

The Heraldry Guy



CONTENTS:

Book Heraldry:

Documenting a Name – A Series.....Page 1

Field Heraldry:

Tourney Litany.....Page 2

Court Heraldry:

Court Heraldry.....Page 3

DOCUMENTING A NAME - A SERIES

At its most basic level, documenting a name consists of finding the elements of the name, in the spelling the submitter wants, dated to sometime in the Middle Ages. Sounds simple, right? At its heart, it is, but not quite as simple as it looks, and there are a few basic things you need to know. This will be an ongoing series of articles; I'd intended to do it in one, but the 'sources' bit got...well, a tad long.

Sources

First off, if you're going to look up a name, you need a source to do it in. A good source is one which gives period spellings (not modernized ones) and attaches dates to them. A *really* good source gives them in some sort of easily-searched format and gives several dated variations of each name. Said source should also tell you where it got its names from--ideally, from a period manuscript, or church record, or some such. Something actually from the Middle Ages. Again, simple enough.

The best way I can think of to demonstrate this is to give an example or two: the first taken from an online source(more on this later). This is from an article by Talan Gwynek, called *Feminine Given Names in A Dictionary of English Surnames*, found at <http://www.sca.org/heraldry/laurel/reaneyintro.html>.

Godeleva	< OE * <i>Godl�ofu</i> . [Goodliff]
Godeleva	a.1248 (S); 1343 (E)
Godeleve	1123-36 (E)
Godelif	1114-22 (E)
Godeliva	1231 (S)
Godelive (g.)	1224 (S)
Godlefe	1508 Goodliff
Godleue	1442 Iddenden

This has several different spellings of **Godeleva**, each with a date attached. Further along in the article, Talan lists his bibliography, which is quite long and filled with books which are themselves good sources. Thus, a good source.

Another example, this one taken from a book: Eilert Ekwall's The Concise Oxford Dictionary of English Place-Names.

Leyland La [*Lailand* DB, *Leilandia* c 1160 LaCh, *Leylond* 1246 Ass]. 'Fallow or untilled land.' First el. OE *l ege* 'fallow'.

Again, the entry gives several dated variants of **Leyland** and also a meaning--which can be very useful for surnames. But we'll get to that in a later article. The bibliography for the book is extensive, and the sources he cites are period--making this a good source.

Now that you have an idea of what makes a good source, I can give you a crib sheet. Any of the name articles found in the SCA web site (specifically at the Laurel Education page, <http://www.sca.org/heraldry/laurel/names.html>) are good sources. The articles found at the *Medieval Names Archive* (<http://www.s-gabriel.org/names/index.shtml>) are generally good, though some of them have modernized forms of the names or other issues. There's a lovely long listing of books, good, bad and indifferent, at the *Annotated Name Book List* (by Jaelle of Armida, found at <http://www.sca.org/heraldry/laurel/Annotatedname.html>). Lastly are two nice short lists that you might just want to print out and carry with you: Appendices H and F of the Administrative Handbook.

Appendix H (http://www.sca.org/heraldry/laurel/admin.html#APPENDIX_H) is the list of name sources for which Laurel does not require photocopies. In other words, these books are owned by lots of heralds and used pretty often. They're generally pretty good sources and fairly easy to use. Not easy to *find*, necessarily, but should you run across a copy of any of them in a used book store...best to buy it, as long as it's not too overpriced. And it's best, if you can, to document names from one of these sources instead of anything else, even if the

other source is equally good--you won't have to send in photocopies of your documentation, and your kingdom submissions herald will thank you.

Even sources on this list should be used with caution, however; just because a name appears in, say, E.G. Withycombe's The Oxford Dictionary of English Christian Names doesn't of itself mean that it's a good period name--but if it's English and she lists it with a date attached, you can generally trust the date.

Appendix F

(http://www.sca.org/heraldry/laurel/admin.html#APPENDIX_F) leads us on into our next topic...name sources to avoid. It's not exhaustive but it lists the most common *bad* sources. Using one of these sources for documentation is basically no better than sending no documentation at all, except that you'll have done more work first. For each source, this page tells *why* it's not useful; reading through these is a good way to get more of a feel for how to tell whether a source is good or bad.

Nearly any book which lists baby names is useless for our purposes (there are exceptions, but they're few and far between, and probably out of print anyway). Nearly anything on the web is also of little use (there are exceptions, but most of the exceptions are already linked from the Medieval Names Archive above). Genealogical sources, though they will happily give you dates for names, nearly always modernize the spellings, and are thus not useful for our purposes (there are, I'm sure, exceptions, but I haven't the faintest how to find them). The LDS archives, while copious, aren't reliable--their quality, from our perspective, varies too wildly. History books also nearly always modernize names and thus aren't useful.

Avoid, also, books which classify names as 'Celtic' or 'Teutonic'; such books tend to be based on research that is at best outdated and sometimes just plain bad.

So now you've an idea of how to evaluate a source. Let's take an example, a web page I've just found called *Records of an English Village 1375-1854*. For those who want to follow along, it's found at <http://linux02.lib.cam.ac.uk/earlscolne/>. Reading through the introduction, I find that it includes church, state, estate, and personal records. While many of them are post-period, many are not; and they are transcribed directly from the originals. This is a promising start: the names are from real medieval sources.

The site is divided up by document type and there are also a few indices. The name index only shows names from after 1550 or so, and while it's useful for those

dates there's a lot of useful information not included in that part. So we go to the date index, which gives us records like the one from 1317 which I quote below:

trinity [Jn Atte Park](#) and Felicia his wife plaintiffs by [Jn Dyn](#) in her place [Walt le Chapman](#) of Sudbury and Maud his wife defendants one messuage 43a of land 1a1r of meadow and the bailiwick of the keeping of the park of Earls Colne in Markeshale Earls Colne and Feryng plaintiffs and the heirs of their bodies to hold of the chief lords with remainder to Jn son of Jn and [Wm Atte Park](#) and the heirs of Wm consideration 100marks of silver

And here we have a clear date, and some given names to go with it:

Jn (likely an abbreviation for John, appears connected to at least two different people)
Felicia
Walt
Maud
Wm (likely an abbreviation for William)

and surnames:

Atte Park
Dyn
le Chapman

Names and dates. And period sources. It's a good source. Perhaps not as *useful* as it would be with, say, an alphabetical index, but a good source nonetheless.

Next issue, how to use these sources once you've got 'em.

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TOURNEY LITANY

Article based on an observation at the most recent Crown Tourney...

First signal to other list heralds that you will be speaking by raising your baton. Next, grab everyone's attention by using a cry of "OYEH, OYEH" (Pause & Wait)

Next, announce the pairings for your list and your list color. "IN THE GREEN LIST: SIR GUY AND DUKE MOOK ARM AND ENTER THE LIST, SIR JOE AND COUNT BLACK PREPARE AND MAKE READY"

Once both fighter are present and ready, you continue.

"MY LORDS AND LADIES, SIR GUY AND DUKE MOOK DOTH MEET IN HONORABLE COMBAT."
"FIGHTERS (Gentles, My Lords, My Ladies) SALUTE THE CROWN OF THE EAST." (You bow too)
"SALUTE THE ONE IN WHOSE HONOR YOU FIGHT;" Or (Salute the Lady/Lord whose favor you bear)
"SALUTE YOUR WORTHY AND HONORABLE OPPONENT."
"SALUTE THE CROWD ASSEMBLED."
"AT THE MARSHALL'S COMMAND, YOU MAY BEGIN." (DO NOT use the phrase: LAY ON!)
Or "MY LORD MARSHAL, THE FIELD IS YOURS."
(And **LEAVE THE FIELD!**)

(When the fight is over, wait for the marshal to call you on to the field, and wait for him to indicate the winner. Don't assume.) "VICTORY TO _____."

(Return that pair of cards to the list runner or MoL with the winning card on top.)

"WILL SIR JOE & COUNT BLACK PLEASE ENTER THE LIST."
"WILL BARON HAT & LORD SLY PLEASE ARM AND MAKE READY"

And so on. Courtesies (honoring the crown, etc) may be forgone after the first round and everyone has done so at least once. This is usually done to speed up the tourney.

Some tips:
BE COURTEOUS TO OTHER HERALDS. Crying over another herald is bad form. Wait your turn. Work out a rotation ahead of time. But don't cry over each other!

Try to stand at a high point or with your back to the least number of people. Fighters have on helm and their hearing is limited. Others may also be trying to listen for them. The more people that hear you, the quicker fighters will be reported to the list.

Look up when reading the names. If you can't say it, crying it into a card or the ground isn't gonna make it better. Try pronouncing the names once before you start to cry – even a poorly mispronounced name done loudly and clearly is better than mumbling. Use titles – many people key on the title – if you use Lord, the Knights know they do not have to listen and vice versa.

Remember – you are NOT a marshal – you are a herald. Do NOT marshal people out of an area, do NOT cry the victor before the marshal tells you who one (no matter how obvious you think the win was), and do NOT call blows – even in commentary to

someone else. People are listening and you are a Voice of The Crown with that baton in your hand.

Court Heraldry

A word about Heralds

What is a court herald?

In the SCA, we have a variety of uses for heralds. Some are what we call "book" heralds, who spend copious amounts of time in detailed research. Others are "field" heralds, who act to recognize and announce combatants in tournaments.

"Court" heralds, or "Royal" Heralds, serve the Royalty by officiating at courts, reading the scrolls, and ensuring that the courts are effective and enjoyable for both the Royalty and the populace.

This handout is about being a good court herald, based on my years of experience serving several different monarchs with very different styles.

In order of importance the Royal Herald should:

1. Make the Royalty look good.

The King and Queen are the focus of every court. You must never forget that. It's easy to think that since you're doing all the talking, reading, and organizing that everyone is watching you...it just ain't so! And once you fall into the trap of believing that, you're doomed!

I reality, you are nothing more than a mouthpiece. You're the *voice* of the royalty. Whatever you say are *their* words, not yours. And everything you say will probably be interpreted as being the words and pronouncements of Their Majesties, so be very careful what you say, especially in jest. Many people take things quite literally. Whether you do a good or a bad job, it will always be remembered and commented that the King and Queen had a great or lousy court. Seldom will you hear what a great or lousy herald they had. (Although the possibility does exist.) Never forget that this the *Royal* court; whatever the Royalty says, goes. Whatever they want, they get it. If you know they're wrong, you can try to explain the situation, but whatever they say is law. After all, they are the King and Queen, ya know. (One quick aside: all these rules apply to Baronial or Principality courts).

2. Make the court special and memorable for each person receiving an award.

It's common and easy to think of an Award of Arms as being "*only*" and AOA. Once you get into that mind set, you've ruined your court.

For many people, the AOA is the only award they'll ever receive, the only time they may ever be recognized in court. Add to that, the fact that many people are terrified when they get in front of a large group (audience), and you've got a very nervous person standing before your King and Queen. It's your job to make this a special moment for them, Treat each and every award, ceremony, and presentation with equal weight.

You don't want someone's memory of their only time in Court to be about how you mispronounced their name. It's going to be almost impossible to find out how to pronounce each and every name, but if you prepare by reading every scroll aloud before court, you'll get an idea of which named are going to give you the most trouble and then ask for help.

3. Make the court enjoyable for the populace to watch.

This is where I tend to differ from other heralds. That doesn't mean I'm right and they're wrong, merely that I have a different approach and interpretation of just what "Court" means to the populace.

In period, when the populace went to court they were highly attentive for several reasons, not the least of which is that decisions were being made which could affect the lives of everyone there. Also, if you were called before the King/Queen, you were usually there for no more than four or five minutes, and dismissed, you didn't sit around and watch the proceedings.

In the Current Middle Ages people are in court for various reasons, but not because of anything to do with life-changing decisions made by royalty. Also, people like to watch their friends get awards, so they become an audience, sitting there, watching and waiting. For this reason I tend to think of court as "theater."

Each herald must develop his/her own style. I have years of formal training in acting and improvisational comedy, so I tended to fall back on this as my "style." Fortunately for me the Kings and Queens for whom I've worked know, understand, approve of, and worked with my style quite easily.

If you're going to use humor, be very careful with it. Never forget that you are *not* the center of attention. This is reserved for the recipient of the award and Their Majesties. Forget this most important rule and *you're doomed!* Never embarrass either the award recipient of Their Majesties.

On the flip side of that, don't hesitate to make it seem you're the person who deserves to be the butt of the joke or the reason for something going wrong. Whenever it seemed to me that the royalty of the recipient was going to be embarrassed for any reason, I would immediately call attention to myself in an attempt to make sure that, if anyone, *I* was the one who'd be seen as being in the embarrassing situation.

It's not often easy, and takes some quick thinking, and requires that you be willing to often be seen either as a fool or someone who managed to get into embarrassing situations. The only people who'll know will be the people you saved, and sometimes not even they will know.

For example: Once a lady was receiving an award and she burst into tears. Queen Morgan let her throne, moved forward and kneeled next to the lady and began speaking to her. Court got very quiet and I could actually see people in the front rows leaning forward to hear what the Queen was privately saying to the lady. I immediately made a comment to attract attention to me and by the time the audience's attention left me and returned to the Ladies, they were through and had finished their private moment.

When does your job really start?

As soon as you know that you're going to herald a court. Really!

I've met some folks who thought that all a herald had to do was find the scrolls, put 'em in order, process into court, and start reading them as they were to be handed out. If that's your take on it, *you're doomed!*

Heralding a good court requires a lot of advance preparation. Generally I'm working on that days court several days before the event and actively working on it from the time I arrive on site. The following is the typical procedure for an event:

Before the Event:

1. **Order of business:** Try to get a list of the court order of business, either from Their Majesties, or the Tyger Clerk of the Signet. It helps to know in advance if court is going to be long, formal (indoors) or casual (usually camping events have less formal courts – but not always!), and what kinds of business you'll be handling. You'll often know who's making the scrolls, so you know who to look for at an event.

2. **Pack:** Make sure you have critical things Their Majesties might need, like a calligraphy pen to sign the scrolls. Also, make sure you have things critical to your own survival, like your favorite beverage, or comfortable shoes for long courts.

3. **Rest:** Get a decent night's sleep. You're going to need it!

That day, before Court:

A. At the Royal Room:

1. Make sure space is set aside for gathering scrolls and organizing business.
2. Lay out the necessary materials for court.
 - a. Pens for signatures.
 - b. Blank court reports for order of business listing. (See Appendix-A)
 - c. Pad of paper for "translations." (More on that later.)
 - d. Scroll case
 - e. Electronic devices (if you have and can use them)
3. Check with the Royalty to go over preliminary court schedule.
 - a. Time of court (rough idea)
 - b. Listing of court business
 - c. Special royal instructions

B. Check the acoustics and setup of the hall:

1. Check the placement of the thrones: Make sure there's room for you behind and between the thrones.
2. Make sure there's a scroll table behind the thrones.
3. Check the acoustics of the hall:
 - a. I've had courts where a foot or two made an incredible difference between whether or not court would be heard by the front row! Once there was an overhang and if the thrones were placed behind the overhang my voice got "trapped" by the overhead baffles. By simply moving the thrones in front of the overhang and insuring that the spot from where I would be heralding was in front of it as well, my voice could be heard at the back of the hall.
 - b. At another event (outdoor) we had a stage and the thrones had originally been placed on the stage by the Queen's Guards. Had they been left there court would have been increased significantly because of the difficulty of people walking from the back of the crowd, to the sides of the stage then across the stage to the thrones. By having the thrones moved to a raised platform in

from of the stage, sight lines were maintained and court was made to move faster.

- c. Loud, noisy fans can be a major distraction. Sometimes you may want to have the fans turned off and the doors opened instead.
- d. Where will the procession walk? Is there room? This is the time to have the chairs rearranged rather than as you're entering court. Remember, you're leading that parade so make it look like you know what you're doing.

C. Call for business:

1. About an hour to ninety minutes before court is scheduled, announce to the hall (cry the site) that anyone with business for the Court should see you. Also announce that any scribes with scrolls for Court should present them to you. If there are any changes from the published schedule, this is the time to announce that, too. Otherwise everyone will stop and ask you if things are proceeding according to the schedule.
2. Carry your work pad with you. When someone talks to you about business *write it down*. Write **everything down** otherwise it will be completely forgotten. It's a law of heraldry; *everything not written down will be forgotten or misinterpreted*. The second law says: *anything forgotten or misinterpreted will be seen as the fault of the Royalty*. In other words, they will blame the King and Queen for everything that goes wrong.
3. If people approach you and you don't have your workbook with you, tell them to find you later and explain why. People would rather find you later than be forgotten.
4. Make no promises you're not sure of. Many people will have a bit of business they want done during court. Some courts will run over two hours. This is *not* the court to insert a special hand crocheted shield to one of the Queen's Guards from his Aunt Fanny in Topeka. It's sweet but there's no time for it. When possible let them know that you're not sure if there will be time for that special presentation but assure them you will consult with Their Majesties, they do so. Remember, it's their court, let them make the decision. It might be that Aunt Fanny is picking up the tab for the Kingdom's transportation to the other coast and you're not aware of it. Make sure you get back to the presenters to let them know the status. It will save them scrambling around in the back of the hall if their names are called or being seriously (and oftentimes loudly) disappointed if they're not.

Prepare for Court:

A. Prepare your “translations:” A translation is simply the wording on a scroll written clearly so anyone can read it easily.

1. If you have a laptop computer and a printer you can save yourself a lot of time. Not only can you do your translations quicker and make them easier to read but you can organize the court order of business on the fly. Always try to set aside an area where it can't be seen from the event proper and doesn't intrude on anyone's medieval experience and ambience.
2. Make a separate translation for each scroll and try to limit them to one page.
3. Since I use a computer I make it a policy of redoing almost all translations so they're easy to recognize.
4. Make sure the recipient's name and award is at the top where it can easily be seen.
5. Place the calligrapher and illuminator's name at the bottom where it can be read to the populace as the award is being given out.
6. If you have to hand write your translation, do it in easy-to-read block letters.
7. Place each translation with its scroll and don't let them get separated.

B. Read the scrolls aloud.

1. Check for a “translation.” If there isn't one, grab a sheet of paper and start transcribing the scroll so you can read it. That way you won't end up saying “purfoot of hapineff” during court business because of some fancy calligraphy. In other words, always have a “translation.”
2. Figure out where the pauses are and where your breathing spots will be, especially if you have either overlong sentences or sentences containing incredibly difficult alliteration.
3. Practice people's names: Some names will be easier than others. Some names will always be impossible. Unless you're positive of the pronunciation, always check on the pronunciation of names. Find the autocrat and ask him/her since most of the scrolls will go to local people. If it's a really foreign name, write the name out phonetically on the paper you're using for your court report. That's where you'll be reading them.

C. Organize the Order of the Court (See Appendix A – Sample Court Report)

1. Set up a suggested order for the business of Court based on your preliminary order. Then, when you have it all set up, consult with Their Majesties on what they prefer.

2. After you've been working with your Royalty for a while, you'll begin to get a feel for their preferences. But even then, always check with them before “finalizing” your order of business.
3. If you're not working with a computer, leave blank spaces after every 2 or 3 pieces of business. Another of those laws of Court Heraldry says that *no matter how much you work at getting your order of business set, something will always be added or moved at the very last minute*> Sometimes even during court!
4. The most common award is the Award of Arms (AOA). That means that you'll probably have 2 or 3 AOA's for any other award. I generally spread the AOA's out through the order of business and try to end court with the most “prestigious” award being given according to the Order of Precedence – Baronies and Peerages. If there are several I try to spread them out so the recipients get their unique moment of glory. Discuss this with Royalty – as always, they have the final say.
5. No one will always be pleased with the order of business. Especially if “their” Laurel of Baron wasn't the final, most important order of business. When they complain, smile, commiserate and apologize. It won't hurt to apologize and you certainly can't go back and “fix” it. Tact and diplomacy is called for. Above all, never say, “This is how Their Majesties wanted it.” Take the heat on their behalf. They'll be taking their lumps for stuff you did or didn't do.

D. Check for Missing Scrolls:

1. Based on the list of scrolls you've been given, you'll know what scrolls are missing. If you don't have a scroll you're going to have to either give that person a promissory or you'll be responsible for coming up with a “Zen” scroll on the spot.
2. Promissory: At times, we have had formal promissory scrolls created so that everyone will receive something official. In the past, if we had enough warning, we could enlist the aid of some local scribes to whip up a quick scroll as a promissory. Either of these is better than nothing.
3. Zen (imaginary) scroll with pre-warning: What we mean by Zen scrolls is simply someone (you) standing in front of court with no real scroll but making an announcement that sounds like a scroll. If you have enough warning, you can write up something with help from either Their Majesties of the Autocrat so your Zen scrolls are personalized. Always keep a copy of your Zen scrolls because inevitably some one will want that wording for the final scroll.

4. Zen scroll with no warning: It will happen from time to time – you have to Zen an award and you have little to no warning. Keep in mind some basic wording. Keep back a generic translation just for this purpose. That way you'll have the wording along with the date and name of the event. I will generally take an Award of Arms translation and use that as the basis for a Zen scroll. That way I'll have something that contains the date and name of the event as well as the location where the award was given. Trust me, it's easy to forget the date when you're in the process of making up a scroll.

E. Arrange the Scrolls:

1. Arrange the scrolls in the order they are to be awarded. Place the "translation" atop each scroll. Then place the entire packet in a scroll case for transporting into court.
2. Keep a roll of wax paper handy for placing on scrolls that have gold on them. This will keep the gilt scrolls from sticking to either a translation or another scroll.
3. Be aware of the weather. It's better to have someone transport the scrolls to court in advance than to try and move them there in the rain or snow. *If weather is **that** bad, don't take the scrolls.* Take only the translations and announce to one and all as court opens why the scrolls aren't there and where they can be picked up. Do not let people talk you into keeping the scrolls after the event. Scrolls can easily become misplaced, damaged or lost. Guess who gets blamed if that happens?

F. Check for Medallions: For each award that requires a medallion, you should make sure one is available. Don't depend on anyone else to make sure there are medallions – do it yourself! Generally Her Majesty Will also check for medallions but it's better that you both check than to discover she thought you were going to check and you thought she was going to check and you have no medallion. There is generally a bag or basket of extra medallions just for this purpose. If you're not sure whether or not friends or relatives have a medallion for a specific recipient, assume there is no medallion and have one handy. Again, this will make Their Majesties look good. DO not accept medallions from friends or relatives to be given to a particular recipient during court. Tell them to hang on to the medallions and come forward when it's time for their friend to be given the award. That way there's no chance of you losing a medallion or, even worse, giving it to the wrong person.

Last Minute Concerns:

- A. Go to the bathroom!** It's not only embarrassing but it's downright painful to realize you have to go during court – especially if it's ten minutes into a two-hour court.
- B. Eat something.** It will be a while before you're alone, and have the opportunity to eat without sneaking it behind the thrones. Make sure you won't be hungry.
- C. Primp.** Comb your hair and (for the ladies) freshen your makeup.
- D. Dress.** Have a dresser handy, if at all possible. This is not the time to get frustrated with that button of hook. By the way, if you're overly modest you might be in for a bit of a shock. Like most theater you'll find yourself dressing and undressing in mixed company quite often.
 1. **Look the part!** OK, this is buried in the midst of this document, but it's really important. There will be countless pictures taken of you as the court herald. Maybe they're not aiming at you, instead they're taking pictures of either Their Majesties or the award recipient, but you will be in lots of pictures. One of my most embarrassing memories is of a picture of me taken with Bjorn and Morgen. It's a beautiful picture! The background looks period, (trees, no cars, beautiful sky) we all look extra spiffy in our special court garb, they look regal and I look ever so official as I'm reading an award like a good court herald should...But smack in the middle of the picture is my left wrist hanging out and the huge, black wrist watch on it! It ruins the picture! Now I have what looks like a small pouch on my belt. It's actually a watch in disguise. Ask to see it sometime. I'm proud of it. You will need a watch but it shouldn't show.
 2. **Your Garb:** It shouldn't have to be said but make sure your garb is clean, pressed and as perfect as possible. This is NOT the time to dress in a t-tunic if you can avoid it. If you're wearing a tabard make sure it's not wrinkled. Better to forgo the tabard than wear a sloppy one. The advantage to wearing a tabard is that it'll make it easier for folks to spot you if they have court business. To date I've not found this to be a problem.
- E. Check for your court refreshments.** Make sure your goblet is set behind the thrones and your preferred refreshment is there, too. You will **need**

something to drink during court. If you're diabetic, make sure there's candy handy just in case of low blood sugar. It's happened to me numerous times and if it hadn't been for the folks who were assigned to watch over me, I might not have made it through the court. Do not eat chocolate or consume a milk product during court. It isn't good for the voice.

During Court:

A. Calling people into court: Try and vary the wording used to call people into court. Their Majesties can (with your voice):

1. Invite them
2. Command them
3. Request their presence
4. Call them into court

You get the idea. Keep it flowing.

B. Vivat! They seem sooooo simple when you're in the audience but when you're the herald this simple cheer can be a real hassle. The timing has to be correct and the wording has to be well thought out.

1. **Make Their Majesties look good:** Before each award let Their Majesties know what's coming. What is the award and why is this person receiving it? "This is an AOA for cleaning the kitchens and making swords." Some prefer to have a short, small written list placed between the thrones containing this information. Others simply want you to tell them what's next. Again, it's their court, find out what they want and do it that way.
2. **Lord and Lady so-and-so:** Many Royals prefer to walk the AOA recipient toward the audience and introduce the new, "Lord or Lady so-and-so," to the populace. Try to lead your vivat as soon as they finish their introduction. It should take place almost instantly so don't give the audience time to cheer or applaud. This takes practice and timing. Wait too long and it's awkward. Do it too soon and you step on Their Majesties' introduction. If the royalty simply hands the recipient their scroll, wait until the person turns and faces the audience then start your cheer. That way they can see their friends and the rest of the populace cheering them. It's a small point but it can make a special moment more memorable and that's the whole idea, isn't it?
3. **Companions of Order:** This is a common mistake. You should try to never say, "For the newest *member* of the Order of the Golden Blatt." Orders do not have members, they have

companions. So, the correct salutation should be, "For Lady Congolia Boffidder, newest companion of the Order of the Golden Blatt – Vivat! Vivat! Vivat!"

4. **Vivat or Vivant>:** Other kingdoms use other cheers. In the East we use Vivat and Vivant. Vivat is singular, Vivant is plural. For Lord so-and-so it's vivat. For the representatives from the Barony of Chipmunk Sweat it's vivant. Easy, huh?

5. **Reading Scrolls:**

6. **Stand up straight.** You have to be heard at the back of the hall. Project and use your diaphragm. If you've never had formal training find a voice major or trained actor and ask for help in learning how to project. If you can't be heard the audience will get noisy and Their Majesties will have a lousy court. They will take the blame, not you...but it will be *your* fault.

a. Never read directly from the scroll. Many disagree with me here but these are my reasons:

- 1) The scrolls are works of art, each and every one is unique. The less you handle them the less the chance of damaging them.
- 2) It is quite common to spit when you're heralding. Ask any stage actor and they'll each have a story about either spitting on someone or being spit on while projecting so they could be heard in the last row in the theater. The same is true for you. DO you really want to have to explain the stains on that scroll?
- 3) Many scrolls are done in beautiful calligraphic hands that are really tough to read. Imagine yourself reading a scroll and having a line come out like, "Purfoot or hapineff," and you get the idea. Do that translation I talked about earlier.

b. Never hold the scroll in front of your face. One of the reasons I always use the translation is that it's smaller and I can hold it below the level of my mouth without lowering my head to read it. A full scroll can block the sound of your voice without you realizing it. (And the spitting thing too.)

- c. Speak clearly and slowly. You can be understood better if you speak slowly and:
- d. **Don't forget the Sign Herald.**
 - 1) If you have a herald who can do signing for the hearing impaired don't forget they're there. This person will have to spell out many names. Try to share the listing of court business with her so she has some idea of what's about to happen.
 - 2) Speak slowly so the Sign Herald can keep up with you. You have to remind yourself of this constantly. It's quite easy to forget the poor Sign Herald. Do this and you'll quickly learn the signs for "(S)he's talking too fast for me to translate."
- e. If you're reading from a translation, use a folder of some sort to hide the plain sheet of paper. It looks better.

- 7. Anyone else who specifically requests it who might need to know. (The drop dead deputy for the Tyger Clerk, for example)
- 8. Members of your heralding team.

NOTE: *While not required I also post my Court Reports on the East Kingdom computer (E-mail) mailing list. This keeps people informed and helps catch mistakes. Hard as it may be to believe I almost always make at least one mistake or omission on my court reports. Sometimes it's a matter of listing the calligrapher and leaving out the illuminator. When Duke Lucan won Crown Tourney for Caitlin o hAodha, I didn't include this small item of business in my court report for two reasons (neither one is a good reason). First I was quite ill when I did the court report and second, my hand written copy only included business done during court and, since the tournament took place on the field it wasn't included on that sheet of paper. Boy, was **my** face red!*

After Court

A. Leftover Scrolls: The folks who are to receive scrolls will not always be there. Check with Their Majesties as to how they want to handle this. Many times they will want to get the scroll in the hands of the recipient's Baron or Baroness for later presentation. Other times they'll want to hang on to the scroll for presentation at a later event.

B. Court Report: For the official court report you're only required to list the awards given at an event. I try to include all business that was transacted during court so there will be a record of it. My court report form (See Appendix A) also includes whether or not there was a scroll presented and, if so, who the calligraphers and illuminators were. I have a template prepared in MSWord and fill out my court report as soon as I get home from the event whenever possible. Then I e-mail the report to all the folks who need it. I'm fortunate in that so far everyone who's supposed to get the report has e-mail. These include:

- 1. King and Queen
- 2. Prince and Princess
- 3. Tyger Clerk of the Signet (in case a scroll wasn't done or delivered)
- 4. Chronicler
- 5. Shepherd's Crook (For inclusion in the Order of Precedence)
- 6. The Crown Prince and Princess

Appendix A – Attached

By Baron Ernst Nuss von Kitzingen, OP
(m/k/a Ernie Martinez – BaronErnst@snet.net)
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"This is the Spring, 2005, issue of the *The Herald's Cry*, a publication of the Brigantia Principal Herald of the East Kingdom of the Society for Creative Anachronism, Inc. (SCA, Inc.). *The Herald's Cry* is available from Ann A. Straut-Esden, 143 Clinton Hill Road, Wolcott, CT 06716-1058. It is not a corporate publication of SCA, Inc., and does not delineate SCA, Inc. policies

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**Appendix A
Sample Court Report**

COURT REPORT FORM	
Being the Court of held on	Their Royal Majesties King Hanse & Queen Mouradh
in (Group)	April 5, A.S. XXXI (1997)
at (Event)	Bergental
Court Herald	Their Coronation
Reporting Herald	Ernst Nuss von Kitzingen
	Ernst Nuss von Kitzingen

	SCA Name	Award	Calligrapher/Illuminator
1.	Vincenzo Delmare & Rebecca Ocorra, King and Queen of Acre	Renewed treaty between the Kingdoms of Acre & the East	
2.	Ambassador from Drachenwald	Bringing greetings from the Crowns of Drachenwald	
3.	Lucan von Drachenclauwe	Warlord of the East	N/A
4.	Jessa D'Avondale	Presented her Pelican Cloak by representatives from Settmour Swamp	
5.	Sir Gunther the Disciple	Chivalric Advisor to QG	
6.	Company of the Tygars Claw	Charter signed and affirmed by TRM	
7.	Seamus O'Dochartaih	AOA	C: Lyle FitzWilliam I: Elwyn Rowena of Wentworth
8.	Lord Azelin Cola	QOC	Elwyn Rowena of Wentworth
9.	Duchy von Grunwald	Presentation of various gifts to the Crown.	

Additional comments: Item 21: Rene Hount Schwartz De Bas'Rhin – If anyone knows this gentle please have him contact me to arrange to have his scroll awarded/picked up at Northern Lights. Proclamation and King's Whim: Containers of the beverage called Mountain Dew <tm> are now considered period. Proclamation: Their Majesties will hold only one Curia in Their reign: date, time & place to be announced in the future.