

D U C T U S

Newsletter of the Lochac College of Scribes

Volume 7 Issue 2

December 2001

The Way We Were

Here we are again at the end of another year, and another issue of Ductus. This has been a year of enormous change and growth for the College, and as I result of everyone's vision, support and sheer hard work the College is a leaner, meaner scribing machine for the next millenium, and an organisation we can all be very proud of.

To summarise these reforms:

- Funding problems solved by procuring ongoing Principality funding.
- Delivery and damage problems solved by implementing postage policies
- Backlog trimmed to a workable size, and virtual elimination of AA backlog
- Turnaround time dramatically decreased by implementation of signature file
- Operations revision and streamlining, resulting in better data management and communications, and corresponding decrease in discrepancies (lost or duplicated scrolls)

There has been a great deal more behind-the-scenes stuff, but these are the biggies. I would like to extend my thanks to the very hard-working membership of the College (and to those of you who have been slacking, I know where you live!), and am grateful for your feedback, support and confidence throughout the year; and I'm sure that together we can achieve even greater things in the coming year.

The Number of the Beast

Although of course still with us, the backlog has been well and truly tamed, which is a heroic feat by the scribes of Lochac-well done everyone! The breakdown of the available scrolls as of this date is as follows:

AA: 17 (up 6 from June)

AA with Leaf of Merit: 1 (no change)

AA with Rose Leaf: 0 (no change)

Grant of Arms: 2 (no change)

GA with Royal Company of Archers: 1 (no change)

GA with Royal Company of Yeomen: 0
(down 1 from June)

Patent-KSCA: 8 (down 3 from June)

Patent-OL: 19 (down 3 from June)

Patent-OP: 35 (up 1 from June)

Patent-Viscounty: 11 (down 1 from June)

Total: 94 (down 1 from June 2001, down from 205 June 2000)

But Wait, There's More

Even with all we've done, we can't afford to relax just yet. Obviously the first priority is to maintain our stranglehold on the backlog. If we can keep on top of that, it will give us the time to do the other things we have to do. The second priority is to continue to recruit and train scribes, the more hands we have on deck the easier vanquishing the Backlog Monster will be!

In addition, we must look to the future. Kingdom is only six very short months away. Before July, we will need to:

- Prepare a new charter for the operation on the College for presentation to the Crown of Lochac;
- Create and print designs for the new Royal Patent Superblanks
- Prepare 2002 edition of Scribe's Manual, including new scroll texts
- Design and register new Arms/badge for the College

I am seeking your feedback on all of these matters, and anything else you feel may affect the College. Please contact me with your input and have your say in building the College of our new Kingdom.

New Scribes

I would like to extend a welcome to:

Nicolette de Fay
Elsbeth Caerwent
Jean-Paul Blacquiere

Welcome, gentle ladies and lord, we are pleased to have you as part of the College. May your association be an enjoyable and productive one.

Congratulations

To Branwen of Werchesvorde, the previous Provost, who as elevated to the Order of the Laurel by the Crown of Atenveldt in October for her great skill in then scribal arts (among many other things).

Scribes At Festival

This year there will once again be a scribal pavillion at Festival. Classes and workshops

will be held every afternoon, or you can make arrangements for some one-on-one time with the Provost at a time to suit. I hope to see you all there!

Overdue Assignments

The following scribes now have overdue assignments. Please contact me ***urgently*** to arrange an extension on these assignments, otherwise they ***will be recalled*** and returned to the available list.

Rowan Perigrynn

(Francois Henri Guyon GA, Yseult de Lacy AA)

Thorfinn Hrolfssen

(John of Skye VIS, Timetheos Vlastaris OL, Snorri Blodrekkr OL)

Drake Morgan

(Anne of Huntingdon Loxley AA)

Meliora de Curci

(Douglas Fitzwilliam AA)

Morag Freyser

(Rhiannon of Camrose AA)

Scroll Shipping and Delivery

There are still some people (not naming names) who are insisting on getting scrolls to either myself or the West via an improbable chain of couriers. I am asking, begging, pleading for the love of God ***do not do this!*** ***Please send all scrolls directly to me via registered post.***

Why do I say this? In my long experience with the college, far, far too many scrolls have gone missing by relying on couriers. They have proven unreliable time and again, which results in scrolls lost, delayed, missing or damaged. Given the hours of work that goes into every scroll, this is just not on. Since I instituted the policy of post, we have not lost a single scroll. If a scroll is sent via registered post, it is automatically insured, and tracked at every step of the way—that's the purpose of the barcode on the label, every time it goes through a postal bay, it gets scanned and registers on the post office computers, so if a scroll does go astray we can find it. If you do not wish to do, give your completed scroll to your local warden, and they will send it to me with the next batch.

Nor will I be accepting scrolls at events without prior arrangement. Scrolls and events are ***not*** mixy things: you have food, dust, mud, drink, any number of things that can irreparably damage a scroll. If you want to give me a scroll at an event, please email or call me first so that I can make arrangements to collect and transport it safely. I am not hard to get hold of, my email and phone details are in every issue of Pegasus and this newsletter.

Ductus by E-mail

As part of the never ending battle to Keep Costs Down, in future *Ductus* will be sent as an e-mail attachment. Please let me know as soon as possible if:

- your system cannot handle attached Word 7 documents,
- your server strips out attachments as a matter of course,
- the file is corrupted or unreadable in any way.
- you have another email address you would prefer *Ductus* be sent to,
- you would prefer not to receive it by email for any reason.

World Wide Web

Work on the updated College website has unfortunately been delayed due to mundane time pressures, however I am hoping it will be operational shortly. If you have any suggestions as to what you would like to see included on the website, please let me know. The site will also feature a gallery of some of the finest of Lochac's work, so if you have a particularly groovy piece of scribe work in your possession please send me a copy or scan.

Also available is the SCA scribe's e-mail list, which is a discussion group that has scribes old and new, of all levels of ability from all over the world. To subscribe, send and e-mail to

Majordomo@castle.org, blank subject line, and the words "subscribe scribes" in the body of the message. A digest version is also available.

Well that's it for me for now, so I leave you with best wishes for the new year,

Giles

By my hand this day the 16th of December AS XXXVI (2001)

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