

Heraldic Consultation - Helping Folks Find Their Heraldic Selves

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Abstract

A conversation about consulting with newcomers, and long tenured members of the SCA. When consultation is a teaching experience for heralds, with the goal of helping someone to find their medieval name, and/or armoury!

Agenda

- Consultation Process – what is it?
- Setting up Herald's Point for events
- Name Consultation
- Armoury Consultation
- Submission Support
- Post-submission Submission – limits and support

What do we mean by consultation?

- Heraldry Service – a wee bit of customer service
- Coincidentally – a great way to expand a herald's knowledge base!
- Diverse opportunities
 - Herald's Point (Gulf War, Pennsic War)
 - Informal consultation
 - Online via social media/texting
 - Around the feast table/campfire
 - Chatting at an event
 - Local activities (fight practice, local A&S)
- Advertise when you're going to have consultation available at an event, have signage!

Find a Space & Organize Resources



Photo by Magnifica Beatrice Domenici della Campan

- There is a good reason why we can be called Book Heralds!
- References are usually brought by the consulting heralds
 - Be sure that you note who brought what book/resource
 - Duplicates are ok!
- Lots of paper and pens

Centralize Resources

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- Have everything handy, and easy to reach
- Consider having a 'runner' to save consulting heralds from retrieval and returns
- Make sure resources are returned once done

Make people-resources handy, too

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- Consulting is a great learning opportunity for new heralds and submitters alike
- Experienced heralds are a vital resource, as well

Set-up Consulting Stations



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- Armoury – white boards are very useful, colourful write/erase markers
- Space out heralds
 - If you have the space, group name and armoury heralds in different sections
- Is there wifi access? Will heralds depend on local resources and references?

Treats and Fuel for Heralds



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- Keeping heralds happy and hydrated
- Seek donations in advance
- Consider a thank you token

Name Consultation

1. We are here to provide a service! Be pleasant, especially when you have to tell a client that their name has a problem. Be honest, but tactful.
2. Tell the submitter how the submission process works – it's a learning opportunity for them in this moment.
3. Please use the Name Consultation Worksheet – I recommend Modar's worksheet (note: not all listed resources are approved by the CoH)
4. Check all submissions for conflict in the Armorial and Ordinary. If you're not sure if two names are in conflict, list the potential conflict on the Worksheet.
5. Documentation: page number references are not sufficient. Always summarize the information.
6. Feel free to encourage period style. Show the client typical names, let them leaf through sources, they may have an idea in their mind already.
7. In the end, it's the client's decision. As long as it's legal, you *must* let them have it.

Heraldic Consultation Sheet [Modar version]

(PLEASE PRINT)

Submitter Information

Legal name: _____

Address: _____ City/State/Zip: _____

Phone: _____ E-mail: _____

Local Group Name: _____ Local herald: _____

Consulting herald: _____ Consultant's E-mail: _____

SCA Name Submitted: _____

Culture(s) desired: _____

Time Period: _____

Persona Gender: M F Don't care

Desired Meanings: _____

Will the submitter accept minor changes? _____ Will they accept major changes?

Citations & Notes: List each element with Source Name & Author, Page #, Date of Element, Language of Element and URL

Name Consultation: Sciath's approach

1. Do you have any ideas before we begin? OR What have you been using for the past xxx years that you have been in the SCA?
2. In cases where the submitter is an open book:
 - a) Would you like to explore your personal family background?
 - b) Is there a culture that you are attracted to?
 - c) Is there a timeframe that you are attracted to?
 - d) Is there costume, activities, trade, politicsthat you are interested in?
3. What if the submitter has an idea of a name rooted in anime/star wars/fantasy/book characters?
 - a) It may be salvageable
 - b) If it's not salvageable, let them down easily – is there something close to it that would work?
4. If possible, do some conflict checking.

Armoury Consultation

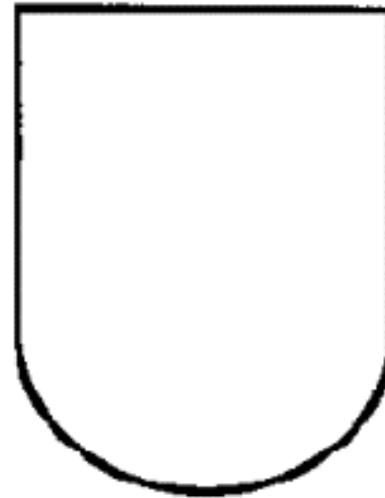
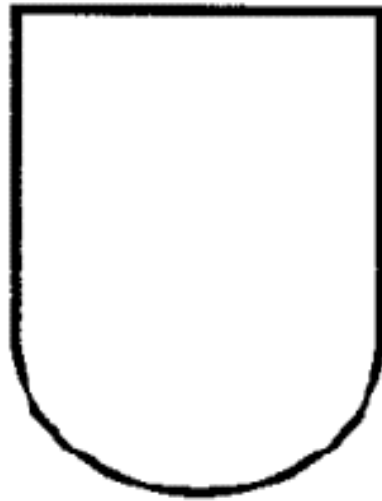
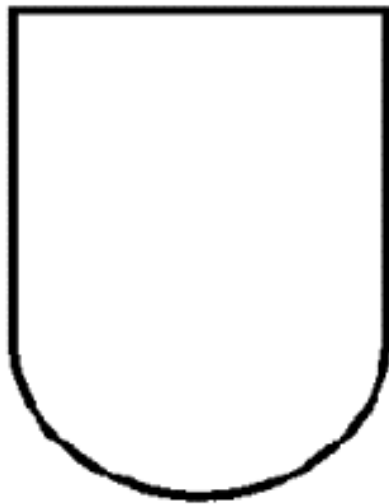
1. Describe the submission process to the submitter.
2. Before you start a consultation, ask the submitter if they already have a name approved or submitted.
 - a) If they have a name already registered, check the O&A to confirm
 - b) If not, make sure that the client knows that they must submit a name with the armoury, or their submission will be under a 'holding name'
 - c) If the name has been submitted but isn't in the armorial, suggest that they get in touch with their local herald, or kingdom submission herald.
3. Please use the Consultation Worksheet, including a sketch of the design (stick figures are fine). Clearly label all tinctures and charges in your sketch.
4. Check all submissions for conflict in the O&A. List any conflicts and any near misses (2-3 CDs away) on the Armoury Consultation Worksheet. Always give the closest (near-) conflict.
5. Feel free to encourage period style. Let the client leaf through period armoury (like Fosters, Gelre, and Brault).
6. Ultimately, it's the client's decision. As long as it's legal, they can submit it.
7. If they're on the fence and have a few designs in mind – I recommend that they 'live' with the different designs for a month or so.

Heraldic Device Submission

New Resubmission Change Other:

CHARGES (list objects client is interested in):

Proposed Blazon:



Armoury Consultation: Sciath's Approach

1. Do you have any ideas before we begin? OR What have you been using for the past xxx years that you have been in the SCA? What do they plan to do with it?
2. In cases where the submitter is an open book:
 - a) Pick between these two metals
 - b) Pick your favourite colour, and your second favourite colour
 - c) Do you have ideas about a charge?
 - d) Introduce field divisions and ordinaries
3. What if the submitter has an armoury idea that doesn't work with SENA?
 - a) It may be salvageable
 - b) If it's not salvageable, let them down easily – is there something close to it that would work?
4. If possible, do some conflict checking.
5. Can they walk away with a few options to consider?

Submission Support

- If the process requires digital submissions, work with the submitter to determine whether they feel comfortable making the submission themselves, or if they would prefer your support
 - Post-consultation, always check in with the submitter before sending the submission via email.
 - When emailing a submission, **ALWAYS** include the submitter's email

Post-submission – limits and support

- If you are a herald with access to the Online System for Commentary and Response, or OSCAR
- Do NOT give the Submitter a point-by-point reporting of the commentary, else you may lose your commentary privileges
- HOWEVER, if there is a definite question about an adjustment, it may be recommended, as a consulting herald you can offer to consult with the submitter. Wait to do this until you are asked by your Kingdom Submissions Herald.
- If the submitter agreed to minor or major changes, it is still a good idea to consult with them when changes are suggested.

Resources

[Heraldic Consultation](#) by *Brunissende Dragonette (circa 2013)*: Thoughts on doing heraldic consultation in diverse conditions.

[A Herald's Toolbox](#) by *Jaelle of Armida, Alanna of Volchevo Lesa, and Gawain of Miskbridge (predates 1998)*: A suggested list of what belongs in the consulting herald's toolbox.

[Overview of the Submissions Process](#) (*Updated 2024*): A high-level description of what can be registered and the steps to doing so.

[Argent Snail's Armory Insta-Boing Checklist](#) by *Jaelle of Armida (1993)*: Nine basic checks for any SCA device or badge submission.

[On Summarizing Documentation](#) by *Pietari Pentinpoika (2000)*

[Standards for Evaluation of Names and Armory \(SENA\)](#)



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