



# Christopher Thomas Black Lion Principal Herald

c/o Lee Damon

May 30, 2007

Unto Elisabeth Laurel; Jeanne Marie Wreath; Margaret Pelican; Their Royal Majesties of An Tir, King Sven and Queen Signy; Their Royal Highnesses of An Tir, Crown Prince Tiernan and Crown Princess Miranda; Viscountess Nadezhda, Seneschael of An Tir; My Fellow Principal Heralds; and the An Tir College of Heralds does Christopher Black Lion send warmest greetings!

The An Tir College of Heralds is very strong with many active and very passionate heralds throughout the Kingdom. They are dedicated individuals who put their all into their heraldic pursuits. I am very proud, and very lucky, to be heading this College.

The college's financial state is restored. Mostly thanks to Laurel's move to the O.S.C.A.R. system we are no longer bleeding for every submission. The new postal rates will hit us hard for internal submissions for a few more months until we are able to implement a kingdom-level O.S.C.A.R. It is my hope that eventually we will be able to merge the two systems but I suspect that will be a project for my successor.

Lions Blood, An Tir's submissions Herald, has been a very daunting task for a while now. With the end of tenure for Richenda de Jardin I have split the office up a bit. I have followed the model from Laurel and instituted a Lions Blood Clerk. All submissions now go to the clerk at a well published (and non-changing) address. The clerk scans, files, and processes the submissions to allow Lions Blood to concentrate on decision making. I am leaving the details of who is doing what up to the new Lions Blood. At this time both Lions Blood Clerk

and Acting Lions Blood are being handled by Gwenlian Catharne, my contingency deputy. Applications for a new Lions Blood are being actively sought. Gwenlian will continue as Lions Blood Clerk for the foreseeable future. Boar Pursuivant continues as the internal submissions and notifications deputy. Gwenlian's contact information can be found on the roster under Queue Forché Herald.

Submissions and questions about submissions should be sent to Lions Blood Clerk at:

An Tir College of Heralds  
1001 Cooper Pt Rd SW #140, PMB-164  
Olympia, WA 98502

This is a mail forwarding service which will forward submissions to Lions Blood Clerk no matter where they live in the future.

Due to unfortunate timing in the past several positions are open or opening in the college as two year terms come to an end. In the next few months we will be seeking a new Dexter Gauntlet (OP), Silver Yale (Tir Rígh principality), Summits (Summits principality), and Æstel herald in addition to Lions Blood (submissions) and Argent Scroll (Education).

The requested move of the Order of Precedence from Shittimwoode's web server to the antirheralds.org server has not happened yet. I am hoping to see completion of that project by September Crown. The move of the An Tir Roll of Arms is happening as Frederic Couronne Rouge re-implements his code to work with the new server. He has been paying for the server it is currently running on. I do not feel it appropriate to ask anyone else to pay for something the College should be providing.

At previous request I am listing the current status of Kingdom heraldic submissions.

*Ordre du Lion et de la Lance* – Grant level equestrian order – was submitted to Laurel on An Tir's October, 2006 Letter of Intent. It is registered on the LoAR

published at the very end of May, 2007. No badge has been proposed for this order.

The request for law changes needed for *Ordre du Cheval et du Lion* and *Ordre du Lion et de la Lance*, along with the request removing *Ordo Equis*, have been sent to the Kingdom Seneschal's office and should appear in the next law update.

*Black Talbot Herald, Demi-Lion Herald, Black Falcon Herald, and Black Antelope Herald* - Kingdom staff Herald's titles - are all at Laurel and should be ruled on in next month's letter.

Loyal Pursuivant is working with the Kingdom Bardic Champion on a name and badge for the past Bardic Champions. They expect to have name paperwork ready for Royal Approval by July Coronation.

I regret that I will not be able to attend July Coronation as I will be at a conference in Lochac. Gwenlian will be acting in my stead.

At Laurel's request Lions Blood and I have established the following policy for access to O.S.C.A.R. as a representative of An Tir's college:

*The Black Lion Principal Herald shall nominate heralds to the Laurel Sovereign of Arms for membership in the College of Arms and/or participation in the Society-wide submissions commenting list (OSCAR) as follows:*

*1. The Black Lion Principal Herald and the Lions Blood Herald shall be ex officio members of both the College of Arms and OSCAR.*

*2. Other heraldic officers of the Kingdom of An Tir may be nominated as members of the College of Arms as Black Lion deems necessary without any commitment to commentary or nomination for participation in OSCAR.*

*3. Individuals who have previously served as Black Lion Principal Herald or Lions Blood Herald or in an equivalent office in another kingdom may be nominated for participation in OSCAR upon their request with no further qualification.*

*4. Individuals who can provide evidence of satisfactory commentary for three months or more in OSCAR or the antecedent College of Arms commentary system may be nominated for participation in OSCAR upon their request with no further qualification, whether or not such commentary was made as a member of the College of Heralds of An Tir.*

*5. Individuals not otherwise qualifying for participation in OSCAR shall not be nominated for participation in OSCAR until they have commented upon at least three An Tir Internal Letters of Intent to the satisfaction of the Black Lion Principal Herald and Lions Blood Herald.*

*6. Nominations by the Black Lion Principal Herald for membership in the College of Arms and/or participation in OSCAR are in all cases subject to the approval of the Laurel Sovereign of Arms.*

Access to An Tir's O.S.C.A.R. system will be controlled by Lions Blood.

My SCA member number is 32281. My current membership expires 31 JUL, 2009. My warrant expires in August, 2008.

### **The Principality of the Summits**

Summits Principality Herald (Summits Principality)  
Lord Tadhg O'Murchadha the Wanderer  
c/o Tadhg Simmons

Lord Tadhg's tenure is approaching an end. He has a successor in line but I am requesting that the position be advertised for a short while to allow other interested parties time to apply. I will be in consultation with Their Highnesses of the Summits soon.

The Herald's name for Summits Principality Herald should be ruled on soon. I look forward to addressing Lord Tadhg's successor by Name in my next report.

### **The Principality of Avacal**

Sanguinaris Herald (Avacal Principality)  
Lady Annys Bradwardyn  
c/o Suzanne Jacquest

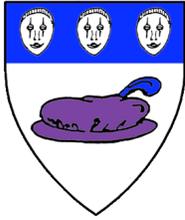
All is well in Avacal. Annys Sanguinaris has asked many good and challenging questions about what is expected of a college in a principality as it moves towards Kingdom status. I hope I have been able to give her some insight.

### **The Principality of Tir Rígh**

Silver Yale Herald (Tir Rígh Principality)  
Lord Quentin Martel (Don Sowell)

Quentin Silver Yale's term ends in September. I have requested that advertising for the position begin quickly. He has Named three heralds and appointed two others. This is a good sign of a college in formation.

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.