

Heralds in a Nutshell

Oddr Þiálfason, Black Lion Principal Herald

<http://www.antirheralds.org>

Heralds in History

Originated in the 12th century

- Tournament officers
- Minstrels/Troubadours
- Military advisers

They worked for

- Nobles
- Tournament societies
- Freelance

And they

- Were knowledgeable and literate
 - Knew about arms, and compiled lists of them
 - Knew about people
- Were an important aspect of the tournament
 - See King René d'Anjou's *Book of the Tournament*
 - Made proclamations
 - Made introductions
 - Cheered their fighters where worthy
- Became messengers and ambassadors
 - Not spies
 - Were unarmed, possibly unarmored
 - Traveled freely, whether as employed by their noble, or following the tournament circuit, exempt from tolls and customs
 - Inviolable, as representative of a noble (Lord Drummond imprisoned in 1514 and estate forfeit for assaulting Lyon; Provence razed in 1524 because a herald of Charles V killed)
- Became organized
 - Developed ranks (Kings of Arms, pursuivants, officers in ordinary and extra-ordinary)
 - Some kingdoms formed Colleges of Herald
 - Royal sanction and oversight
 - Expectations of conduct
 - Expectations of compensation
 - Networked with other heralds in other countries – in peace and war
- Enjoyed perks
 - Entitled to broken armor left on the field, other equipment, sometimes the horses
 - Garter entitled to the clothing in which a prince, duke, marquess or earl was created
 - Occasionally declared free of taxation by the Crown

- Wore the arms of their employers (tabard, for example)
- Unique investiture ceremony involving cups of wine
- Heraldic titles
 - Norroy, Garter, Montjoye, Joli-Coeur, Dis-le-Vrai, Loyauté, etc

Heralds in the SCA

Originate in our Governing Documents

- See Corpora VI.C, *Laurel Sovereign of Arms and The College of Arms*

We work for

- Branches (required office for baronies and larger)
- Private individuals
 - For hire (Emprise of the Black Lion)
 - Pro bono (name/armory consultation)

And we

- Are knowledgeable and literate
 - Arms
 - Names
 - History of Heraldry
 - History of Heralds
- Are an important aspect of the tournament
 - Make proclamations:
 - Court
 - Town Cry
 - Introduce competitors at tournaments
 - Develop ceremony
- Are messengers
- Are organized
 - SCA College of Arms
 - Various kingdom Colleges of Heralds
 - [An Tir] 2-dozen staff officers, plus 16 baronies, other branches and officers, and heralds-at-large
 - Some principality Colleges of Heralds (eg, Tir Rígh)
 - Expectations of conduct
 - Expectations of reporting
 - Network with other heralds around the world
- Enjoy perks
 - Wear the arms of their noble/patron, and are members of Their court
 - [An Tir] Unique investiture ceremony involving cups
 - Heraldic titles
 - Laurel, Pelican, Wreath, Codex, Morsulus, Palimpsest, Clarion, etc
 - Black Lion, Æstel, Lions Blood, Silver Rose, Be Wayre, Jambe de Lion, Basilisk, etc
- **Need you**