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Unto Elisabeth Laurel, Jeanne Marie Wreath, Margaret Pelican, King Uther and Queen Angharad, Their Royal Majesties of An Tir, and the An Tir College of Arms does Christopher Black Lion send warmest greetings!

I am pleased to report that heraldry is doing very well in An Tir. Reports from throughout the Kingdom show a thriving and energetic college. All but a few of the Kingdom deputy positions are filled and I have great faith that the currently open position of Boar Pursuivant (a deputy to Lion's Blood) will be filled soon. I expect to begin requesting applications for Queue Forchée Herald (my just-add-water deputy) within the next month.

An Tir's Heraldic Symposium was very successful this year. It was held on the campus of the College of Saint Giles in Seagirt in the Principality of Tir Rígh (Victoria, B.C.). It was well attended and the event staff did a marvelous job. Morel Argent Scroll (aka Muirgheal inghean Labhrain) is to be commended for the hard work she has put into organizing our symposia for the last several years. She will be stepping down once the decision of where next year's symposium will be located has been made as her successor, Esclarmonde de Porcairages, submitted one of the two bids received.

I attended my first Known World Heraldic and Scribal Symposium this year. It was very useful to meet and converse with the attending Principal Heralds and the Sovereigns of Arms. I am already looking forward to next year's symposium when I hope to be able to meet all of the PHs. I have requested bids for KWHS 2007 and am hopeful that An Tir and the College will step up to the challenge I have given it.

Quentin Dexter Gauntlet (Quentin Martel), the keeper of the An Tir Order of Precedence, will be stepping down at September Crown. He has done an amazing job of organizing the OP and making it easy for him and his cadre of deputies to update. All of the OP Keepers are to be highly

commended for the work they have done and continue to do. I am sure his successor, Duchess Jacyntha, will have their full support.

The updated version of the Branch Herald's Job Description has been published at http://antirheralds.org/college/branch_heralds_job_description.pdf with a pointer published in The Crier and posted to the antir-heralds@antir.sca.org mailing list. The update of this document was started by my predecessor, Frederic Badger, and finished with his assistance.

Issues Facing the College

It is a very nice feeling to be able to say that there don't appear to be any truly major issues facing the college at this time. That said, the years old question of Royal Court Herald as member of the college continues to baffle all those who try to resolve it. I had thought I had a good solution until reality set in. I discussed it at some great length with the PHs who were at KWHS. It seems that all of the Kingdoms represented had different traditions and methods. Some, like Caid, have the Principal Herald as Royal Court Herald. Some have a designated deputy to the PH. Some have retinue heralds who are not members of their Kingdom's College. I will be discussing this further with Their Majesties of An Tir.

The Principality of the Summits

Summits has a new Principality Herald. Tadhg O'Murchadha the Wanderer stepped into the office at their June Investiture. I have asked their outgoing Principal Herald, Fingall McKetterick, to take on the office of "Rabble Rouser" as a special deputy to both Summits Herald and Black Lion. Fingall's task is to recruit new heralds in the Principality.

The Barony of Adiantum hosted a Principality Heraldic Symposium at the tail end of the previous reporting quarter. They have expressed a strong desire to host another one next year. I am encouraging them to do this.

The Principality of Avacal

I don't have a lot to report about this Principality save that I am happy with how things are going there. I am encouraging them to consider a Principality Heraldic Symposium sometime in 2006 or 2007 to continue the work started by last year's An Tir Heraldic Symposium.

The Principality of Tir Rígh

I did not receive a report from Guillaume Silver Yale, the Principality Herald for Tir Rígh. I have, however, heard directly from several of the branch heralds there. I have been in contact with Their Highnesses of Tir Rígh and will be discussing this issue further with them at the Principality's September Coronet. This event will also host the formation meeting of a formal college for Tir Rígh, something I wish to strongly encourage.

I am pleased to note that despite a lack of communication from Silver Yale heraldry in Tir Rígh is going strong (as evidenced by attendance at An Tir Heraldic Symposium).

Thus ends my first report as Black Lion.

In Service to Kingdom and College,

Lord Christopher Thomas

Black Lion Principal Herald, An Tir

Argent, a flat cap purpure plumed and on a chief azure three commedia del'Arte masks argent.