Articles: <http://heraldry.sca.org/articles.html>
- Calontir Heraldry Website: <http://heraldry.calontir.org/>
 - Calontir Awards: <http://heraldry.calontir.org/awards.php>
 - Name and Device Forms: <http://heraldry.calontir.org/handbooks-and-forms.php#submissions-tab>
 - Herald's Handbook (4th Edition):
<http://heraldry.calontir.org/documents/Calontir-Heralds-Handbook-4th-edition.pdf>
- Heralds of Calontir Facebook Group:
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/heraldsofcalontir/>
- Baby Heralds of the SCA Facebook Group:
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/458411554260838/>
- Medieval Names Archive: <https://www.s-gabriel.org/names/>
- Medieval Heraldry Archive: <https://www.s-gabriel.org/heraldry/>
- Modar University (Heraldry Articles):
<http://www.modaruniversity.org/Heraldry.htm>
- Online Pictorial Dictionary: <http://mistholme.com/pictorial-dictionary-of-heraldry/>
- SCA Primer on Field Divisions:
<http://heraldry.sca.org/armory/newprimer/h4f5.shtml>