

# The Blue Strand

OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER



Left: Baron Jon and Baroness Margie at Saturnalia. Right: Richard Cockburne sits upon the baronial throne, probably going mad with power. Photos by Julia of the Ravens.

## Have You Seen This Man?

Mayhem at December Crafhall – Saturnalia.

— JOANNA OF BREADWOOD

Constabs are searching for a man and his brass rooster after they staged a bloodless coup of the Barony during Crafhall this December and ran the place to suit themselves for many hours, before absconding into the night.

According to several eyewitnesses, the man, operating under the name (or alias?) of “Richard Cockburne”, sat in the Baronial thrones and led the Populace into an afternoon of great fun and merriment, from which we are yet to recover. There was a “horse” race, many board games, crafts, and an ongoing game of “seize the cock”, which started several wrestling matches. Finally the day closed out with a delicious potluck dinner and the villainous Cockburne running his own nonsensical court. The laughter which erupted at the various awards given may have caused a few more delicate members of the Populace to become tragically winded and collapse upon their friends.

One victim of Cockburne’s reign of frivolity recalled with horror her “ordeal” to *The Blue Strand*.

“He hauled me forward to compliment his plaid and ignored my pleas like a tyrant. I say of this Cockburne fellow - he’s a most insufferably discourteous knave!”

Another commenter stated: “I stole the Brass Cockerel out of the dastardly Richard Cockburne’s hands and finally presented it to my consort – only to find the underhanded Cockburne had made sly deals to allow my consort to sit upon a throne during his court of mockery in exchange for it, ensuring that only he could be the victor of his cock-snatching game! It was utterly shocking. I implore everyone to be on the lookout.”

Insiders to the ploy have since come forward and identified that it may have been masterminded by one Nymandus de Tempesta. If anyone has more information on the location of these two men, please let us at The Blue Strand know, so that we might request they return for another Saturnalia next December stop them.

## WHAT’S ON?

### January Activities

- ☞ Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> January – Fighter Training + A&S
- ☞ Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> January – Cordmaking (various types) Crafhall + Potluck
- ☞ Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> January – Council Meeting
- ☞ Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> January – Fighter Training + A&S
- ☞ Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> January – Fighter Training + A&S
- ☞ Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> January – Fighter Training + A&S

### Coming Soon!

- ☞ Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> February – Fibre Guild Meetup
- ☞ Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> February – Return of the Kraken
- ☞ Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> February – Archery Training

More information:

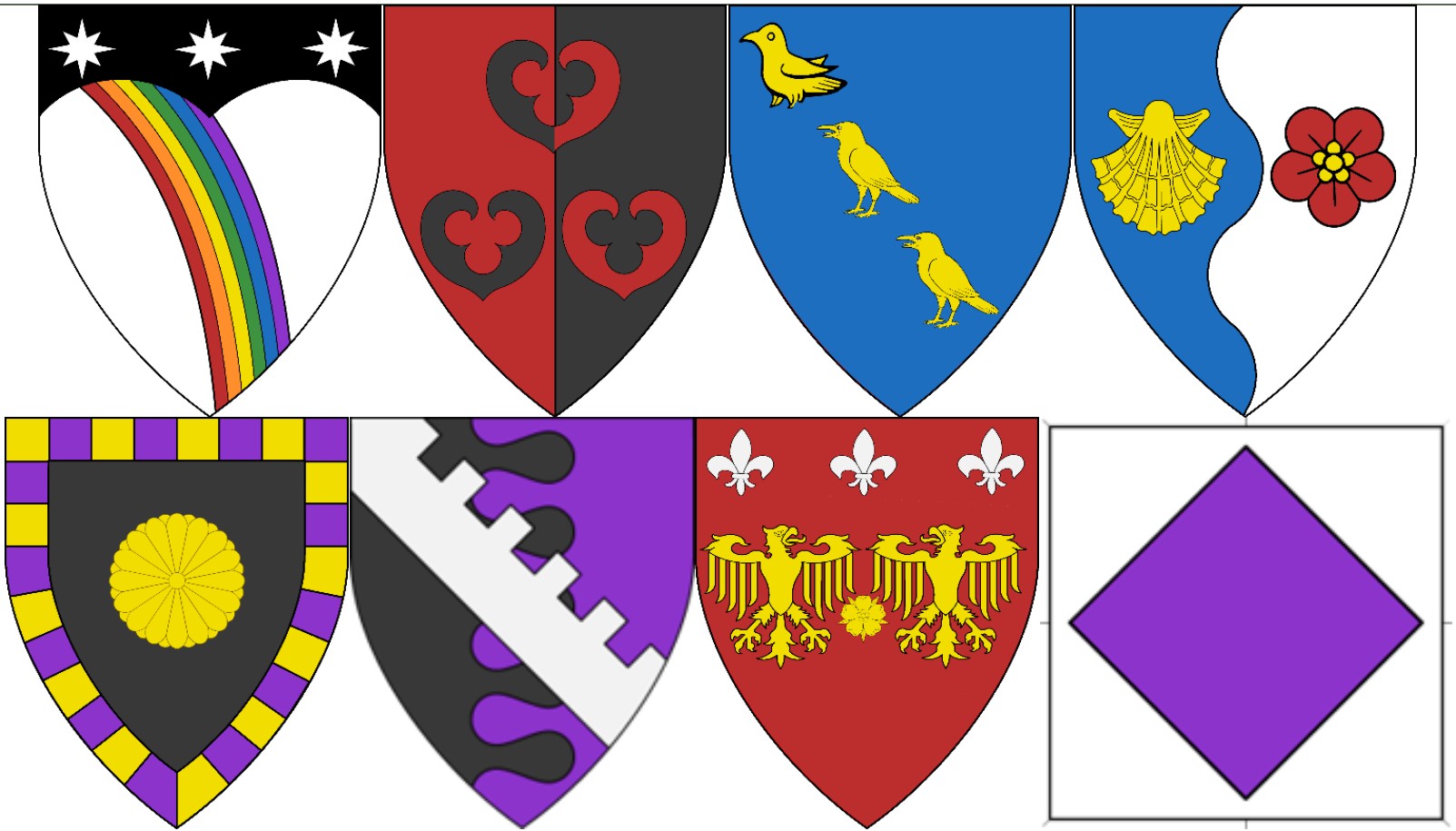
<https://kraeglas.lochac.sca.org/>

## Return of the Kraken:

Save the date, landlubbers!  
— JOANNA OF BROADWOOD

Ahoy ahoy my fellow landlubbers! The summer heat is really dialing up, and with it, the ever-present desire to take to the seas in search of treasure and monsters to slay!

Well fear ye not! For Baron Airdin and I are calling all those who are bold of heart and stalwart of nature to journey to The Dolphin’s Keep, form a crew, craft a (cardboard) ship and brave the Kraken-infested waters, to defeat all other crews and claim all the treasure that they may! Save the date of the 7<sup>th</sup> of February in your calendars, or remain stranded upon the shore forever!



So many designs, and so many heraldic crimes... or are there? Join The Blue Strand today in flexing your heraldic muscles to decide how many of the above device designs are unregistrable! Device art compiled by Rúna Keiliselgr.

# Spot the Unregistrable Heraldry!

If you were commenting on these devices, how many would you return?

—— RÚNFRÍÐR KEILISELGR, LOCHAC ROCKET HERALD

Let’s say you are a herald in charge of acceptances and returns of submitted devices. By email or letter or carrier pigeon, these eight devices have come to you to be commented upon. The game is simple: which of these items of armory would you refuse to register and why?

Above are the eight items of armory, and the associated blazons are in the right-hand column. Have a look through the devices and make your decisions now.

Assume that all of these designs are conflict-free and would not be returned for offence. None were submitted with extra documentation for an Individually Attested Pattern.

If it is relevant, assume that these items were sent to the Rocket inbox on the date of publication. This would mean that they would be on the Kingdom Letter of Intent on or around the 25th of January and would be on a Letter of Intent around the 25th of February.

The acceptances and returns text as written by Rúnfríðr Rocket, who is the Lochac Submissions Herald, are on Page 3.

- #1 – *Argent, a natural rainbow bendwise throughout and on a chief doubly enarched sable three compass stars argent.*
- #2 – *Per pale gules and sable, three seeblätter one and two counterchanged.*
- #3 – *Azure, in bend a martlet and two ravens Or.*
- #4 – *Per pale wavy azure and argent, an escallop Or and a forget-me-not gules seeded Or.*
- #5 – *Sable, a sixteen-petalled chrysanthemum Or and a bordure compony Or and purple.*
- #6 – *Per pale nebuly sable and purple, a bend embattled argent.*
- #7 – *Gules, between two eagles combattant displayed a rose Or and in chief three fleurs-de-lys argent.*
- #8 – *(Fieldless) A lozenge purple.*

## Princeps Awards

In case you missed them at Saturnalia!

- Order of Primus Visitor** – given to the first person to sign in.
- Order of Andromache** – to the winner of the “horse” race.

**Order of Tyche** – to the one who won the most board games.

**Order of Catullus** – to the person who pulled off the best bit or performance.

**Order of Priapus** – to the person who assists the Princeps the most.

**Order of Persona Sellarum** – to the person who set up the most chairs at the event.

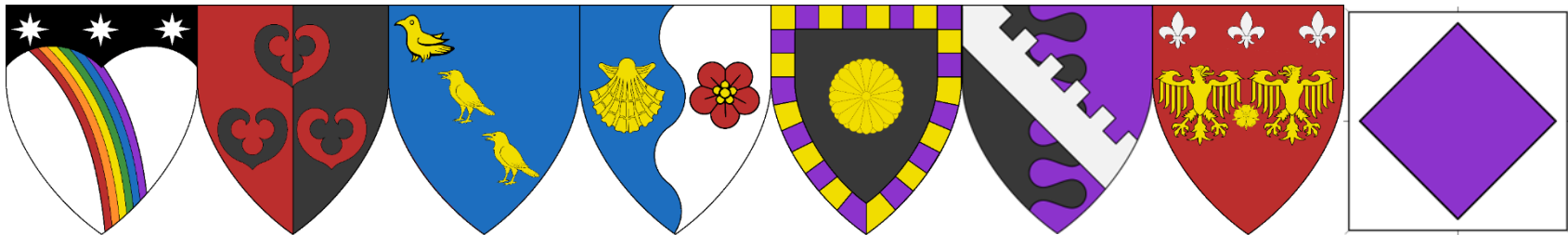
**Order of Poseidon** (which was invented on the spot) – for the person who got the Princeps his water during court.

**Order of the Or Rooster** – to the person who has the brass rooster in their possession by the time of closing Princeps court.



The Princeps awarding Baron Jon with the Order of the Primus Visitor, photo by Julia of the Ravens





# Spot the Unregistrable Heraldry: Answers

## Acceptances and Returns Texts

—— RÚNFRÍÐR KEILISELGR, *WITH HELP FROM TASSILON FETHERSTONHAUGHE AND OLLIVIER LE FLOCH*

The items are presented chronologically below. Where there was a difference in opinion between the heralds Rúna tested the game on after discussion, that has been highlighted.

#1: Argent, a natural rainbow bendwise throughout and on a chief doubly enarched sable three compass stars argent. Return.

This device would be returned for use of two steps from core practice. The first is the use of a chief doubly-enarched [Catalina Damiana Flores de la Montaña, 12/2011, R-Lochac] and the second is the use of compass stars [06/2007 CL].

This device would not be returned for exceeding the complexity limit without further documentation. While it uses eight tinctures (argent, gules, orange, Or, vert, azure, purple and sable) and two charges (chief, compass star), rainbows are considered to only have three tinctures for the purposes of complexity, namely gules, Or and either vert or azure [05/2024 CL]. This means that the total design only has a complexity of seven (argent, gules, Or, azure, sable, chief, compass stars), which is below the required limit.

#2: Per pale gules and sable, three seeblätter one and two counterchanged. Return.

This device would be returned for poor contrast between the counterchanged seeblätter and the gules and sable field per SENA A3B4a. While gules and sable together create striking designs that have a lot of visual contrast, they do not have heraldic contrast. Such designs may be registrable with further documentation of an Individually Attested Pattern.

#3: Azure, in bend a martlet and two ravens Or. Return.

This device would be returned for violating SENA A3D2f as it lacks armorial balance. Charge groups of two types of charge arranged in a row, such as the in bend arrangement in this submission, should have one type of charge in the centre of the group and the other type of charge on the ends. As such, a registrable variant of this design would be *Azure, a martlet between two ravens Or*, where the martlet is in the middle of the three charges. This rule is new to SENA and will be in effect for any Letters of Intent dated after February 1, 2026.

This device would not be returned for violating SENA A3B1b (“sword and dagger”) as there is a DC between a martlet and a raven [Vrsula Fey, 07/2020, A-An Tir].

#4: Per pale wavy azure and argent, an escallop Or and a forget-me-not gules seeded Or. Acceptance.

This device is not marshalling per SENA A6F1b, which notes that the use of a use of a complex line of division with a quarterly or per pale field division does not create the appearance of marshalling. Here, the complex line of division is *wavy*. Without that complex line of division, this would be marshalling and unregistrable.

#5: Sable, a sixteen-petalled chrysanthemum Or and a bordure compony Or and purple. Return.

This device would be returned for use of the restricted charge of a sixteen-petalled chrysanthemum, which is the symbol of the Emperor of Japan. A list of other restricted charges can be found in Table 3 of the Glossary of Terms. Note that a bordure compony must consist of two contrasting tinctures but as the bordure is then neutral, it can be placed on any field while having good contrast.

#6: Per pale nebuly sable and purple, a bend embattled argent. Return.

This device would be returned for containing a low-contrast complex line of division that is not readily identifiable. In this case, it is between sable and purple, which is always unregistrable even when there is no underlying charge [Landric Dægmar, 08/1992, R-Atlantia, also in SENA Appendix H].

#7: Gules, between two eagles combatant displayed a rose Or and in chief three fleurs-de-lys argent. Possible acceptance or possible return.

This submission contains a secondary charge group between two primary charges and a separate secondary charge group in chief. Any arrangement of three or more charge groups on the field must be documented, either by SENA Appendix J or by the submitter. The arrangement of ‘[a] primary charge group surrounding a secondary charge, with a separate secondary group’ is in the combinations listed in SENA Appendix J, but the heralds this game was tested on queried whether the charges were really *surrounding*.

As such, this design would most certainly be forwarded up from Kingdom commentary to Society commentary and the heralds there would likely argue about it.

#8: (Fieldless) A lozenge purple. Acceptance.

SENA A3A2 notes that: “Forms of heraldic (armorial) display may not be used alone in fieldless designs unless they are uncharged and of an undivided tincture that we do not protect... Charges that are considered forms of heraldic display include banners and flags... lozenges...”. This submission would be registrable under that section. This is because it is a form of heraldic display used alone in a fieldless design, but is is uncharged and of an undivided tincture. The College of Arms does not protect the tincture *Purple*. An example of a tincture they do protect is *Ermine*, which is the arms of Brittany. As such, a theoretical (Fieldless) *A lozenge ermine* would be unregistrable.





Left to right: Lady Julia of the Ravens, Lady Joanna of Braidwood, Lady Ayla Rosendorn – latest recipients of the Apollo Delphinus for A&S. Photo by Ailbhe éccnaid.

# Awards Given

## Latest Awards from the Barony of Krae Glas

— MARGIE OF GLEN MORE

Congratulations to those good gentles who were awarded Krae Glas Baronial awards at Saturnalia which was the 13<sup>th</sup> day of December, A.S. LX.

**Lady Ayla Rosendorn** – Apollo Delphinus awarded for Arts and Sciences, especially in weaving and other fibre arts.

**Lord Robert de Mar** – The Spurtle, awarded for his fine work cooking for Crafhalls.

**Marianne of Krae Glas** – The Spurtle, awarded for her wonderful cooking done for Crafhalls.

**Lady Julia of the Ravens** – Apollo Delphinus for Arts and Sciences, especially for setting up the Fibre Guild for AS 60!

**Lady Joanna of Braidwood** – Apollo Delphinus, also for Arts and Sciences, especially for the work on the newsletter.

**Lord Nymandus de Tempesta** (also known as Noble Ailbhe éccnaid) – Baroness’ Cypher, for stewarding the fantastic Saturnalia event.

**Richard Cockburne** – Baron’s Cypher, for excellent work as the Saturnalia Princeps.

We also announced our new baronial Rapier Marshal. We sincerely thank Elef á Suðrmannalandi for their willingness to take on this role.

## From the editor

Technically it’s all from me, but still

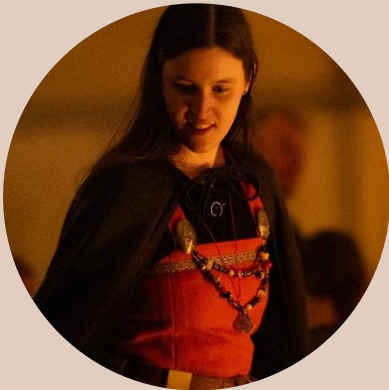
Hello.

Are you like me and interested in going on a newsletter related power trip?

You could have an article about whatever niche topic you want added to this very newsletter!

You could be as unhinged as me. It could happen.

Send any write ups (between 100-800 words) completely without context to [joannabraidwood@gmail.com](mailto:joannabraidwood@gmail.com). Make it happen.



## About the editor

Joanna of Braidwood is probably a little mad.

If you made it this far, thanks for joining us.

That’s all folks! Huzzah!

## Regnum:

- ✧ **Baron** – Baron Jon Dai of the Lane [bandb@kraeglas.lochac.sca.org](mailto:bandb@kraeglas.lochac.sca.org)
- ✧ **Baroness** – Baroness Margie of Glen More [bandb@kraeglas.lochac.sca.org](mailto:bandb@kraeglas.lochac.sca.org)
- ✧ **Seneschal** – Lady Rúnfríðr Keiliselgr (she/her) [seneschal@kraeglas.lochac.sca.org](mailto:seneschal@kraeglas.lochac.sca.org)
- ✧ **Reeve** – Tiarna Finn of St Monica [reeve@kraeglas.lochac.sca.org](mailto:reeve@kraeglas.lochac.sca.org)
- ✧ **Chronicler** – Lady Julia of the Ravens (any) [chronicler@kraeglas.lochac.sca.org](mailto:chronicler@kraeglas.lochac.sca.org)
- ✧ **Arts and Sciences** – Lady Emelye Ryder [artsandsciences@kraeglas.lochac.sca.org](mailto:artsandsciences@kraeglas.lochac.sca.org)
- ✧ **Chatelaine** – Bermund Wandelber [chatelaine@kraeglas.lochac.sca.org](mailto:chatelaine@kraeglas.lochac.sca.org)
- ✧ **Captain of Archers** – Lady Maude atte Weylete (any) [archers@kraeglas.lochac.sca.org](mailto:archers@kraeglas.lochac.sca.org)
- ✧ **Armoured Combat Marshal** – Lord Muireach mac Gréine [marshal@kraeglas.lochac.sca.org](mailto:marshal@kraeglas.lochac.sca.org)
- ✧ **Fencing Marshal** – Elef á Suðrmannalandi (they/she/he) [fencing@kraeglas.lochac.sca.org](mailto:fencing@kraeglas.lochac.sca.org)

The Blue Strand is not an official publication of the Society for Creative Anachronism (SCA) and does not delineate SCA policy. The official newsletter for the Society in Australia is Pegasus, which is available from the Registrar at registrar@sca.org.au.