

The Herald's Cry



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A message from Brigantia:

Adhemar de Villarquemada, to the heralds of the East, good greetings! Welcome to the first issue of the Herald's Cry, an electronically available heraldic newsletter for the Kingdom of the East's heraldic community. With these newsletters we hope to help the heralds of the East to both maintain better communication and advance their heraldic education. To that end there will be both announcements from the Principal Herald (that's me...) and other Heralds, as well as educational articles written by and for heralds. Anyone wishing to write an article should contact the editor, Temair ingen Muiredaich, Banbharun, and she'll let you know the process.

In keeping with the information and communication aspect, I'd ask everyone to review the new Brigantia policies posted on the Brigantia website. There are not many changes, but I'd like to point out the two major ones, at this time.

The first is that I will be requiring Local Pursuivants to file a quarterly and a year end report. There will be reporting forms available on the Brigantia site, and hopefully there will soon be an electronic reporting form available for your convenience. Thus anyone who holds a title as a Canton, Shire, or Baronial herald will have to file these reports.

The second is that I will be requiring all local pursuivants to be subscribed to the EK Heralds list. Subscription information is on the Brigantia site. This is **the** major source for day to day information on both administration and heraldic practice in the East, and as such it is needful that Local Pursuivants be subscribed to it, to be kept in touch and up to date.

If anybody has any questions or comments, please feel free to drop me a line at brigantia@eastkingdom.org.

Ta ~ Adhemar

A Warrant . . . Relax, not for your arrest . . .

Herrin Gisela vom Kreuzbach, Mosaic designate
mosaic@eastkingdom.org

Who needs to be warranted in the East and why?
Good question . . .

If you handle money, you ~Must~ be warranted by Brigantia through Mosaic Herald. That, my friend, is the non-negotiable Society law as reinforced by East Kingdom Corpora and Brigantia Policy.

If you accept submissions, you handle money. If you hold a local heraldic office, you must accept submissions and therefore, all local pursuivants need to be warranted.

Why? You ask . . . simple. When you handle money in the name of the Society, the Society wants to know who you are and have some level of assurance that you are worthy of the trust involved. Besides, the IRS becomes involved when money is handled badly and no one wants that.

When a new group forms or a new herald is elected the local seneschal and the new herald should write a note to Mosaic with the herald's mundane name, land address and e-mail address as well as that person's Society name and proof of membership with expiration date.

Also, any citizen of the East Kingdom and member of the Society who wishes, may request to be warranted as a pursuivant-at-large. Same routine . . . write Mosaic with the request, mundane name, land address and e-mail, Society name and proof of membership.

When membership expires, so does the warrant, so you'll want to stay on top of that bit of info. When you receive your new card with a new expiration date, send that along to Mosaic so records can be updated and all will be right with the world.

A Page From the Boke: Late-Period Portuguese Names

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1 Introduction

This article is the third in a mini-series where I discuss at a rudimentary level the most common naming practices of a specific culture. These guides are not meant to be all-encompassing or conclusive, but rather provide a 'skeleton' from which you can start building your own name. These guides deal only with the most common types of naming practices in the cultures under consideration; I will not be discussing obscure or rare practices. In an effort to keep each of these guides to a page or less (for ease of photocopying and distribution to all interested - each article will carry at the bottom a disclaimer giving permission for said reproduction), many details will be glossed over; however, I will try to provide references for further information. With these caveats in place, I'll now discuss Portuguese names.

2 Language

The Iberian peninsula in prior to 1600 was not divided into fixed countries each of which spoke a fixed language. The kingdoms and principalities grew and shrank and changed significantly over our period of study, and the languages changed with the same fluidity. Portuguese arose in the 12th century, though it was never commonly spoken outside of Portugal, Galicia, and Portugal's colonies. It persists in much the same form to modern times. [1] The data that I am focusing on for this article is from the mid-16th century. The main spelling differences that can be seen is the preponderance of <ey> for modern <ei>. [5]

3 Given names

In 1565 a tax of the people of Lisbon was conducted. Many hundreds of people's names were recorded. The 10 most popular masculine names are (listed in order of popularity of variants; most popular variants are listed first): [5]

1. Antonio, Antão, Antan
2. João, Johan, Joan, João, Joham, Joam, Johane, John
3. Francisco, Francisquo, Françisquo, Franciscque, Françisco
4. Pero, Pedre, Pedro, Per
5. Dioguo, Diogo, Díoguo, Dyoguo
6. Fernão, Fernan
7. Manoel, Manoell, Manol, Manel, Manuell, Mannuell
8. Jorge

9. Guaspar, Gaspar
10. Simão, Symão

The 10 most common women's names are:

1. Isabel
2. Maria, Marya
3. Caterina
4. Ana, Anna
5. Briatiz, Britiz
6. Lianor, Lyanor
7. Margaida
8. Ines, Inez, Innes
9. Antonia
10. Francisca, Francisqua

4 Bynames

There are three main types of bynames found in this document: Patronymics (indicating the bearer's father's given name), locatives (indicating the bearer's city of residence), and descriptives (referring to physical or other characteristics of the bearer). By the 16th century, these bynames were not always used literally (e.g., a man named Antonio Fernandez might have been the son of João Fernandez, *not* Fernão Pirez), but were sometimes used like modern day inherited surnames. So far as I can tell, the locative bynames and most of the descriptives *were* still used literally at this time.

4.1 Patronymic bynames

These are the most common bynames. Almost all patronymic bynames in Portuguese are formed by taking the father's given name and putting it into the genitive (possessive) case. This generally involves changing the end to -ez or -es, though there are some exceptions. In general, names that already end in -s or -z don't change spelling when used as a patronymic. The following table shows the patronymics formed from the masculine names listed above, listed in order of frequency.

Number	Name	Patronymics
1.	Antonio, Antão, Antan	Antunnez, Antonio, Antão, Antonio
2.	Johão, Johan, Joan, João, Joham, Joam, Johane, John	Anes, Eanes, Joanes
3.	Francisco, Francisquo, Françisquo, Franciscque, Françisco	Francisco, Francisquo, Françisquo
4.	Pero, Pedre, Pedro, Per	Pirez, Peres, Perez, Pires, Pyrez

5.	Dioguo, Diogo, Díoquo, Dyoguo	Diaz, Dias, Diogo
6.	Fernão, Fernan	Fernandez, Ferannez, Fernandez
7.	Manoel, Manoell, Manol, Manel, Manuell, Mannuell	Manoel
8.	Jorge	Jorge
9.	Guaspar, Gaspar	<i>No patronymic based on this name found in this source</i>
10.	Simão, Symão	Simões, Simoa

4.2 Locative bynames

Standard locative bynames in Portuguese are extremely easy to form: Take a city in Portugal, determine what it was called prior to 1600, and prepend *de* 'of' to the name of the city. If the name begins with a vowel, *de* elides to *d'*. Some commonly found locative bynames include: *d'Abreu*, *d'Almeida*, *de Crasto*, *de Meneses*, *de Sousa*. More examples can be found in source [5].

4.2 Descriptive nicknames

These descriptives can be based on physical characteristics, occupational facts, or other noteworthy features. Common ones in this 16th century source include *Carvalho* (masculine)/*Carvalha* (feminine) 'an oak tree', *Correa* 'a thong of leather', *Fereyra* perhaps related to the word for 'smith', *Lobo* (masculine)/*Loba* (feminine) 'wolf', *Pinto* (masculine)/*Pinta* (feminine) 'freckled'. Many descriptive bynames take different forms depending on whether they are used by women or men.

5 Name constructions

Because of the changes in the naming pool over the years, the names discussed here may not be appropriate for an earlier period. The same is true for name constructions.

An overwhelming majority of the people in this document had a single given name and a single byname. I found no examples of people with more than one given name. It was not especially uncommon for someone to have two bynames; when this was the case, they were almost always a patronymic followed by a locative, or a patronymic followed by a descriptive. Combining descriptives with locatives, using more than two patronymics, or more than two descriptives were all very rare practices, and should not be used if you want a typical 16th century Portuguese name.

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References

[1] Levin, Craig, "Romance Languages of the Medieval Iberian Peninsula" (WWW: Academy of S. Gabriel, 1999) <http://www.s-gabriel.org/names/pedro/iberianlang.html>

[2] Smith, Julia. "Early Portuguese Names" (WWW: Academy of S. Gabriel, 2001) <http://www.s-gabriel.org/names/juliana/earlyportuguese/>

[3] Smith, Julia. "Portuguese Names 1350-1450" (WWW: Academy of S. Gabriel, 1998) <http://www.s-gabriel.org/names/juliana/portuguese/>

[4] Smith, Julia. "Portuguese Names from the 16th Century" (WWW: Academy of S. Gabriel, 1999) <http://www.s-gabriel.org/names/juliana/portugal16/>

[5] Uckelman, Sara L., "Portuguese Names from Lisbon, 1565" (WWW: Self-published, 2002, 2004) <http://www.ellipsis.cx/~liana/name>

SCA Field Heraldry and Its Finer Points

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This article is in two parts. The first part covers *just the basics* for anyone who wants to be of service as a field herald. These topics include being neutral, announcing upcoming bouts, leading salutes for the current bout, handling the cards, and using your voice effectively to make announcements.

The second part covers *the finer points* for those who aspire to being the field herald in charge (or lead field herald).

First published online in May 1999, I've redone this article as of January 2005.

Part 1: Just the Basics

Be neutral

Whenever you're serving as a field herald, avoid the temptation to "cheer for", "root for", or insult any fighter, even under your breath. A fancier term for this is "impartial". Do pay attention to the bout. Being near the field and unarmored, this is for your own safety.

Flow of activity

During the tourney, there is a flow of activity for the field heralds:

1. Open tourney
2. Announce upcoming bouts
3. Lead salutes for current bout
4. Announce victor (if appropriate)
5. Handle cards
6. Repeat steps 2-5 until tourney is done, then close tourney

Announce the upcoming bouts

The field herald should always have the pairings (such as on pairs of index cards) for at least the next two bouts in their ring (also called a “field” or “eric”). I’ve made many a call like this:

“Would – A and B take the field!”

“Then – C and D armor up!”

“And – E and F make ready!”

At least those are the arming calls that have been used here for many years in Eastern Meridies. Other kingdoms have different calls. Your Kingdom might have a traditional set of arming calls. The lead field herald (henceforth, Lead FH) should let you know what text to use.

Bye fight

When a fighter in the list has to face an opponent who is not a competitor in order to even out the number of fights, that bout is called a bye fight. Just add **“...for a bye fight”** to the end of the arming calls.

Lead the salutes

In the example below, “indicate them” means to make a presenting gesture toward that fighter with a flat open hand, fingers all together. Here is one example of what to say once both fighters are in place:

“My lords and ladies, A [indicate them] meets B [indicate them] in honorable combat!”

At this point, lower your voice to address only the two fighters in your ring.

“Good gentles, let us salute the Crown of Meridies.” [all show reverence]

“Salute the one who inspires your chivalry.” [fighters salute]

“Salute your worthy opponent.” [fighters salute]

“Heed now the marshals.”

As with arming calls, your Kingdom may use a different litany than what’s above. The Lead FH should let you know what to say for the salutes. In other kingdoms, it is said that the herald begins the combat. If that’s you, make sure the marshals are ready and you’re off the field before saying “Lay on!”, “Allez!”, “Begin!”, or whatever is customary.

Who to call first

Treat male fighters and female fighters equally on the field.

Whoever has higher precedence/rank is the fighter you should announce first.

If you’re not sure, you could ask them or make a quick guess.

Announce the victor

This isn’t always a good idea if there are more than two rings (see Part 2). When it is appropriate, first let the marshal indicate which fighter won the bout. Then say something like:

“My lords and ladies, victory to B!”

However, don’t announce B’s entire name. Just their title and first name.

Handle the cards

After each bout, return the cards to the listkeeper (via a runner, if one is available) with the winner’s card on top. This convention helps the listkeeper. In other kingdoms, the field herald also writes “W” and “L” on the appropriate cards.

Multiple rings

The fighters must be able to hear the arming calls to summon them to the correct ring. Wait until it is your turn to begin your arming calls. (For more on this, see Part 2.)

When there are multiple rings, pay attention to the other field heralds and work with them. The Lead FH should have a convention for which field herald should announce the next set of arming calls if two field heralds are ready at the same time.

If there are more than two rings, it might make sense NOT to announce the victor because the field herald for another ring may need to begin their arming calls.

Not feeling well?

If you’re feeling anything but fine, inform the Lead FH that you need a replacement quickly!

Thank you!

After you’re released from service, be sure to thank the people who helped you, like the runners, the other field

heralds, the waterbearers, and others who made your day on the field easier.

How to make announcements

(Kudos to Mistress Adelaide, former principal herald for Drachenwald, for her help on this section.)

This is at the end of the basics section because it is relatively long and detailed.

7. **Stand up straight, but not at attention**

Your voice comes from forcing air out of your windpipe across your vocal cords. If your windpipe isn't straight, the air comes out with less force and your voice is not as strong as it could be.

8. **Fill your lungs with air**

Put your hands on your ribs and breathe in. Feel your ribs move out. Now pretend you're going to hold your breath for 60 seconds and do it again. Everything moved more, right? Here's another test: Put your fingers just below your ribcage and breathe in. If your fingers didn't move out, you're not using your abdominal muscles to use all of your lung capacity.

Breathe out by pushing your muscles out to make room for your lungs. Practice this slowly, a few breaths at a time. Your sides may get a little sore at first. Also, until you learn to control breathing this deep naturally, you may hyperventilate and get dizzy or even pass out. Start slowly. It gets easier with steady practice.

9. **Lower your pitch**

It's normal to want to raise your vocal pitch when you speak louder. When you're going to be using your voice a lot, like when doing field heraldry, your voice will last longer if you lower your pitch. This is true for both men and women. If your pitch drifts back up, you might be getting tired.

10. **Be grand**

Just like in Court, you're on stage when you're making announcements. Make sure everyone can hear what you're saying. Project your influence throughout the populace as well as your voice.

11. **Open your mouth nice and wide... and e-nun-ciate**

Good heralds don't mumble. Speak crisply and distinctly. It is better to make announcements slowly and clearly. Also, leave your hands where they are. Avoid the temptation to cup your hands around your mouth. It doesn't help when addressing an audience over a wide area.

12. **Visualize**

Reinforce all of this mentally. Picture yourself doing everything right – your strong, clear voice coming from your gut, going forth from you. People hearing and understanding your every announcement. It'll be great.

Part 2: The Finer Points

Now, for those who desire to learn how better to supervise the field heraldry at a tourney, we shall go beyond the basics.

Before the tourney

Know the local fighters

It's helpful to know, at least in your local group, who the local fighters are and what they look like on the field. This way you can point them out at the tourney to your field heralds.

Those "unpronounceable" names

It's helpful to know some pronunciation guidelines of foreign languages common in the SCA: Especially, say, Welsh, Norse, and Polish!

Packing list suggestions

Here are some ideas for things to take (and avoid).

Food and drink

- Soft bread, meat, fruit, and plenty of water.
- Avoid cheese and other dairy products because they may coat the back of your throat. Some tart or sweet drinks may also coat your throat too much.
- Avoid scratchy foods like nuts, cookies, and crackers because they may irritate your throat.
- If your throat is rough, you could try drinking something hot, followed by something cold, both with lemon.

Protective items

Throat drops (I really like Ricola[®]), lip balm, sunscreen, bug repellent.

Clothing and accessories

Comfortable clothes you can work in, herald's tabards/sashes/baldrics, pouch and/or shoulder bag for storing the protective items and writing gear.

Cold/wet weather gear

Wear multiple layers. A large cloak may block the view of the spectators.

Writing gear

Pens, pencils, erasers, markers, index cards, clipboard, posterboard.

Furniture, etc.

Chair, stool, table, tent/pavilion, stuff for paperweights, blanket/groundcloth, drinking vessels (especially those you can hang off your belt), blazonry guide sheet.

For all of the above, take extra when you can. Someone else just might forget to bring something...

At the tourney

Multiple rings

So, have you been to a tourney where the field heralds are announcing over each other? Imagine you're working a tourney with four, six, or eight rings! The bout in your ring just finished – maybe. There's another field herald making arming calls and now the fighters are talking with the marshals so you're not sure if the bout is over. Then they decide and some other field herald is making arming calls. How can this be helped?

I offer you these two ideas:

- If you have more than two rings going, skip the victory declarations.
- If you have more than two rings, the next field herald to begin their arming calls shall be the one in the closest ring in a clockwise direction from the field herald who is finishing their arming calls. Simple, eh? (Wish I'd thought of these years ago.)

The largest tourneys I've seen thus far have had four rings. I don't yet know if the "clockwise" idea would work for more than that. Perhaps it would have to be split.

Cards and blazons

Here's an example of a card:

SEN-YER EVE de FOR-TAHN-YAY

Seigneur Yves de Fortanier

Tall, purple/white surcoat, purple handbell on shield

(Write the shield blazon here.)

- Line 1 has the PHONETIC spelling of how they wish to be called on the field. **BLOCK CAPITALS** are recommended here.
- Line 2 is the proper spelling of how they wish to be called on the field.
- Line 3 is used for visual cues for being able to locate the fighter.

Ideally, the field heralds should at least be present when the cards are filled out. Whoever does the writing (you, a listkeeper, a field herald, etc.) should write BIG and CLEAR so that it is easy to read the information. Fighters, in general, should not be required to fill out their own cards. Let the heralds provide this service...

What to ask each fighter to fill out a card for them:

"Have you passed inspection?" – If not, send them over to get their armor and authorization inspected.

"Please tell me how you wish to be called on the field." – Write down the phonetic spelling, as appropriate. It won't be required for every name.

"How do you spell that?" – Write down the actual spelling; being careful with unusual characters, especially in Norse and Middle English, accents in French, and so on.

If it is planned that blazons are going to be announced for the first round, also ask:

"Do you know the blazon for the device on your shield?"

The blazon is the "heraldic description" for the artwork on the shield. The emblazon is the artwork itself. Some fighters will know their blazons, some won't. With good fortune, book heralds will be on hand to render assistance.

When blazons are NOT called in the first round

Generally, this means blazons won't be called until the finals, if at all. If the tourney format doesn't allow shields – no blazons to record.

Otherwise, when a fighter asks, "Don't you want my shield blazon?" and you know that blazons could indeed be announced later, you can reply cheerfully:

"We'll get that when you make it to the semi-finals."

Kudos to Aodhán on this, who says, “It is positive without being biased, and more difficult to goof up and offend.”

Calling blazons in the final round

Here’s one example:

“**My lords and ladies, this bout is between**
[indicate them] **G, bearing (blazon)**
... **and** [indicate them] **H, bearing (blazon)!**”

If the tourney is running very late, it *might* be acceptable to skip the blazons.

If the tourney is ahead of schedule (*it could happen...*), and it’s no trouble, you could have the blazons called starting in the semi-final round. It’s only two bouts and it’s a nice way to honor the two fighters who do not make it to the finals.

When a fighter isn’t using a shield

They aren’t bearing any heraldic device. No big deal. Just skip over the “bearing” part.

Names and titles

Some fighters have no titles. They should be announced as “milord A” or “milady B” unless they prefer otherwise.

Some fighters have more than one title. They should be announced with their highest title, unless they prefer otherwise. Imagine a triple peer (MSCA,OL,OP) who is also a Court Baron. They *could* use their honorifics all in a row: “Master Master Master Baron...” Silly, isn’t it?

I’ve heard of one knight who is a royal peer who prefers to be announced with “Sir”. (Win one tourney – and that fighter can become a royal peer. Win many tourneys – and there’s no guarantee that fighter will ever be a Knight of the Society.)

Opening the tourney

Having a formal announcement to open the tourney isn’t done everywhere. I like to hear at least a brief opening and closing, don’t you? Before the tourney starts, the Lead FH makes sure that the key people are ready and in place: the people on the thrones wearing the Hats, the marshals, the listkeepers (a.k.a. masters and mistresses of the list), the field heralds, and runners. The herald doing the announcement should go to a spot where the Hats and the majority of the populace can hear them and announce something like:

“**My lords and ladies — by command of Their Royal Majesties of Meridies and Their Excellencies of the South Downs — let the Red Tower Tournament begin!**”

Announce all bouts for the round

Something I’d like to see done more often is having ALL of the pairings read out at the beginning of each round. This lets everyone know what’s coming well in advance. Heralds in some kingdoms are already taught to do this. If there are multiple rings for the tourney, it’s helpful (though not necessary) for the listkeeper to have the upcoming bouts arranged by ring.

“(In Ring 1), in the first bout of this round, **A will face B!**”

“**In the second bout, C will face D!**”

...

“**And in the last bout of this round (in Ring 1)...**”

Using non-traditional arming calls

As Lead FH, if you would dare to experiment with calls that are different from what the fighters are used to hearing, make sure your field heralds, the marshals, and the fighters are well-informed on this matter before the tourney.

Gesturing

Motioning to the fighters as described in Part 1 is faster, and can be easier, than saying “on my sinister” and “on my dexter”. You could instead use a staff or baton, but make sure you can still handle the index cards, if any. There are other graceful ways to hold one’s hand during the introduction, but pointing at a fighter is not among them.

Salute the Crown...

Ah, but what if neither Sovereign nor Consort is on site, what then? The Crown’s presence is their official representative on site. This could be the Royal Heirs, the local ruling Baron/Baroness, or the seneschal of the hosting group. Salutes to the Crown should be done in their direction. If none of the above applies, pick a direction and stick to it.

Lost limbs, acts of courtesy

During a bout, Fighter A disables the limb (arm or leg) of Fighter B. Depending on your local tradition, there’s no need (or desire) to announce this in an actual tourney.

Fighter A might voluntarily give up the use of his corresponding limb (usually) to even the odds. When this happens, some call it an “act of chivalry” or (my current favorite) an “act of courtesy”. I’ve also heard “point of honor” but that sounds too much like scorekeeping. Depending on your local tradition, this gesture may or may not be announced.

When Fighter A does voluntarily give up the use of his leg, he may tap leg with weapon – or even give it a solid blow – before going to his knees. The bout could be over before you have a chance to announce anything!

Fighter A could instead drop to his knees without tapping or striking his leg in order to close in on Fighter B. Obviously, there is no “act of courtesy”. A field herald who announces it as such encourages Fighter A to think something like, “*Crud. Now I have to stay down here because Loudmouth just took away my leg*”.

With an arm, it’s easier to tell. Fighter A discards their shield or a secondary weapon and uses just one weapon with their remaining hand.

When it’s traditional to announce an “act”, here’s one way to do it. Before the combat resumes, say something like one of these:

“In an act of courtesy, (A) relinquishes the use of his arm!”

“Act of courtesy: (A)!”

For “(A)”, this is their title and first name.

Royal participation

Be it well-known to all who read these words that **it is treason to strike the King!** However, a king has been known to want to fight in a tourney (typically in a bye fight). His Majesty may choose to take on an alternate persona for fun! If they do, remember to use the name of the alternate persona.

Why tourneys fall behind schedule

(More kudos to Mistress Adelaide for this section.)

These can be fixed on site:

- Fighters cannot hear the arming calls
- The field heralds need runners
- The field has only one way in, so some fighters have to walk farther

These, maybe not:

- Problems or lack of experience at the list table
- Fighters are slow getting to the field
- Other scheduled activities happen between rounds (I haven’t seen this in Meridies)

How you can speed up a tourney

Taran of Windy Hill wrote a terrific article on field heraldry (see the Links section at the end of this article) that inspired me to try the following.

Before the tourney

If the tourney starts pretty late and you’d like to recover some time, after the marshal has their say in the pre-tourney address to the assembled fighters, a herald could then address them with something like,

“In the interest of saving time, my lords (and ladies), please rise [pause] and let us all now salute the Crown of Meridies ... salute the populace here assembled ... and salute the one who inspires your chivalry...”

Now that we have shown proper respect to these worthies, the only salute that will be called for in the tourney before the final round, will be to your worthy opponent. I thank you for your attention, the tourney will begin shortly.”

I’ve done it before – and it worked just fine.

During the tourney

The tourney is past the first round and, for whatever reason, it’s now running significantly behind schedule (*it could happen*). With the Hat’s permission, you could instruct your field heralds to use a shorter litany for each bout as described below. Wait until the end of the round and announce something like,

“With permission of [the Hat], good gentles, the salutes for each bout will now be changed because the hour grows late. As you know, the fighters have already done honor in this tourney to the Crown, to you, the populace, and those who inspire their chivalry. So, the only salute that will be called for until the final round is to their opponent. The tourney now continues...”

Then, the field herald would use a much shorter litany for the bout.

“Lords and ladies, K (motion to them) meets L (motion to them)!”
“Salute your opponent and heed the marshals.”

Announcements during the tourney

For a non-emergency, ask to wait until there’s a break in the action, like between rounds. If you’re asked to have something announced right after the tourney, people will pay more attention to that announcement if it’s made right before the semi-final or final round.

Close the tourney

After the final round, which could involve two or three bouts, the victor is formally announced:

“My – lords – and – ladies! ... Victorious in today’s Red Tower Tourney: _____ !”

Let the focus remain on that fighter who carried the day, you’ve got other work to do...

After the tourney

Graciously thank everyone who helped you or worked with you during the tourney (and at any other time) – your field heralds, the runners, the listkeepers, their assistants, the waterbearers, people who helped make your job easier. If you don’t know them, ask for their name and what group they are from. Write down, before you leave the field, who all helped you and how. Make their contributions known at the next business meeting. If you’re a reporting herald, be sure to include the appropriate information in your next report.

Maybe someone didn’t help you directly, but they were good to work with, like the marshals – no need to leave them out, you could say, **“It was good to work with you at the tourney today!”**

Demos are different

At a demo, the fighters and you, the field herald, are performing for a non-SCA audience.

Blazons

Tourney or not, announce blazons until the current audience has seen both fighters at least twice. It adds flair and may encourage questions later from the spectators.

Salutes

Change the salutes to fit the situation. Saluting the “populace here assembled” is good and helps include them in the action! Saluting the Crown of your SCA kingdom might not make sense if you’re at a Renaissance Faire with its own King and Queen (or some equivalent).

Saluting the nice person (team, organization, etc.) who sponsored and/or organized the demo is a worthy consideration. Doing this for every bout might be excessive, but on specific occasions, it could work – such as the first bout of the timeslot, or when one of the nice people first comes onto the scene.

Lost limbs, acts of courtesy

Instruct the fighters beforehand that they should pause when someone takes a limb. Announcing the loss (and subsequent act of courtesy, if any) helps the audience understand what’s going on when a fighter does something unusual – like drop to their knees or hold one hand behind their back.

Closing

I hope this article helps you toward a better understanding of field heraldry in the SCA, both the basics and the finer points (at least as I see them). I’ve made many mistakes both doing and teaching field heraldry. However, I’ve also had some days when the field heraldry I did was, well, practically flawless. I greatly appreciate everyone who has given me help, praise, and constructive criticism.

Selected links

Taran’s article	andrew.draskoy.net/sca/on_heralds
My court heraldry article	www.therotunda.net/heraldry/court-herald.html
This article online	www.therotunda.net/heraldry/field-1.html
Handbook for Heraldry, Field Herald’s Guide	www.outlandsheralds.org/Weel/index.html
Trimaris Handbook	www.trimaris.org/triskele/handbook /
Miguel Esteban Franco de Los Rios (Caid)	castillosolaz.com/lib-guides-Field-Heraldry.htm
Bellowing Breeze articles by Njall Olaf Hagerson (Caid)	sjaqua.tripod.com/heraldry.htm

About the author

The author, Yves de Fortanier (GoA, etc.) began playing in the Society in its 19th year. Among various other things, he’s done a goodly amount of vocal heraldry.

Your feedback is most welcome!
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Basic Court Heraldry

Basic Scheduling

All court scheduling should be handled BEFORE court and reviewed with the 'Crown' before court begins. 'Crown' includes, for our purposes, the King and Queen, the Prince and Princess, and the Baron and Baroness (Baronial Courts).

If there is an announcement of the schedule for the day, do it early in Court; if the Court is very long, repeat at the end of Court (at least what the next couple of activities are). Try to alternate Announcements and Awards. If you have a lot more of one than the other, scatter the ones that you have fewer of thru the others.

With each Announcement, make sure that both the Herald and the person with the Announcement are clear on which of them is to speak. If the Herald is making some of the Announcements, and others (officers or whoever) are making others, try not to schedule several non-Heralds in a row. Intersperse with announcements spoken by the Herald or Awards.

With Awards, build from the lesser to the greater. Try not, for example, to do the Peerages before doing the AoAs. It is unfair to anyone to have his or her big moment turned into an anticlimax because a bigger moment happened just before. Similarly, if you have a number of High Orders of Merit, or several Peerages, try to estimate which will bring greater roars from the populace and do them last.

Basic Preparation

Have scrolls, promissories, tokens, etc. convenient to hand before Court starts. It helps to have them stacked in the order which they will be used --- especially if you do not have another Herald to assist you during court.

If 'special' ceremonies are occurring at Court, be sure to have a guideline with you to follow, especially if the 'Crown' has lines they have need to memorize. The 'Crown' may choose to do schtick on the fly or have set lines, be sure that you do not interrupt unless you are sure an interruption is warranted (in most cases it will not be).

Check the names of those who will be called at Court. Nobody likes having their name mangled (even if they have gotten hardened to it). A phonetic transcription sometimes helps, especially with the more obscure orthographies.

Basic Execution

Court (in the SCA) is theatre: keep it moving, keep it interesting.

Let those subjects currently before the Throne leave before calling the next. This is particularly important when doing several awards in a row (due to a shortage of announcements to intersperse with).

If someone receives an award, it is customary to exhort the cheers of the populace (which also helps fill the time while they are returning to their place).

If someone makes a presentation, tell the populace what was given. The populace may not have seen the item nor have been able to hear what was presented.

Having written out a schedule, and checked it with the 'Crown' before Court, you should rarely need to consult the 'Crown' during Court about what should happen next. However, it is a good idea to check at the end of Court (when you think the business is finished), to be sure the Crown has not suddenly developed an urge to speak or another bit of business to conduct.

Serious ceremonies (Coronations, Investitures, peerages, awards, etc.) should be kept serious. If the 'Crown' or honoree makes a funny, fine, but the Herald should exercise restraint and never initiate joking during the ceremonies.

Occasional humor brightens announcements and such, but Court does not really require a constant flood of comedy. Also, it is worth remembering that the Crown and populace may be much less appreciative of puns than an audience composed solely of one's fellow Heralds might have been.

Especially for large Courts, voice projection is at least as important as it is in field Heraldry. Breathe. Relax. Talk (don't yell) to an individual in the back of the audience.

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