



Christopher Thomas  
Black Lion Principal Herald

c/o Lee Damon

Seattle WA 98115

June 13, 2006

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 Amalric and Crown Princess Caia; Master Ljotr, Seneschal of An Tir; My Fellow Principal Heralds; and the An Tir College of Heralds does Christopher Black Lion send warmest greetings!

Please accept my humble apologies for the lateness of this report. I have been away on business travel the last half of May and first week of June. This travel precluded my attendance at May Crown. I wish to thank King Sven and Queen Signy for Their understanding of my inability to attend Them as I would have wished.

As I have reported in the past I am thrilled to have such an amazing and competent staff. Their quality makes my job a joy and very easy to do. I would like to make special mention of Gwenlian Queue Forchée, my contingency deputy and all-around go-to person and Steinn Sanguinaris, Principality herald for Avacal. Their attitude and willingness to step in and Get Things Done exemplify the traits held by the vast majority of members of the An Tir College. The College is here to help and clearly means business.

A tabard was donated to the college by Gwenlian Queue Forchée at Twelfth Night. She plans to donate a few more. Meanwhile Mistress Ellen Frasser continues to coordinate a project to build field tabards for my deputies and an

Extra Special Spiffy one for Black Lion to use for Court and other ceremonial functions.

A full roster of Kingdom Staff Heralds and Pursuivants can be found at [http://www.antirheralds.org/college/black\\_lion\\_staff.html](http://www.antirheralds.org/college/black_lion_staff.html). I anticipate posting a new draft of this document by the 25th of June, 2006 so that it can be corrected before requesting Their Majesties' signatures at Their Coronation.

I am sad to report that none of the principalities appear to be hosting a heraldic symposium this year. I had heard many hints that something along these lines might happen but nothing appears to have materialized. I have, however, seen at least one bid to host Known World Heraldic Symposium next year.

### **Issues Facing the College**

In my last report I mentioned that the issue of Vox Leonis was the largest problem facing the college and I doubted I could do any better at resolving it than the previous holders of my office. I am happy to say that this problem **might** have been resolved by the (temporary) retirement of the title and creation of a new office - Sable Mountain Herald. Sable Mountain is appointed for each Reign and is only responsible for that Reign's courts (and the reports there-from). I will be contacting Their Highnesses about Their selected Sable Mountain shortly after this report is finished.

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

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

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

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

## **The Principality of Avacal**

Sanguinaris Herald (Avacal Principality)  
Viscount Steinn Vikingsson, KSCA

Reporting in Avacal is much better this quarter. It is still not at 100% but it is well over the three branches from last time.

I note a tendency in Avacal for local heralds to collect packets of submissions to send to Lions Blood. Kingdom policy is for submissions to go direct from the submitter with no branch or other heralds being involved for financial reasons. However, postage from Canada to the United States can be expensive for a large packet. This topic will be discussed at the next Black Lion's Meeting (hopefully at July Coronation).

Viscount Steinn is stepping down as Sanguinaris Herald soon. I am told there is one applicant for the office. I will be contacting Their Highnesses of Avacal shortly to follow up on this.

## **The Principality of Tir Rígh**

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

Things are moving along in Tir Rígh. There has been some slight confusion over the í in Rígh and a suggestion was made to re-register the name with a "normal" i instead. I hope this does not happen, considering how long it took for a name to be registered in the first place. Re-opening that particular wound would probably not be wise and is something the College should not pursue unless there is very strong demand from outside the College to do so. I trust this issue is now well and truly dead.

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.