



Christopher Thomas Black Lion Principal Herald

September 10, 2006

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

The season has been quiet and calm. Most people are traveling or otherwise out and about. Heraldry is afoot in the Kingdom with consult tables at many events and active heraldry nights in several branches throughout the land.

The college's financial state is somewhat stabilized. Analysis of where all the money went last year has not been completed but it is looking like most of the loss stems from making up for lost submissions a few years previous. We are picking up the tab on submissions that were dropped during the lions blood meltdown.

A second tabard was donated to the college by Gwenlian Queue Forchée at May Crown. She plans to donate a few more. Meanwhile Mistress Ellen Frasser's project to build field tabards has shown its first fruit with delivery of a tabard also at May Crown. As a result of now having three good tabards in the Kingdom we were able to have all of the Court Heralds properly dressed at July Coronation. We were also able to drape two new heralds at their creation ceremony. This is a proud moment for the college. I look forward to many more.

I would like to draw special attention to two Heralds. Esclarmonde de Porcraiges, Argent Scroll Herald (education) has been very active in seeking out new or potential heralds and helping them with training. She has written new Welcome-to-the-College educational materials that shows the college isn't a scary place to be. Duchess Jacyntha Argentarius, Dexter Gauntlet Herald (OP) continues to build on the hard work of her predecessor. She seeks out new and interesting ways to put the Order of Precedence information to use. Between her and the work of Frederic Badger, Courounne Rouge Herald I have very high hopes for the online Roll of Arms and continued new uses for the Order of Precedence data.

A full roster of Kingdom Staff Heralds and Pursuivants can be found at http://www.antirheralds.org/college/black_lion_staff.html. This is the updated roster signed by Their Majesties at July Coronation.

Issues Facing the College

Reporting. It was horrible this quarter. Almost a month after they were due I am still lacking a report from one principality and a few Baronies.

The Principality of the Summits

Summits Principality Herald (Summits Principality)
Lord Tadhg O'Murchadha the Wanderer

Reports from both Baronies and most of the other branches were received. Summits continues to have a very good reporting level and is quite active for having so few heralds.

Sadly, the principality herald for the Summits has still not submitted paperwork for a name. I continue to prod him about this.

(Aside from updating his phone number this report is completely unchanged from last time - nothing has changed.)

The Principality of Avacal

Sanguinaris Herald (Avacal Principality)
Lady Annys Bradwardyn

Avacal has a new principality herald. She is showing much energy and enthusiasm and I am looking forward to working with her.

The Principality of Tir Rígh

Silver Yale Herald (Tir Rígh Principality)
Lord Quentin Martel

I have not received a report. Lord Quentin autocrated September Crown.

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.