



Christopher Thomas Black Lion Principal Herald

c/o Lee Damon
7757 40th Ave NE
Seattle WA 98115
T 206-999-6119

November 27, 2005

Unto Elisabeth Laurel; Jeanne Marie Wreath; Margaret Pelican; King Uther and Queen Angharad, Their Royal Majesties of An Tir; Crown Prince Sven and Crown Princess Signy, Their Royal Highnesses of An Tir; Master Ljotr, Seneschal of An Tir; My Fellow Principal Heralds; and the An Tir College of Heralds does Christopher Black Lion send warmest greetings!

Heraldry in An Tir continues to thrive. This quarter's reports are generally upbeat and happy, though I am distressed to note the number of reports that were not received. I will be stressing how very critical it is that reports be sent in. In three cases this cycle important questions reached me via a quarterly report that I would have otherwise been unaware of. I am worried that other things aren't reaching me because those branches aren't reporting or attempting to contact me with problems.

I have one major open position in the college, Queue Forchée Herald, my contingency deputy. The announcement of the opening went out in the December Crier. Frederic Badger (Couronne Rouge Herald) continues as my acting contingency deputy until the new Queue Forchée Herald is selected.

The college is down to one tabard. I have retired the two that were made with the Kingdom's Arms quartered with the badge of the College of Heralds. Since the Kingdom sets the standard and pattern for branch tabards I felt it necessary for us to Set A Good Example by removing these tabards from public view. They

imply things about the relationship between the Kingdom and the College that are best left unexplored. Lady Ellen Frasser has agreed to coordinate a project to build replacement tabards starting after her elevation to the peerage at Twelfth Night. Baron David of Moffat (Electrum Herald) and Gwenlian Catharne (Sinister Gauntlet) are almost done with a lighter weight tabard that should be available soon.

A full roster of Kingdom Staff Heralds and Pursuivants can be found at http://www.antirheralds.org/college/black_lion_staff.html.

Issues Facing the College

The only major issue facing the college right now is the status of Vox Leonis Herald. The dichotomy between a College Herald and Royal Retinue Herald is much larger than it appears on the surface. I fear this problem will outlast me as it has outlasted my last innumerable predecessors.

The Principality of the Summits

Summits Principality Herald (Summits Principality)
Lord Tadhg O'Murchadha the Wanderer
c/o Tadhg Simmons
1471 Patterson St, Unit B
Eugene, OR 97401
541-434-2194

The Summits are in good shape this quarter. Their new Principality Herald is active and passionate. The downside there is that one of the two Baronies does not have a herald and the other one didn't report. Almost all of the shires in the principality do have heralds and the vast majority of them did report.

I am actively encouraging Summits to host a principality symposium next year. I am not hopeful that it will happen, but I will try.

Lord Tadhg is working on finding a name for the Principality Herald. I hope he will be able to find something that is satisfactory soon.

The Principality of Avacal

Sanguinaris Herald (Avacal Principality)
Viscount Steinn Vikingsson, KSCA
140 Berwick Drive N.W., Calgary, AB T3K 1P3, CANADA
(403) 730-6533

Only three branches reported in Avacal. I can't really say I know what is going on there right now. This disturbs me greatly. I will be in closer contact with Sanguinaris Herald to try to improve this situation over the next quarter.

The Principality of Tir Rígh

Silver Yale Herald (Tir Rígh Principality)
Lord Quentin Martel
c/o Don Sowell
278 Pollman Circle, Lynden, WA 98264, USA
(360) 312-9131

The principality has a new Herald, Quentin Martel. He was most recently Dexter Gauntlet Herald. He is well liked there and his appointment was received with much cheer. Their Highnesses of Tir Rígh have been very active in encouraging the formation of a College of Heralds there. Silver Yale is taking this challenge on and is very active in making it happen. I am very happy with the current state of heraldry in the principality.

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.