

Heraldry in the SCA: Augmentations of Arms

by Da'ud ibn Auda

“Augment: To make or become greater.” (*Webster's II New Riverside Dictionary*, Berkley Books, NY, 1984, p. 48)

What is an “augmentation”? Specifically, it is an “augmentation of arms”, an honorable addition to a coat of arms already borne by an individual. *Boutell's Heraldry*, p. 124, defines an augmentation as “an honourable addition to armorial bearings”. In other words, a person's coat of arms is “augmented” with something; the arms have something added to them. Such augmentations usually become a permanent part of the arms, and, where the arms are inheritable, the augmentation is inherited with them. (The arms may also be borne and displayed without the augmentation; an augmentation is an addition to arms. Nothing is taken away, and the unaugmented arms may as rightfully be borne as the arms with the augmentation.)

“Throughout Europe it has been the practice of monarchs to reward their subjects for valorous and noble deeds by granting to them some permanent addition to their Coat of Arms.” (Oliver, p. 58)

“Of all heraldic distinctions the possession of an augmentation of honour is one of the most prized.” (Fox-Davies, p. 456)

“Augmentations of honour are armorial ‘additions’ of great esteem, usually awarded by a sovereign to subjects deemed worthy of signal recognition. They are of two kinds; the first, now rare, being awarded by ‘mere grace’, the second being won by merit.

“In the first category are such augmentations as those granted by Richard II (1377-99) to his kinsmen Surrey, Exeter and Norfolk, who were permitted to assume the attributed arms of St. Edward the Confessor in addition to their own devices, and the three crowns of Ireland, borne within a silver border, to Robert de Vere as Marquis of Dublin and Duke of Ireland. In our own century the grant of supporters to Captain Mark Phillips, Princess Anne's husband, may be regarded as an exceptional augmentation.

“In the second category there are many instances, again down to the present century, of augmentations granted as rewards for persons performing some outstanding act of valour or service. Such augmentations seem to have existed since the earliest days of armory.” (Friar, pp. 37-39)

“Arms of Assumption are such as may lawfully be assumed, without grant or descent, ‘as if a gentleman, being no gentleman of blood or coat-armour, shall captivate or take prisoner in lawful war any nobleman, gentleman, or prince, he may’, says Sir John Ferne, ‘bear the shield of that prisoner, and enjoy it to him and to his heirs for ever.’

“It was usual, however, either to add the Arms of the prisoner, on a canton, or inescutcheon, or to make some slight alteration in their blazonry; for ‘no Christian,’ says Camden, ‘may beare entirely the Armes of a Christian whom he taketh in warre.’ The Arms of Sir Clement Clerke, baronet, 1661, present an example of Arms thus assumed. His ancestor, Sir John Clerke, having taken prisoner the Duke de Longueville, at the battle of the Spurs, near Terouane, added to his Arms ‘a sinister canton *azure*, charged with a demi-ram mounting, *argent*, armed (that is, with the horns), *or*, between two Fleurs de lis of the last, and debruised with a dexter baton silver.’ The canton is annexed.” (Millington, pp. 153-154)

Why do some individuals bear augmentations of arms? The answer is complex, because there is more than one type of augmentation, even more than the two types of which most English heraldic authors speak.

An example of an augmentation is an addition that comes with an office held by the bearer. Ecclesiastical “augmentations” are probably the most common form of this type of augmentation. They can be found in the arms of bishops and archbishops. As another example of such augmentations are the arms of the kings of arms and heralds in the English College of Arms. Each bears an “augmentation” reflecting the title he holds as an officer of the College.



Sometimes such augmentations come with membership in a knightly order, where certain members of the order will add a chief with a symbol or the arms of the order, or quarter the arms of the order with their personal arms.

And, according to some heraldic writers, where a man has large possessions by his mother and but little by his father, he might bear his mother’s arms augmented with his father’s arms in some fashion. (I believe that most heraldists today would dismiss this idea as belonging to the “heraldry of the decadence”.)



There are also two specific augmentations granted to classes of individuals in England – the baronets. A baronet of England may place on his arms a canton or an inescutcheon, usually in chief but sometimes in honor point or even in sinister chief, *Argent a sinister hand gules*. A baronet of Nova Scotia may place on his arms a canton inescutcheon of the arms of Nova Scotia, *Argent, a saltire azure, overall on an inescutcheon or a lion rampant within a double tressure fleury counter-fleury gules*.



Augmentations of merit are sometimes granted by a grateful Crown for a specific event or deed. An historic example of this is the augmentation granted by the Crown of England to Howard, to whose arms (*Gules a bend between six crosses crosslet fitchy argent*) was added *on the bend in chief an escutcheon or charged with a demi-lion its mouth pierced by an arrow within a double tressure flory counter-flory gules*.



Admiral Sir John Hawkins, who introduced tobacco to England, was granted two augmentations. The first was the addition of a crest on his return from his voyage of 1564, of *a demi-Moor proper bound captive, with annulets on his arms and in his ears*, for his victory over the Moors. The second augmentation was for his exploits at Rio de la Hauche and in honor of his action at Ulloa, where was added to his arms *on a canton or an escallop between two palmer's staves sable*.



In what is probably the most famous honorable additions to arms, Admiral Viscount Nelson received not one but three augmentations. The first was the addition, after he was made a Knight of the Bath, of a gold engrailed bendlet charged with three bombs proper, placed over the gules bendlet of Nelson's arms. The second, a chief charged with a ship, a palm tree, and a ruined battery all proper, was for his victory over Napoleon's fleet at the Battle of the Nile in Egypt. The last, a fess wavy sable with the word "Trafalgar" gold, was awarded posthumously for his victory at the Battle of Trafalgar.

The Fool of Arms has perhaps said it best:

These arms the Nelsons bore in days of old:
A black cross flory on a shield of gold,
And over all a bendlet gules, to show
Due difference from Sampson and Lamplow.

When one Horatio Nelson rose to fame,
With 'Sir' and 'K.B.' bracketing his name,
The Kings of Arms his scutcheon did resplend
With three exploding bombs upon the bend.

Later, they gave Lord Nelson of the Nile
An augmentation in lavish style –
A ship disabled and a fort destroyed
(Which probably the Baron much enjoyed.)

When Viscount Nelson of the Nile at last
Beyond the reach of earthly honours passed,
His brother (made an Earl), the heralds gave
The golden word TRAFALGAR on a wave.

The shield is a fine biographic gloss,
But were, alas! is Nelson's ancient cross?

Major-General Sir Frederick Loomis, who commanded the 3rd Canadian Division C.E.F. [Canadian Expeditionary Force] during the victorious Allied advance of 1918 in WWI, bears as an impalement to his personal arms the arms of the cities of Cambrai, France and Mons, Belgium.

Augmentations may also be granted for services over an extended period of time rather than for a single or specific noteworthy event or deed. An example of this is the 1963 grant to Vincent Massey, Canada's first native-born Governor General by the Queen of Canada, Elizabeth II of England. By Royal Warrant, the Queen granted Massey and his descendants the right to bear an honourable augmentation of *A Canton Azure charged with Our Crest of Canada* (On a canton azure, atop a torse of the colors [gules and argent], a lion passant guardant imperially crowned maintaining in its dexter forepaw a maple leaf or).

Forms of augmentation

The forms that augmentations of arms can take can be almost as varied as the coats of arms of the individuals themselves.

“[Augmentations] take many forms, but they are usually a charged canton, chief or escutcheon or even the impalement of a complete Coat of Arms.” (Oliver, p. 58)

In those cases where the augmentation takes the form of a complete coat of arms, It may be born impaled with or quartered with the bearer’s coat of arms. In such cases, the augmentation is usually placed in the “more honorable” part(s) of the shield; the dexter side if impaled, the first and fourth quarters if quartered.



An augmentation consisting of a coat of arms impaling the bearer’s personal coat of arms is most commonly seen with the augmentations that are styled “arms of office” – the arms of bishops and archbishops, or of the heralds’ offices mentioned above. In such cases, the arms of the office held, whether those of the Archbishop of Canterbury, Garter King of Arms, &co. are placed complete and entire on the dexter half of the shield (on the left side as you are looking at the arms), and the personal arms of the individual officeholder are placed complete and entire on the sinister half (the right side of the shield as you are looking at it). Such marshalled arms are not inheritable (that is to say, they are not passed along to any descendants of the officeholder), and, indeed, may only be borne while the person holds the office to which the arms on the dexter side of the shield belong.

An example of this type of marshaled augmentation not related to an office are the arms of Katherine Parr, who was granted the right by Henry VIII to add to her paternal arms, *Argent, two bars azure*?, *a bordure engrailed sable*?, an augmentation on the dexter side of the shield of *Or, on a pile between six roses gules three others argent*.

Related to the augmentation by impalement is an augmentation which becomes a quartering with the recipient’s original coat of arms. One illustration of this type of augmentation is that granted in 1389 by Charles VI to his cousin Charles d’Albret, Constable of France. d’Albret’s arms were *Gules plain*. To them was added a quartering of France ancient, resulting in the augmented arms of *Quarterly azure semy-de-lys or and gules*. (Woodward, pp. 330-331)



In another form of marshalling arms of office, Grand Masters of the Knights of the Hospital of St. John of Jerusalem, Rhodes and Malta (now Sovereign Military Order of Malta) quarter the arms of the Order with their personal arms.

Another example of this type of augmentation is the quartering allegedly granted [there is some question about it] to Sir William Pelham for his capture of King John of France at the Battle of Poitiers in 1356. Sir William was supposedly granted *Gules, two demi-belts palewise in fess, their buckles in chief, argent*, to be born

in quarters 2 and 3 with the Pelham coat of arms, *Azure, three pelicans argent, vulning themselves proper* in the first and fourth quarters of the shield. The charges in the augmentation represent the captured king's sword belt.

In the middle ages, addition of a quartering appears to have been the second most common method of augmenting arms.

The most common method of augmentation was the addition of a charge or group of charges to a coat of arms. This could take the form of a simple addition of a charge, and we will discuss such below, but more frequently it is found as the addition of a charged chief, charged canton, or charged inescutcheon.

Charged Chiefs

Charged chiefs are very commonly found as augmentations of arms, and indeed were frequently self-adopted, as well as granted, especially in Italy, to demonstrate political alliance or patronage. The Guelphs often added a "capo dell'Impero" a chief of the arms of the Holy Roman Empire, to demonstrate visually their alliance with or subjection to the Emperor. Their opponents, the Ghibellines, added a "capo d'Angiò", a chief of Anjou, a blue chief charged with three golden fleurs-de-lis and a red label, to demonstrate their allegiance to the Duke of Anjou, of whose arms the chief was made. Later, a red chief with a white cross, the "capo di Savoia" betokened allegiance to the House of Savoy, and a "capo d'Aragona", a chief of Aragon. Other chiefs of allegiance or alliance included the "capo di Francia" and the "capo di S. Stefano". Just prior to and during World War II, there was even a "capo di Fascisti" to show one's allegiance to the reigning Fascist government.



The oldest augmentation is a twelfth-century augmentation from the Holy Roman Empire, consisting of adding an imperial eagle to the arms of the recipient, one Julio Maroni. Later imperial augmentations of honor, especially in Italy, usually were so-called "imperial chiefs," being the coat of arms of the Holy Roman Empire on a chief.

This practice was a way for the emperors to reward their faithful followers in Italy, the Ghibelline party. The Papacy and the French house of Anjou, both supporters of the Guelfs, would grant augmentations of arms as well. The Angevins would grant chiefs of Anjou (France differenced with a label gules) and the Popes would grant chiefs of the Papal arms (gules, a tiara and in base two keys crossed in saltire or). Sometimes, the Papal ombrellino—basically a parasol—would be added in overall.



Other augmentations of chiefs included minor variations of the arms of the king, even when such arms themselves consisted of two coats of arms marshaled together. An example is the augmentation granted to Thomas Manners, the Earl of Rutland, by Henry VIII. To the Earl's arms, *Or, two bars azure* was added a chief quarterly *azure and gules, on the first and*

fourth two fleurs de lis or, the other quarters charged with a lion passant gardant of the last. In other words, he was granted a chief which was a slightly simplified version of the king's arms, Quarterly France and England.

Bailiffs Grand Cross of the Sovereign Military Order of Malta will add a chief of Malta (*Gules, a cross argent*) to their arms to signify their membership and status in that order.

As a final famous example, Admiral Viscount Nelson's second augmentation, mentioned above for his victory at the Battle of the Nile, was a charged chief.



Charged Cantons

Another commonly used augmentation is the addition of a charged canton (a charge consisting of the dexter chief, the upper left-hand as you are looking at it, corner of the shield) to a coat of arms. As only one example, Lane, of Bently, Staffordshire, was given *a canton of England* (*Gules in pale three lions passant guardant or*) to add to his arms of *Per fess or and azure, a chevron gules between three molets counterchanged*. This augmentation was granted in recognition of the courage of Jane Lane in assisting Charles II to escape after the defeat of his forces at the Battle of Worcester.

Another example is that of James Lane, Viscount Laneborough, to whose arms, *Argent a lion rampant gules in a bordure sable*, was added *a canton azure, thereon an harp or, string'd of the field [argent], ensign'd with an Imperial Crown [or]*.

Inescutcheons

Another augmentation granted by Charles II used another form of charged charge, an inescutcheon, or small shield placed on the arms. Keith, Earl of Kintore preserved the royal regalia of Scotland during the Commonwealth, and for doing so was given to add to his arms *Argent a chief paly of six or and gules, an inescutcheon gules charged with a sceptre and sword in saltire, in chief the Royal Crown, within an orle of thistles or*.

Miscellaneous Charges

Other charges have been added to coats of arms as augmentations. The single most famous is probably the "Scottish tressure", a *double tressure flory counter-flory*, which may be found on a number of Scottish coats of arms. For example, Scott of Thirlestane bears, *Or, on a bend azure a molet pierced between two crescents gold*, with an augmentation of a Scottish tressure azure.





de' Medici-Lorraine

In another well-known augmentation, Louis XII granted to Pietro de' Medici to add to his arms (*Or six roundels gules*), in place of the chiefmost gold roundel, *a roundel azure charged with three fleurs-de-lys Or*.

One not uncommon form of augmentation of arms found in Spain is the addition of a bordure compony of Castile and Leon; that is to say, a bordure of eight to twelve pieces, alternately red and white, the red blocks charged with a gold castle (for Castile) and the white blocks charged with a red rampant lion (for Leon). In England, the city of Hereford was granted an augmentation in September 1645 of a blue border charged with white saltires for "valiantly defending themselves against the Scottish army" during the English Civil War.

A form of augmentation that was adopted in Britain, especially during the Napoleonic era, was for military (and former military) men to add campaign medals and medallions to their arms. "Medal: in later coats of arms of very debased heraldry special medals or medallions, clasps, &c., granted for services in war have been frequently adopted." (Parker, cf. "Medal") Technically, these were not true augmentations, but charges on the arms themselves. Nonetheless, they certainly have much of the flavor and feel of an augmentation of arms.



Finally, some forms of augmentation do not appear directly on the coat of arms, the shield, at all, nor are they inheritable by the descendants of the grantee. Members of most of the knightly orders, the Order of the Garter, the Order of the Golden Fleece, the Order of the Thistle, the Order of the Elephant, and others, encircle the shield of their coats of arms with the collar and/or insignia of the Order to which they belong.



Augmentations in the S.C.A.

Augmentations awarded to individuals (or groups) by their Crowns may be registered by the SCA College of Arms. There are a few limitations, however. In general, augmentations must follow the rules of heraldry promulgated by the College of Arms. What this often means in practice is that the Crown may not specify the form the augmentation will take. This is in keeping with the SCA's policy on awards of arms: the Crown grants the award of arms, but does not specify the form the arms take. I cite the two most relevant rulings below, from the Precedents of the College of Arms.

“In response to a question from Triton: Yes, a king can grant a charged canton as an Augmentation of Arms. That is why we reserve charged cantons. The king grants the right to an augmentation and suggests what the elements should be. The heralds then rule on the exact form. For example, you should not place a metal canton on a metal field. You should not place an Augmentation on arms in such a way as to destroy the design of the arms. The recipient has a voice in how the augmentation looks. I therefore caution against a surprise granting of an Augmentation other than the simple grant of the right, and recommend that the form of Augmentation be worked out later.” (Wilhelm von Schlüssel, Laurel King of Arms, Cover Letter, January 18, 1983)

“On the granting of augmentations by the Crown: After long reflection and examination of past controversies on similar issues, I am compelled to agree with Crescent that the Crown of the Middle exceeded its authority in specifying, rather than suggesting, the form that the augmentation should take. In the early days of some Kingdoms, the issue of precisely who gives the actual arms, King or College of Arms, was a hotly debated issue, the final decision on this point being that the Crown gives the rank and the College gives the form of the arms. Precedent would indicate that the same division of authority must exist for augmentations: the Crown gives the honour and may suggest an appropriate form for the augmentation but the College must authorize the form before it may be registered (and, if one is a strict constructionist, before it may be used). An exception to this rule exists where the Kingdom has previously registered a standard augmentation for general or specific use (e.g., the augmentation registered by Atenveldt in 1979) or the augmentation is itself a registered badge of the Kingdom. In that case, the Crown can specify the use of the previously approved insignia as an augmentation, which the recipient may use or not, as he desires.” (Alisoun MacCoul of Elphane, Laurel Queen of Arms, Cover Letter, December 7, 1986, pp. 3-4)

In a search of the Armorial maintained by the College of Arms, I found fifty-six different registered augmentations of arms, the earliest dated September 1973 and the most recent, as of the date of this writing, April 1999. There are, I suspect, nearly as many augmentations of arms that have been granted by a Crown but which are not registered by the College, either because the Crown specified a form which was not registrable by the College or because the individual has simply never gotten around to registering it. And at least two individuals in the SCA have been granted, like Sir John Hawkins I, two augmentations.

Augmentations registered in the SCA

Aelflaed of Duckford. (8112 Atenveldt) Vert, a duck rampant argent, billed and membered Or, and on a ford proper an inescutcheon of augmentation bearing Azure, in pale a sun and a key fesswise within a bordure Or.

Alan Fairfax. (9907 Middle) Bendy sinister Or and gules, a canton sable, for augmentation the canton charged with an annulet Or.

Alwyn Stewart. (9101 Atenveldt) Gyronny azure and argent, a sea griffin erect, wings elevated and addorsed Or within a bordure counterchanged. As an augmentation, a canton gules charged with a sun in his splendor Or.

Anne Geoffreys of Warwick. (0002 Middle) Per bend sinister azure and gules semy of pheons Or, in dexter chief a natural tiger rampant contourny argent striped sable, as an augmentation maintaining between both paws an annulet Or

Artan macAilín. (9811 Outlands) Per pale argent and gules, a chevron between two mullets of four points and a tower, all within a bordure counterchanged, as an augmentation, surmounting the chevron, on an inescutcheon vert, a stag salient argent, surmounted by a ducal coronet, a bordure embattled Or.

Atenveldt, Kingdom of. (7908 Atenveldt) Augmentation. On a canton azure, a sun in his glory issuant from base Or, within a bordure argent.

Axemoor, Barony of. (9104 Meridies) Sable, in bend sinister an axe inverted reversed and an axe both bendwise sinister, Or between two scarpes, overall a laurel wreath argent, for an augmentation, in chief three mullets argent.

Barbara Giomaria di Roberto. (9805Q) Argent, a chevron inverted azure, in chief a brown hen rising wings elevated and addorsed proper, for augmentation in base on an escutcheon sable an decrescent and a mountain of three peaks coupé argent.

Brand the Black. (9906 Middle) Checky sable and Or, a seawolf rampant argent, as an augmentation on a canton gules a trillium flower argent.

Bruce Draconarius of Mistholme. (9510 Caid) Azure, on a chief embattled argent a dragon couchant azure winged sable, as an augmentation the dragon maintaining between its forefeet an escutcheon azure charged with four crescents conjoined in saltire, horns outward argent.

Caitríona ní Bhriain. (9607 Caid) Per pale gules and sable, a pale between two harps Or, for augmentation, in chief on an inescutcheon azure four crescents conjoined in saltire, horns outward argent.

Constance d'Orleans. (9101 Atenveldt) Or, a lion couchant vert, armed and langued purpure, on a base nebuly vert three fleurs-de-lys Or. As an augmentation, a canton gules charged with a sun in his splendor Or.

Cymer of the Darkwater. (9001 Outlands) Augmentation. Barry wavy azure and argent, a swan rousant sable, beaked and membered gules, gorged of a comital coronet Or, and a gore sinister purpure.

Darkwater, Barony of. (9405 Trimaris) Sable, within a laurel wreath two dolphins haurient respectant Or, on a chief wavy argent three trident heads gules, as an augmentation, on the chief a canton throughout in base azure charged with a triskele argent.

Elffin of Mona. (9901 Drachenwald) Augmentation of arms. Vert, an annulet rayonny on the outer edge argent and in chief a sword fesswise proper, and as an augmentation, on a chief Or a dragon passant coward sable ducally crowned gules.

Eric of Telemark. (9510 Trimaris) Azure, a ram's head cabossed between six axes in annulo argent between, as an augmentation, three triskeles argent each charged with a tau cross azure.

Fiona Averylle of Maidenhead. (9210 Middle) Gules, an elephant passant trumpeting, on a chief raguly argent two annulets gules, and for augmentation, in center chief an inescutcheon sable charged with an annulet Or.

Francois duVent. (9703 Meridies) Azure, a cross formy throughout argent between in bend two fleurs-de-lys Or, entwined about the lower arm of the cross a snake, its head issuant over the sinister chief of the cross erminois, and in augmentation in sinister chief three mullets one and two argent.

Gerald of Ipsley. (8905 West) Sable, in cross four leopard's heads Or, jessant-de-lys argent, in canton for augmentation a poppy slipped and leaved Or, all within a bordure argent.

Giovanni di Sienna. (8807 Outlands) Or, a cross voided sable surmounted by a rose gules, barbed and seeded proper, between two goblets in bend sinister gules, augmented with a canton of Or, a key fesswise gules within a bordure embattled vert.

Hastini Chandra. (9906 Atenveldt) Or, an Indian elephant passant gules, winged sable, for an augmentation, on an escutcheon azure, a sun in glory and a bordure Or.

Headless House. (7309 West) Per fess azure and vert, in base a tower argent couped at the line of division, on a canton vert, a crown Or.

Heinrich Kreiner. (9711Q) Per saltire Or and azure, a hurst of oak trees proper, as an augmentation on a canton sable, a decrescent argent, a base indented of three points argent.

James Eldon of York. (9810 Outlands) Azure, three Celtic crosses and on a point pointed argent a dragon passant contourny azure, and as an augmentation on a canton vert, in pale a portcullis Or and a crescent argent, a bordure embattled Or.

Jan w Orzeldom. (9312 Ansteorra) Per pale gules and argent, in pale a chevronel couped palewise and two crosses patty counterchanged, as an augmentation, on an escutcheon azure, two bears passant erect addorsed regardant argent, each maintaining a berdiche proper, in base an annulet Or.

Janeltis Karaine, Starfollower. (8212 An Tir) Augmentation. Azure, a beardless winged unicorn salient to sinister argent, wings elevated and addorsed Or, gorged of a crown indented of three points gules, between in chief three mullets of eight points and in base two of the same in bend sinister Or.

Jararvellir, Barony of. (9502 Middle) Azure, on a fess between two catfish counternaient Or a laurel wreath vert, as an augmentation on a canton argent a pale gules overall a dragon passant vert.

John the Bearkiller. (9102 Meridies) Gules, a sword argent hilted bendy sinister sable and Or, overall a brown bear's head sinister facing erased, eyes closed proper, langued sable. As an augmentation, in dexter chief three mullets in fess argent.

Jonathan DeLaufyson Macebearer. (9204Ansteorra) Azure, a saltire sable rayonny argent, overall a mace inverted argent, as an augmentation on an inescutcheon in honor point Or, a mullet of five greater and five lesser points between in pale a crown of three points sable and issuant from base a demi-sun gules.

Justin du Roc. (9702 Atenveldt) Per bend sinister azure and counter-ermine, in dexter chief an Arabian roc volant to sinister, wings addorsed argent grasping in its talons an elephant statant proper, in augmentation on an escutcheon per pale argent and azure a sun in splendor Or.

Justin du Roc. (9601 Atenveldt) Per bend sinister azure and sable, a madu argent, as an augmentation in canton a sun in glory Or.

Justinian Clarus. (9109 Middle) Azure, on a bend sinister embattled counterembattled voided humetty plain between two columns argent, a straight trumpet Or, and in augmentation the column in dexter chief enfiled by an annulet Or.

Kathryn of Iveragh. (8501 Atenveldt) Per bend sinister wavy sable and gules, in dexter chief three passion nails inverted bendwise in bend sinister gules enflamed Or and as an augmentation in sinister base an inescutcheon of azure, a demi-sun issuant from base Or within a bordure argent.

Kevin Peregrynne. (8207 West) Augmentation. Sable, on a bend sinister argent a peregrine falcon descending, talons extended and wings addorsed azure, on a canton argent a pile gules charged with an antique crown voided Or.

Mark Lasie of Westminster. (9303 Outlands) Per fess gules and sable, a saltire argent, and for augmentation, an escutcheon overall Or charged with a pair of stag's attires sable.

Megara di Alessandra. (9711Q) Sable, a fury rampant affronty, sinister hand lowered, vested argent, winged Or, maintaining in her dexter hand a torch bendwise sinister proper, as an augmentation maintaining in her sinister hand a round shield Or charged with a unicornate natural sea horse azure.

Meri En Heh. (7910 Ansteorra) Augmentation. On a canton azure issuant from base a demi-sun Or within a bordure argent. (to be placed upon a household badge)

Meridies, Kingdom of. (9603 Meridies) Three mullets one and two argent. (Registered as a badge, the kingdom uses this to grant to individuals as an augmentation of arms. *See, e.g.* Francois duVent, above, and Barony of the Osprey, below.)

Michael the Black. (7908) Augmentation. On an inescutcheon sable, fimbriated, an Arabic oil lamp Or.

Minowara Kiritsubo. (8305Q) Sable, an annulet surmounted by three dragon's claws in pall conjoined at the tips argent between, as an augmentation, in fess two bezants and in pale in annulo an Oriental dragon passant to sinister and another passant inverted Or.

Osprey, Barony of the. (9603 Meridies) Azure, an osprey stooping within a laurel wreath, as an augmentation in chief three mullets in chevron argent.

Robert of Dunharrow. (7910 West) Augmentation. A sinister canton per bend azure and checky sable and gules, in sinister chief three bezants. (For Exchequer of the West)

Robert of Dunharrow. (7910 West) Augmentation. On a canton argent fimbriated gules, a pile gules charged with a mullet pierced argent. (For the Order of the Silver Molet)

Rondallyn of Gòlgotha. (9408 Meridies) Gules, three holly leaves conjoined in pall between three double roses Or, and for augmentation three mullets in chief one and two argent.

Sigmund the Wingfooted. (8811 Ansteorra) Augmentation. On a canton Or, in pale a crown of three points and a mullet of five greater and five lesser points sable.

South Downs, Barony of the. (8811 Meridies) Augmentation. Per pale sable and azure, three mullets one and two within a laurel wreath argent.

Stefan de Lorraine. (7908 West) Augmentation. On a canton gules, a pile argent charged with a mullet pierced gules. (For the Order of the Silver Molet)

Taliesynne Nycheymwrh yr Anghyfannedd. (9110 Trimaris) Quarterly sable and gules, a unicorn rampant to sinister argent charged with a pricspur Or, fimbriated sable, as an augmentation, an orle surmounted by and orle of triskeles, argent.

Torbin of Amberhall. (8304 Middle) Augmentation. On a canton argent, a pale gules surmounted by a dragon passant vert.

Torin of Hyrcania. (9904 Middle) Augmentation of arms. Gyronny argent and sable, in chief a torteau as an augmentation, upon the torteau a dragon passant argent.

Trelon of the Wood. (8911 Atenveldt) Or, a lion salient queue-forchy gules, gorged of a ducal coronet Or, maintaining in its dexter forepaw for augmentation a baton sable, within an orle of pine trees coupé proper.

Tristan Alexander. (9502Q) Azure, a merman affronty regardant maintaining in the sinister hand a trident, within a bordure argent, as an augmentation, in the merman's dexter hand a targe argent charged with an escutcheon of sable, a decrescent and a base indented of three points argent.

Valens of Flatrock. (9305 Calontir) Vert, a bend azure fimbriated Or between a tower argent and a castle Or, and for augmentation, on a canton purpure a cross of Calatrava within a bordure Or.

Vladimir Ivanovich Aleksandrov. (9909 Atlantia) Per chevron gules and argent two otters combattant and another rampant to sinister, all maintaining glaives counterchanged, for augmentation, a unicornate natural seahorse erect contourny maintaining in its tail a lance and pennon Or between the otters in chief.

Wyvernwoode, Barony of. (9804 Trimaris) Vert, a wyvern passant argent, winged and bellied within a laurel wreath Or and as an augmentation on a chief wavy argent three triskeles azure.

Non-SCA Augmentations protected by the SCA

British Columbia|9801L|d|Barry wavy argent and azure, issuant from base a demi sun Or on a chief the Union Jack augmented with a coronet Or. |(Important non-SCA arms)

Buchanan of that ilk|9412L|a|Or, a lion rampant sable, for augmentation, a double tressure flory counter-flory sable. |(Important non-SCA arms)

Douglas|9412L|a|Argent, a heart gules and on a chief azure three mullets argent, for augmentation, the heart crowned proper. |(Important non-SCA arms)

Horatio Nelson, Viscount Sir|9412L|a|Or, a cross flory sable and overall on a bend gules another engrailed Or charged with three grenades sable flammant proper, for augmentation, on a chief wavy argent a palm tree between a disabled ship and a ruinous battery all issuant from waves of the sea all proper, for second augmentation (posthumous), on a fess wavy overall azure the word TRAFALGAR Or. |(Important non-SCA arms)

Horatio Nelson, Viscount Sir|9412L|a|Or, a cross flory sable and overall on a bend gules another engrailed Or charged with three grenades sable flammant proper, for augmentation, on a chief wavy argent a palm tree between a disabled ship and a ruinous battery all issuant from waves of the sea all proper. |(Important non-SCA arms)

Howard, Duke of Norfolk, Earl Marshal of England|9412L|a|Gules, a bend between six crosses crosslet fitchy argent, for augmentation, on the bend in chief an escutcheon Or charged with a demi-lion its mouth pierced by an arrow within a double tressure flory counter-flory gules. |(Important non-SCA arms)

Malta|9412L|b|Per pale argent and gules, for augmentation, in canton the George Cross proper. |(Important non-SCA flag)

Stewart, royal house of Scotland|9412L|a|Or, a fess chequy argent and azure, for augmentation, the fess within a double tressure flory counter-flory gules. |(Important non-SCA arms)

**Relevant (And Some Probably Irrelevant)
SCA Precedents Re: Augmentations
(in chronological order)**

NOTE: The following are rulings by various Laurel Sovereigns of Arms regarding augmentations. They do not always reflect current SCA practice, but rather describe the practice at the time they were given. Where current practice is significantly different, I have tried to note it in brackets after the quoted precedent.

Each precedent is followed by the individual Laurel Sovereign of Arms who made it, the document in which it was first published, and the date that document was published. LoAR is the Letter of Acceptances and Returns, where the name and armory decisions of Laurel are published. Many of the LoARs and their accompanying cover letters are available on the internet at <http://www.sca.org/heraldry/loar>.

Then came a petition from Stefan de Lorraine, Seneschal of the Kingdom of the West, saying that Headless House had done many good services to the Kingdom, and that he, the Lord Laurel, and the Crown Prince wished to give them an award, perhaps crediting the throne of the Kingdom of the West with a household badge to be awarded to deserving groups: perhaps a green crown on a gold field or the reverse. Lady Karina suggested that he give them a charter to call themselves the Royal Headless House, but on the suggestion of the Lord Laurel, the Lord Clarion approved that an augmentation of their banner and badge be given, perhaps a canton of the arms of the Kingdom to be given in combination with a scroll of appreciation. (Randall of Hightower, 25 Apr 71, p. 8)

What N. desired was nothing more nor less than an addition to his former arms [blazon] of a double tressure axy-counteraxy, the inner sable, the outer gules ... Now, N. is highly interested in things Scottish, and it is easy to see whence he got this tressure. For a double tressure fleury-counterfleury was part of the Royal Arms of Scotland and was occasionally given to earls or higher, by the King, for an augmentation of honour. We have no augmentations as yet except the canton of the royal arms counterchanged which was given to Headless House. And in any case, how can he give himself an augmentation? We could try to convince the Baron to give him an augmentation, but imprimis he isn't ready for it and secundus it is not our business to convince the baron to do anything ... The other alternative is to reserve tressures, either altogether or as possible augmentations in the future. Therefore we referred the entire matter to the Imperial College of Arms. (Karina of the Far West, 11 Jul 71, p. 3) [Who reserved tressures altogether. Karina of the Far West]

It is common in Europe to put suggestions of the royal arms on the arms of noblemen, especially those in service to the crown ... but unlike our counterparts in the original Middle Ages, we are interested in showing not relationships but individualities. (Karina of the Far West, 11 Jul 71, p. 4)

Bordures, chiefs, and augmentations are exempt from the laws of tincture. (Karina of the Far West, 12 Mar 72, p. 2) [Current SCA policy is that they are all subject to the rule of tincture.]

Augmentations are listed separately. The original arms are unchanged unless, as in this case, they are modified to make room for augmentations. The bearer of the arms still retains the right to display the original arms if desired. Wilhelm von Schlüssel [LoAR 24 Oct 79], p. 13

You cannot have charged cantons or quarters, either dexter or sinister, with straight lines of division. Wilhelm von Schlüssel [LoAR 13 Feb 80], p. 6

While I do not like putting banners on banners, I cannot construe this as a form of augmentation. Any other such use must, however, avoid conflicts both with the whole blazon, and with the blazon of the device on the gonfanon. Wilhelm von Schlüssel [LoAR 18 Mar 80], p. 1

The pall on the bezant looks like a form of augmentation. Wilhelm von Schlüssel [LoAR 18 Mar 80], p. 4

A person may not place his or her own badge on an inescutcheon, lozenge or cartouche on his or her device, as that would seem to be a form of marshaling or else an augmentation. A person could place his or her badge upon a roundel and place this on his or her device. This is the proper shape for a badge, after all, and will not be considered a form of marshaling. You could also place the badge on the sail of a ship, or the sleeve of a maunch, or some other non-marshaling usage. In any event the addition cannot cause the device to exceed the limit on complexity. Wilhelm von Schlüssel [Cover Letter 20 Oct 80], p. 3 [This does not match current SCA policy]

Barons and baronesses are not allowed to bear the arms of their baronies in any form on their personal arms unless the king has granted them those specific arms as an augmentation, either permanently or for the duration of their office. Wilhelm von Schlüssel [Cover Letter 10 Mar 81], p. 2

Do not use the arms of the Barony as a part of a badge of the Barony. The result is a roundel with a laurel wreath too small to make out. Besides, it looks like an augmentation. Wilhelm von Schlüssel [LoAR 13 Aug 81], p. 11

Examples of charges that nobody in the SCA may use are: the Tudor rose, the Red Hand of Ulster, a white label (reserved to the British royal family), a double tressure flory-counter-flory (reserved as an augmentation from the crown of Scotland), a charged inescutcheon (it would look like arms of pretense), a charged canton (it would look like an augmentation of arms), a baton sinister (reserved to the British royal family), a triple eagle (reserved to the Holy Roman Emperor), a papal cross (reserved to the Pope), or a crowned thistle (the badge of Scotland). Wilhelm von Schlüssel [RfS 1 Oct 81], p. 11

The device is rejected because the chief appears to be an augmentation of Brittany. Try moving the chief up off the bend sinister in the usual manner. Chiefs overall were generally only used for augmentations. Wilhelm von Schlüssel [LoAR 19 Apr 82], p. 7

In response to a question from Triton: Yes, a king can grant a charged canton as an Augmentation of Arms. That is why we reserve charged cantons. The king grants the right to an augmentation and suggests what the elements should be. The heralds then rule on the exact form. For example, you should not place a metal canton on a metal field. You should not place an Augmentation on arms in such a way as to destroy the design of the arms. The recipient has a voice in how the augmentation looks. I therefore caution against a surprise granting of an Augmentation other than

the simple grant of the right, and recommend that the form of Augmentation be worked out later. (Wilhelm von Schlüssel, Cover Letter January 18, 1983)

The form of the augmentation and its location on the arms must be specified. [Baldwin of Erebor, LoAR 20 October 1985, p. 14]

An augmentation ought to be suggestive of the reason it was given. N., for example, bears the symbol of the University of Ithra, which he founded; and M., the arms of the Exchequer of the West, which office he held for ten years. [Baldwin of Erebor, LoAR 20 October 1985, p. 14]

On the granting of augmentations by the Crown:

After long reflection and examination of past controversies on similar issues, I am compelled to agree with Crescent that the crown of the Middle exceeded its authority in specifying, rather than suggesting, the form that the augmentation should take. In the early days of some Kingdoms, the issue of precisely who gives the actual arms, King or College of Arms, was a hotly debated issue, the final decision on this point being that the Crown gives the rank and the College gives the form of the arms. Precedent would indicate that the same division of authority must exist for augmentations: the crown gives the honour and may suggest an appropriate form for the augmentation but the College must authorize the form before it may be registered (and, if one is a strict constructionist, before it may be used). An exception to this rule exists where the Kingdom has previously registered a standard augmentation for general or specific use (e.g., the augmentation registered by Atenveldt in 1979) or the augmentation is itself a registered badge of the Kingdom. In that case, the Crown can specify the use of the previously approved insignia as an augmentation, which the recipient may use or not, as he desires.

It should be noted that Master Charles informed the College of the augmentation, but did not, properly speaking, submit the augmentation for the consideration of the College. No depiction of the augmentation as Duchess Caelyn uses it has been presented to the College, nor has there been any request for approval. As a result, virtually no commentary has been directed to the issue of the acceptability of the augmentation.

I would request Dragon to submit the augmentation formally to the College for discussion as soon as may be possible, being careful to accompany the submission with a depiction of the augmentation as it is actually used. This will allow a proper discussion of the limits to be placed upon the use of chain in Society armoury. Since all that is technically restricted at the moment is "a circular chain", this discussion seems long overdue. (Alisoun MacCoul of Elphane, Cover Letter, December 7, 1986, pp. 3-4)

Note: since this augmentation was stated in the letter of intent to have been granted by the Crown to all dukes, it should be registered to the kingdom for that purpose, rather than to the four individuals currently covered by the royal decree. (Alisoun MacCoul of Elphane, LoAR 28 December 1986, p. 1)

[Gules, (with charges), on a canton sable, fimbriated argent, (charges)] This submission points out many of the problems which occur when a "modern" canton of augmentation is added to a period-style device without consideration for the overall design. [Returned for non-period style; placement of canton reduced identifiability of low contrast overall charge; fimbriation is thin-line

heraldry; unacceptable level of complexity (five layers).] (Alisoun MacCoul of Elphane, LoAR 23 April 1988, p. 16)

The "bordure" about the canton of augmentation is clearly there only to avoid breaking tincture and ill succeeds for it is so small as to be nearly invisible at any distance and in any other context would be decried as "thin line heraldry". (Alisoun MacCoul of Elphane, LoAR 23 April 1988, p. 16)

Even for an augmentation this adds an unacceptable level of complexity since the charged canton is placed on top of a charge overall, making the canton itself the fourth and fifth layer of the design. (Alisoun MacCoul of Elphane, LoAR 23 April 1988, p. 16) [This restriction is no longer the case]

[Sable, a bordure ermine, overall a canton purpure] A canton should not overlie a bordure in this manner and, in any case, the purpure canton on the sable field breaks the well-established rules on contrast. There was a general feeling that the canton **did** have the appearance of an augmentation and ... the submitter should be strongly encouraged to drop it. [Device returned] (Alisoun MacCoul of Elphane, LoAR 29 May 1988, p. 17)

The overall augmentation was so complex that no one in the College who was not already familiar with the submitter was able to determine what the underlying arms were, i.e., to identify the submitter without knowing in advance who he was. The essence of the augmentation is that it is something added to a set of arms to indicate honour. In this case, some thought the original arms were this design minus the complex orle, others interpreted it to be the design minus the gorged head, none automatically assumed that the orle and head (which is in base, the less honourable position, which is generally not used for augmentations) were combined to form the augmentation. (Alisoun MacCoul of Elphane, LoAR June 1988, p. 20)

The Kingdom's arms are the arms of the king and should be worn only by the king himself and his herald, when speaking as the king's voice. After some consideration, we have come to the conclusion that it is inappropriate that the arms of a Kingdom should be used as an augmentation, even if the recipient is entitled to bear a coronet on his or her arms. The badge of a Kingdom or a rendition of the arms without the laurel wreath can, however, be used. (Alisoun MacCoul of Elphane, LoAR August 1988, p. 16)

The use of the inescutcheon here for the augmentation would seem to be prohibited by the ban on appearance of pretense in AR10d: note that such usual insignia of augmentation as chiefs, cantons, bases are not included here. ... Pending a demonstration of the positive advantages to be gained from changing the rules to allow such an inescutcheon of augmentation at the honour point, we cannot see changing the current clearly expressed policy. (Alisoun MacCoul of Elphane, LoAR 21 May 1989, p. 16) [Escutcheons are now permitted for augmentations]

There is no doubt that the addition of this augmentation raises the complexity level of an already complex device several degrees.... Adding the [augmentation] inescutcheon adds a further two layers as well as three tinctures and four types of charge, all depicted at extremely small scale.... This is just too much complexity. (Alisoun MacCoul of Elphane, LoAR 21 May 1989, p. 16) [This no longer reflects current SCA practice]

[Sable, in bend sinister an axe inverted reversed and an axe both bendwise sinister Or between two scarpes, overall a laurel wreath vert, for an augmentation, in chief three mullets argent] "Yes, this augmentation makes their arms much more complex. There are few augmentations (or for that matter arms to which augmentations could be added) which do not make the underlying arms much more complex. This augmentation did not seem to go beyond the bounds of allowable complexity for an augmentation." (Da'ud ibn Auda, LoAR 12/90 p. 8).

"While the [augmentation has] a tendency to unbalance the device somewhat, it is Laurel's feeling that we need to loosen the application of our standards a little with regard to augmentations, which by their very nature will add complexity to and not infrequently serve to unbalance a device." (Da'ud ibn Auda, LoAR 2/91 p. 9).

[Azure, a saltire sable rayonny argent and overall a mace inverted argent as an augmentation on an inescutcheon in honor point Or, a mullet of five greater and five lesser points between in pale a crown of three points sable and issuant from base a demi-sun gules.] "The only real issue which would prevent registration here is the complexity of the base device and the augmentation (total complexity count of 11: five tinctures — azure, sable, argent, Or, gules — and six charges — saltire, mace, inescutcheon mullet, crown, and demi-sun). Laurel has said before (LoAR December 1990 p. 8) that augmentations by their very nature add complexity to a device, and augmented arms should not be held to comply to the same standards as unaugmented devices. {Indeed, Laurel finds a certain sense of appeal to Lord Codex' suggestion that augmentations consisting of separable units (such as a canton or inescutcheon) should be counted as a single charge for the purposes of the 'rule of thumb' of the complexity guidelines, ignoring the charges and tinctures upon the augmentation. Using such a standard here would give a complexity count of six with three tinctures — azure, sable and argent — and three charges — saltire, mace and inescutcheon. Counting the augmentation as a single charge and its primary tincture (here, Or) may also be a reasonable rule of thumb. Laurel makes no ruling on this suggestion, but recommends it, with thanks to Lord Codex, to the College for their consideration in the development of a more objective standard.}" (Da'ud ibn Auda, LoAR 4/92 pp. 2-3)

"For those commenters who suggested that this augmentation was presumptuous of Ansteorra, I would point out that by removing the laurel wreath and orle from the Ansteorran arms, this coat would be registerable as a device to any royal peer, as it has two CDs from Ansteorra. Yes, it *is* highly reminiscent (which I believe was the Crown's intent in granting this augmentation), but it is not, by our Rules, presumptuous of the Kingdom." (Da'ud ibn Auda, LoAR 4/92 p. 3).

[An augmentation of an inescutcheon in honor point, bearing the arms of an SCA barony] "While most of the College, and Laurel himself, has no problem with the use of an escutcheon as a vehicle for an augmentation {if I may quote Lady Harpy: 'the whole point of forbidding the charging of inescutcheons and cantons in a way that resembles an augmentation is so that you *can* do it when you *want* an augmentation.'} mundane and Society precedent reserve inescutcheons of actual arms to those legitimately claiming the right to those arms. In mundane usage, this augmentation is a claim that [the submitter] is married to the Baroness of [the barony used for the augmentation] and that their children will inherit it. This is an inappropriate heraldic claim, and violates the standards set by Corpora IV.C.3.a., that the standards set by the College of Arms 'shall be designed ... to avoid the appearance ... of false claims.'

{There is also some question whether an individual or a group can grant the right to their undifferenced arms for use by someone else. The use of letters of permission to conflict (which is what Laurel considers the petition by the members of the Barony [whose arms are used in the augmentation] to be) in the College has always been to allow a reduced standard of difference, not to allow the use of arms undifferenced. It is Laurel's belief that the only way the use of arms registered to one party may be granted undifferenced to another is to transfer those arms, with the appropriate letters signed by both parties transferring the arms and accepting them. }

A second issue is the use of a laurel wreath on arms registered to an individual. Laurel wreaths have always been reserved in the Society to branches of the Society, and may not be registered to an individual. (see, e.g., Baldwin of Erebor, LoAR of 10 March 1985, p. 4) It is Laurel's belief, and that of many of the commenting heralds, that this restriction applies to augmentations as well as to devices, the same way that coronets and loops of chain, even as augmentations, have been restricted to those who may rightfully bear them.

As has been noted by prior Laurel precedent, no Crown may specify the form an augmentation (or arms, for that matter), may take. Relevant prior rulings on this are found in the Cover Letter of 28 January 1983, p. 4; the Cover letter of 7 December 1986, pp. 3-4; and the Minutes of the Meeting of the Board of Directors of 24 January 1988, p. 12.

It would seem that the simplest solution for this would be to make a resubmission of this and remove the laurel wreath from the augmentation. The augmentation would then be sufficiently different enough (with the 'letter of permission to conflict' from the Barony) from the arms of the Barony to avoid the problems of perceived presumption and at the same time to avoid the restriction on the registration of laurel wreaths." (Da'ud ibn Auda, LoAR 4/92 pp. 17-18).

[Argent, a gauntlet gules] There was some concern whether this was too reminiscent of the Red Hand of Ulster, a prohibited charge in the SCA. It turns out that the Red Hand of Ulster was used as an augmentation, not as a main charge. We would certainly return a device that used a canton argent charged with a hand gules, and perhaps even a chief argent charged with a hand gules would be too suggestive; but the use of red hands, gloves, gauntlets, etc., on white backgrounds is not, in and of itself, cause for return. (Bruce Draconarius of Mistholme, LoAR August 1992, p. 4)

Augmentations in Society armory should always be blazoned as such; the bearer has the option of displaying the armory with or without the augmentation, and conflict should be checked against both versions. (Bruce Draconarius of Mistholme, LoAR September 1992, p. 26)

[Gules, an elephant passant trumpeting, on a chief raguly argent two annulets gules, and for augmentation, in center chief an inescutcheon sable charged with an annulet Or.] We will allow augmentations to use quaternary charges in simple cases, such as this one. The blazon reflects the fact that the device may be displayed either with or without the augmentation; conflict should be checked against both forms. (Bruce Draconarius of Mistholme, LoAR October 1992, p. 13)

Charged cantons may not be used except in the case of augmentations of arms. This prohibition dates from at least 28 Dec 82 and is still in force. This must be returned, per Rule XI.1. (Bruce Draconarius of Mistholme, LoAR January 1993, p. 25)

The orle flory has been disallowed for SCA use: it's too reminiscent of the double tressure flory counter-flory, which is an augmentation from the Scots crown. This precedent has been affirmed

as recently as the LoAR of Sept 89. Indeed, given period renditions of the arms of Scotland with an orle flory instead of a double tressure flory counter-flory (e.g. Siebmacher, plate 2), and given a recent statement from the Lyon Office of Scotland declining to register orles flory without the Queen's express command, the precedent seems worth keeping. (Bruce Draconarius of Mistholme, LoAR August 1993, p. 19)

The "*double tressure flory*" is misdrawn here; a double tressure flory would be drawn with single fleurs underlying both tressures. More importantly, however, it infringes on the *double tressure flory counter-flory*, the Royal augmentation of Scotland, a restricted charge which may not be registered in the SCA. [Da'ud ibn Auda, LoAR December 1993, p.12]

Despite the blazon of the "chief", the visual reality of this device is one of an Or field with two charged cantons. Charged cantons are reserved in the SCA for augmentations. [Da'ud ibn Auda, LoAR December 1993, p.23]

We then have the question of registering two different augmentations to an individual. (Admiral Nelson's augmentations, and the way they make his arms nearly unidentifiable in the process, was mentioned a few times.) However, augmentations of arms, like other honors in the SCA, proceed from the Crown, and we have not previously required an account from the Crown as to why an honor was being given. We may among ourselves question the propriety of double augmentations, and indeed, if consulted in advance may advise *contra* concerning the wisdom of presenting two augmentations of arms to an individual, but such a grant of (second) augmentation is well within the prerogative of the Crown and not that of the College. (Da'ud ibn Auda, LoAR September 1995, p. 28)

The first is that the augmentation conflicts with both the seal of the Dragon Principal Herald (it is a tinctured version of same, and therefore can be considered an exact conflict) and with the populace badge of the Middle Kingdom (*Argent, a pale gules, overall a dragon passant vert*) with only one CD for the posture of the overall charge. For the first conflict, there is an additional issue which will be discussed in the following paragraphs. For the second conflict, we need to receive a letter of permission to conflict signed by the Crown or the kingdom Seneschal. It has always been the policy of the College not to assume that permission is given even if explicitly stated in an LoI (which was not the case here), but to require a copy of a written letter of permission to conflict. (Apropos of this is the motto on the seal of the office of the Laurel Sovereign of Arms, *Semper Litteris Mandate*, "always require/get it in writing".)

The exact conflict with the seal of the office of the Dragon Principal Herald is more troublesome for a couple of reasons. One is that we have not previously allowed armory, even as an augmentation, to be an identical version of the armory of a group or office, whether or not a letter of permission to conflict existed. (See, e.g., the discussion of the proposed augmentation for Jan w Orzeldom, LoAR April 1992, p. 17: "There is also some question whether an individual or a group can grant the right to their undifferenced arms for use by someone else. The use of letters of permission to conflict (which is what Laurel considers the petition by the members of the Barony of Bjornsborg to be) in the College has always been to allow a reduced standard of difference, not to allow the use of arms undifferenced. It is Laurel's belief that the only way the use of arms registered to one party may be granted undifferenced to another is to transfer those arms, with the appropriate letters signed by both parties transferring the arms and accepting them.")

The second reason it is troublesome is that it was a period practice for the holders of an office to marshal the arms of the office with their personal arms. This does not appear to apply to former holders of the office, but only to incumbents. As a consequence, this augmentation appears to be a claim to be the current Dragon Principal Herald, which does then fall afoul of our rules against the claim to "status or powers the submitter does not possess" (RfS XI).

For three reasons, then, we are required to return this augmentation of arms: for lack of a letter of permission to conflict with the badge of the Middle Kingdom, *Argent, a pale gules, overall a dragon passant vert*; because it is an exact conflict with the seal of the Dragon Principal Herald, for which exact conflict permission cannot be granted; and because it marshals the arms of an office with personal arms when the submitter is not the officeholder, in violation of RfS XI. (Da'ud ibn Auda, LoAR September 1995, pp. 28-29)

The basic question raised by this submission is can an augmentation break the rule of tincture? While there is period evidence of the arms of the Empire (*Or, an eagle displayed sable*) being used as an augmentation (and the proposed augmentation here is the arms of the Middle Kingdom, minus the laurel wreath), only one example of period use of an augmentation breaking the rule of tincture was found. Barring documentation of large numbers of period augmentations that break the rule of tincture, we are unwilling to register this practice. (Jelle of Armida, LoAR August 1997, p. 26)

There are two CD's between the augmentation and the Baronial arms. If, however, there was only one CD it would be returned for conflict since augmentations must be free of conflict. (Jelle of Armida, LoAR October 1998, p. 11)

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