



Aurora Borealis

Lighting up the Northern Shores Region

Fourth Quarter 2009

Volume 4 Issue 4

Upcoming Events in the Northern Shores

October 10th, 2009

Baronial Investiture Anniversary

Barony of Ruantallan

Truro, NS

November 28th, 2009

Herne the Hunter

Canton of Seashire

Halifax, NS

October 24th, 2009

Fall Harvest

Barony d'Ile Dragon Dormant

Montreal, PQ

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Event dates to make note of:

October 3rd, 2009

Coronation

Barony of Concordia of the Snows

Albany, NY

October 31st, 2009

Crown Tourney

Shire of Quintavia

Spencer, MA

October 10th, 2009

Known World Costume Symposium

Barony of Bhakail

Philadelphia, PA

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New Champion of the Crown Principality

The first Crown Principality Rattan Championship was held in the Barony of Ruantallan at the Baronial Investiture of Baron Donal and Baroness Allessandra. That day there were 15 people competing for the title of Rattan Champion. Finalists were Nicholas of Lost Haven of the Barony of Ruantallan and Master Conrad Connor MacAllyn of the Barony of L'ile du Dragon Dormant, with Master Conrad as tournament winner and first Crown Principality Rattan Champion, with the title of Prince's Champion. HRM Gabriella was moved to create a Queens CP Rattan champion as well, choosing Lord Conogan mab Rioc to be her Princess's Champion. Congratulations to them both!

Gilbert's Guide to Heraldry Selection

People seldom believe me, but I am a lazy, lazy man. What this means is that I will try to make sure I won't make more work for myself if I can help it, and I will try to work as efficiently as possible to produce things I like. As we approach the selection of a device for our group, I would like to share my crumbs of heraldry wisdom with you.

Fact: You or someone you like will have to reproduce the device.

A banner will need to be made of the device to be hung in the hall when we have events which pertain to Crown Principality activities, like championships, and also when we have royal visitors. It is not uncommon for groups to produce their own copy of banners so they don't need to be brought from elsewhere, and possibly forgotten.

Other objects will invariably end up with the device reproduced upon it too. Imagine how you would feel trying to paint it on a pavillion, like the one the king and queen use.

Guideline # 1 Stencils can only take you so far.

Stencils are a fine thing in heraldry. They let you trace out the shape of an object without needing to resort to the often misshapen monstrosities that appear when we try to free-hand complex or geometric objects. However, the fine details are still left to your own possibly dubious artistic skills. (Carefully adding eyes, scales, and wing definition to the Sea-dragon in Seashire's arms is within my abilities, but I wouldn't want to try anything much more difficult personally.)

Guideline # 2 Each colour means another supply.

Are you painting? You'll need another pot. Are you embroidering? You'll need another skein. Are you enamelling? You'll need another package of material. Are you doing appliquéd? Another piece of fabric... Two or three colours is quite reasonable, but once you're hitting four or more, you can find your materials costs doubling, and the number of steps to the creation also getting significantly higher.

Guideline # 3 Every edge adds a lot more work.

I spent years painting little model soldiers. Cleaning up the edges between two different colours can be very time consuming. (White and yellow especially need multiple coats to cover up any other colour that mars them.) For those who sew, each edge has to be sewn along, which can slow down a project considerably.

Guideline # 4 Complex lines are a bugger.

Our eyes are well tuned to finding flaws in patterns. If you see a wavy or embattled line that isn't done in a regular pattern it's going to jump out at you. Getting fabric to lay flat for curves can be frustrating and the amount of edging to an embattled line is quite considerable.

I am not saying we have to completely avoid wavy or embattled lines, but if you're going to have some make sure the rest of the objects aren't going to be a lot of work too!

Officers of the Crown Principality:

Seneschal

Master Aetheric Lindberende

Deputy Seneschal

Mistress Gwenhwyfar Dinas Emrys

Exchequer

Mistress Freya Manslayer Karlsdottir

Earl Marshal

H.E. Master Conrad Connor MacAllyn

Badger Herald

Mistress Lyanna Kernough

A&S Minister

H.E. Mistress Gwenhwyfar Dinas Emrys

Minister of Lists

Lady Wulfwyn

Chatelaine

Matsudaira Hoshi-san

Accessibility Porter

Lady Skya na Ruady

Youth Marshall

Master Gilbert the Short

Waiver Secretary

Mistress Elizabeth "Bess" Darnley

Web Minister

Lord T. Tarius Britannicus

Deputy Commander of Seige Forces

Lord Guthfrith Yrlingson

Deputy Commander of Archery

Mistress Elise ferch Morgan ap Owen

Deputy Commander of Combat Archery

Lord Aethelwulf Stealcere

Deputy Commander of Thrown Weapons

Master Ludwig von Eisburg

Deputy Commander of Fence

Lord T. Tarius Britannicus

Deputy EKU Chancellor

Lady Zelina Silverfox

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H.E. Mistress Gwenhwyfar dinas Emrys

Newsletter Design

H.E. Mistress Zaneta Gavlinne Angiolieri

Guideline #5 Simplicity has it's own charm.

Much like the “little black dress” that is the work horse of the woman’s modern wardrobe (which can be accessorized to almost any occasion apparently), there is something quite pleasing about a device with only a few elements to it. There are fewer things to distract the eye, so the eye can enjoy what is there in peace.

Guideline #6 A picture doesn't need to contain a thousand words.

When the chips are down, a device has to scream across a field, “Don’t shoot me, I’m on your side.” It doesn’t need to express all the complexities of who we are, no one else cares to be honest. If you look at the East Kingdom’s device, what does a purple field, laurel wreath, and crown say? It doesn’t summarize the history and culture, it simply says, “Don’t shoot me, I’m on your side.”

Yes, it is nice to have something on there that means something, but it isn’t critical to jam in as much symbolism as possible. Far more important is that it be something our allies can remember, and recognize at a distance, so as not pepper us with arrows!

Conclusion

I suggest you consider these things, and maybe have a go reproducing some of your favourites as you prepare for the polling for our Crown Principality device.

My advice is of course simply that - advice. If in your heart of hearts you want to have arms that will require an art degree to reproduce then pick it in the polling. I promise I won’t tell the legion of volunteers who have to reproduce it where you live!

Master Gilbert the Short, OL

Gules, two chevronelles and a bordure Or
(A red field, with two yellow chevrons, and a yellow border)

Crown Principality Information

The information on heraldry proposed for the Crown Principality can be found at <http://www.northernshores.ca/cpdevices.html> and the names can be found at <http://www.northernshores.ca/principality/proposednames.htm#proposeddevices>.

We hope to have a large proportion of our populace make comments and voice their opinions on the choices listed on these websites. Remember, if you don’t vote, you have no voice on the final decision!

Crown Principality Championships

The following events are in need of an autocrat/event bid:

Northern Shores Rapier Championships
(for Spring 2010)

Northern Shores Archery Championships
(for Summer 2010)

Northern Shores Rattan Championship
(for Fall 2010)

Northern Shores Arts & Sciences Championship
(for 2010)

*If you are interested in running an event to house any of these championships, please contact the current champion to see if they are interested in helping with the endeavor.

If there are any groups considering a bid for a Kingdom level event, please advise the populace of the region, so that we, as the Crown Principality, can work together to avoid potential event conflicts. The Crown Principality has a yahoo mailing group called “northprinc” to help facilitate communications across our vast region.

Contribute to the NSR Aurora Borealis:

The next edition of the Northern Shores Crown Principality Newsletter, the *Aurora Borealis* is due to be available online by January 1, 2010.

All contributions for the next issue must be received no later than December 1, 2009. No submissions after that date will be accepted for the January issue.

Contributions should be sent to:
H.E. Mistress Gwenhwyfar Dinas Emrys
(gwen@moonsandstars.com)

Please note:

Newsletter editors reserve the right to edit content as required for space and content. We will do our best to present your contributions in full, however, some edits may be required to accommodate for limited space.

Gilbert's Guide to Name Selection

Names are a funny thing. If you met a particularly unpleasant person with the name "Brandon" for example, you might forever initially treat others with that name with a certain amount of caution before getting to know them. They are also something that can be twisted for comic and/or cruel purposes.

We want a name which is both distinctive (so we are memorable), and also one that isn't too susceptible to cruel jokes. We also want to ensure that the name we pick has a minimum amount of negative baggage... Did Brandon steal your lunch money at school?

Guideline #1 Distinctiveness

One of the things that I feel will be most useful in insuring our distinctiveness is if we choose a name that is the same for both English and French speakers. Everyone knows what country France is. Our accents are different, but we all use the same word.

Guideline #2 Avoiding Cruel Humour

Look carefully at the name, and pronounce it phonetically in your native language, and the other official language if you can speak it too. If you break it down that way, does it sound like anything unflattering or funny? For example, in England there is Essex, Wessex, Middlesex, Sussex, so it would follow that Nossex would be a legitimate name that could have existed. However in English one can easily break it down to "no sex"... We'd be a laughing stock if we had that name, and while people recently exposed to the name would find it hilarious, the joke would get very old, very quickly in these parts.

Guideline #3 Pronunciation

We've already looked for ways for deliberate mispronunciation to be used, but can you actually pronounce the name at all? A certain amount of help can be assumed, I am sure the people of the kingdom of Gleann Abhann can help new people refine their pronunciation. If however, even with assistance, the name proves to be an incomprehensible tongue-twister for you, it would be best to move on to other options.

Guideline #4 Spelling

I will be the first to put my hand up if there is a call for people who can't spell well. Write out the names you like a few times for practice. Tomorrow, without checking first, write down the names. Can you spell them? If you can spell them correctly, great! If you're fairly close, the name will likely be a bit tricky for people. If you're off by several letters... Have pity on the new people and the poor spellers in our group.

(One gentle wrote me and said they liked a particular name, but their spelling of it was so poor that it neither looked like, nor could be sounded out to match the name they were referring too!)

Guideline #5 Meaning

Most of the names have a meaning included for your perusal, and some have other associations: Vinland for example was a Viking settlement whose location is still debated (the map we might remember from our educations was a fake incidentally), and there is a well known event in the SCA called Vinland Raids (which we might feel obliged to invade/attend if we choose that name). Arcadia is both a place in Greece and the name used for the legendary land of the faeries. The last of which might or might not make you flash back to guideline #2. :)

Guideline #6 Google it

What results do you get when you type the name into an internet search engine? Odds are they'll turn up something. If the results are lots of different things, great. If the results are primarily focused on a modern popular culture item, you will have to consider if that bothers you. People looking for us may find them, and the other way around.

Conclusion

These guidelines are of course just my opinion. Please feel free to disagree with me, I tend to be a methodical thinker rather than the type who operate more on inspiration. :) I do hope however, that this has been helpful for your consideration process as you select potential names for our group.

Master Gilbert the Short, OL

Open Position

Greetings good gentles, one and all!

I am looking for a replacement for the Deputy Minister of Arts and Sciences, Crown Principality Area. An MOAS need only have an interest in promoting Arts and Sciences in the Crown Principality region, and be able to assist the East Kingdom Minister of Arts and Sciences. Reports are due once per quarter.

Anyone interested please contact Mistress Gwenhwyfar Dinas Emrys, Deputy Minister of Arts and Sciences – Crown Principality of Northern Shores, at gwen@moonsandstars.com or Mistress Bricia de Neubold, East Kingdom Minister of Arts and Sciences at moas@eastkingdom.org

Thanks All!

Boreal Army's Next Founding

A call for a new commander was put forth earlier this year when Sir Gareth stepped aside due to Real Life™ commitments. Sir Gareth has propelled the Army's standing to new heights during his tenure, and we have a lot to thank him for.

Considering the short yet impactful history of the army and the vested interest I have personally put into it, I have accepted to take up the firebrand once more in the hopes that the tradition we have started can continue for many years to come. It is my hope that someone will work with me over the next year so that I may pass on this tradition for future generations.

I have heard it said that some people believe the Boreal Army to be a political entity, or that the army is directly identified with the principality movement. I wish to set the record straight that this is not the case. The Boreal Army is the Fourth Grand Legion of the East Kingdom, established in A.S. XXXV by Andreas and Isabella during their first reign as King and Queen. This army is made up of fighters representing OUR part of the Kingdom. Our main propose is to bring the martial might of our region together into one big unit during times of war to fight in the defense of the East Kingdom. We do so in the name of camaraderie and the joy we have for this game, with the same sort of pride that we have for our national hockey team. ;o)

The fact that our region has recently become a Crown Principality has no bearing on the Boreal Army as it stands. Should the Crown Principality progress into a full Principality, the Prince and Princess, at that time, can make a decision about the Boreal Army's future and status. Until that time, which is many years away I can assure you, the Boreal Army will still fulfill its purpose as the 4th Legion of the East.

Great Northeastern War (GNEW) in Malagentia is a great event for us to apply some of the skills we have learned over the year, and to see the results of our hard work before they are applied at Pennsic War. I like to think of it as a dress rehearsal before the big play. So far, our high watermark was 40 fighters on the field at GNEW in July 2006. Unfortunately our turnout was half that number at Pennsic War that same year. Although the potential of the Boreal Army fighting as a grand legion at Pennsic War has yet to be realized, it is my firm belief that with plenty of advance planning and organization, we can accomplish this.

I will not be attending Pennsic War this year. I will, however, use the next coming year to rebuild the army from the ground up, and invite all to be a part of it! I plan to attend many events through the coming fall, winter, and spring seasons, and promote the Boreal Army to gather on the fields of the Debatable Lands at Pennsic XXXIX next year.

This is an official call to arms to have the army assemble to fight in aid of our Kingdom at Pennsic War in August 2010!

To the baronies, call up the baronial levies!
To the grand fighting households - muster your brethren!
To every able bodied warrior - rise to the aid of our kingdom!
Wear your colours proudly onto the battlefield and let our foes know: "We are *Tempestas Borealis*, the Storm of the North!"

The recruiting begins NOW. The training begins this fall, and I look forward to seeing many of you as part of it in 2010.

Master Conrad Connor MacAllyn, Boreal Army Commander
"For the flesh of our foe shall again feel the blow, and the bite of Boreal Steel!"
From the song Boreal Army Muster by Lady Chiara da Montepulciano.