
D U C T U S

Newsletter of the Lochac College of Scribes

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Editorial

Well, we've finally made it to my second issue of Ductus. There is a lot to talk about, so let's crash straight into it...

Changes to the College

In April 1999, I was asked by the previous Provost Lady Branwen to look at the problems and difficulties facing the scribes college, and come up with some ways of fixing them. The result of this was a report on the condition of the college, and several proposals for fixing the problems. (Please contact me if you would like a copy of this report.) In short, the main problems were:

- lack of funding
- lack of manpower
- high administrative and production costs
- size of the backlog
- long delays on backlog turnaround.

I discussed these problems with Their Royal Highnesses Boris and Constance at Yule last year, and the following was decided:

Funding

The College now receives funding from the Principality to supplement the herald's stipend and other donations, based on projected costs for the next year. These funds are needed to maintain production of scrolls and prepare new blanks for when Lochac becomes a kingdom.

Manpower

This is difficult to address, as the College depends on voluntary service by its members. However as the result of a "recruitment drive" we have almost doubled the number of scribes in the college. I hope this will continue!

Size of the Backlog

The backlog has been cut down to a bare minimum. The Baron & Baroness or Seneschal of each group has been contacted to find who of those on the backlog was inactive or had left the Society, had moved to another group, or may have been listed under another name. Even so,

the "trimmed" backlog amounts to 216 scrolls assigned or available, with 463 on hold awaiting registration of armoury, so we can't slacken off just yet!

Signatures

In order to solve the problems of wear and tear on delicate scrolls, high postage costs and the difficulties involved on tracking down previous Royalty at events, Their Royal Highnesses have authorised the creation of a signature file, for use on award scrolls given by the Prince and Princess of Lochac. This will mean that rather than trying to chase down the appropriate Royalty to sign scrolls at an event, the Provost will copy or trace their signatures onto the scroll in question. In order not to break West Kingdom law, this will be done by the Royal Peer signing a letter of permission, and providing a sample of their "official" signature. The signature will be used **only** for this purpose. This will eliminate the need to expose scrolls to "high risk" environments such as feasts and camping events, where there are other demands on the time of signatories, bad lighting, food, mud and other unpleasant things. It will also save on postage costs and will greatly reduce the turnaround time for a scroll-it can be "signed" and sent for sealing much faster, without waiting up to a year to be signed. It will also free the Provost from the onerous task of hassling previous Royalty at events, which is also pretty good from my perspective!

Admin/Production Costs

Using this system will also cut the costs required to produce a scroll by almost half. Currently it can cost up to \$30.25 to produce an AA scroll, under this system the costs are brought down to \$15.25. The Office of the Provost will continue to keep costs down in other ways wherever possible.

New Blanks

As Lochac becomes a kingdom, we will need new AA blanks, and will be required to undertake new Patent and Grant level awards in

addition to our current workload. I already have designs for three blanks (Early Gothic, Document, and Flemish), and two more in production (Celtic and Late Gothic). If you would like to design a blank for the new Kingdom, please contact me.

Once Lochac is elevated to Kingdom, the College will be called upon to provide scrolls for County and Duchy rank, in addition to Viscounty (which will be superseded, but we still have the backlog to consider). In order to keep on top of this increased workload, County and Duchy scrolls will be done as “super-blanks”. They will be designed by the most accomplished artists in the College, printed on archival quality imitation vellum, and completed by more experienced scribes, so the results will be really flash. This should not be seen as any kind of disparagement of Royal Peerages, any more than the use of pre-printed AA scrolls is demeaning to Awards of Arms. It is merely a necessary and practical solution to avoid the backlog growing faster than we can handle. Again, if you would like to design a Patent blank (Richard, Rowan, Yseult, Katherine?), please contact me for details.

I realise these seem like a lot of large changes, but the fact is, however, that these changes were long overdue, as the Principality has trebled its size in the last decade and long outstripped the College’s ability to serve its purpose effectively. Also, most of these changes are administrative, and will effect working scribes only minimally. I believe that once these changes are working, we will start to chip away at the old backlog much faster, and keep on top of the new work coming in, which has got to be a good thing!

Who Gets Scrolls, Who Don’t

The Lochac College of Scribes produces award scrolls for the following:

- Award of Arms
- Grant of Arms
- Patent of Arms (KSCA, Laurel, Pelican, Viscount)

The College does not provide scrolls for:

- Principality awards
- Order of the Rose Leaf/Leaf of Merit*
- Court Barony*

(* On very rare occasions, these awards may carry Awards of Arms, in which case a scroll is produced.)

The general rule of thumb is that if you get a dangly or a tin lid, you don’t get a scroll (Patents excepted).

Assignments

An AA assignment is due six months after the assignment date, an original assignment is due twelve months after assignment. If it looks like you are not going to get your assignment finished in time, please, *please* contact the Provost to arrange an extension. If you do not contact the Provost, your assignment will be returned to the available list, and all your hard work will be wasted. Don’t get into that situation!

Postage

It was my predecessor Lady Branwen’s policy to use mail rather than rely on couriers to transport scrolls, which I am continuing. Bitter experience has shown that couriers can be unreliable, and rather than have scrolls delayed or lost I would prefer to use the mail, which at least is insurable and traceable in case anything does go wrong. If sending me a scroll by post, please pack it with bubble wrap, and back it least with a sheet of stiff, heavy cardboard. Be sure to write “Fragile Artwork-Do Not Bend” in large friendly letters on the front of the package where the Post Office will be sure to see it. It’s also a good idea to send it registered post. If you really don’t want to send your scroll by post, that’s fine, please arrange to give to me (*and only me!!!*) in person at an event.

Scroll Replacement policy

The College of Scribes takes all care to deliver a scroll in good condition. However, it takes no responsibility for scrolls damaged or mislaid after it has left the College’s hands. If a scroll is damaged or lost once it has been given to the recipient, he or she may request a replacement scroll in return for a suitable donation to the operating expenses of the College (minimum \$50 for an AA, POA for an original).

Royal Patent (Viscounty) Scrolls

Currently, it is practice in Lochac to produce original Viscounty scrolls. Many scribes produce “matched pair” scrolls for couples who have reigned together-I would like to continue this policy and encourage it, as it saves a great deal of time and work in the design stage. I would also like to encourage that Viscounty scrolls for long-term, stable partners be amalgamated; that is, both awards and devices appear on one scroll. (please contact me for wording and details). This

option is by no means mandatory, but will be indicated as a possibility at the time the assignment is given.

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,
- you have another email address you would prefer *Ductus* be sent to,
- you would prefer not to receive it by email for any reason.
- the file is corrupted or unreadable in any way.

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.

Bartolomeo Agazari (Lucia Sammicheli)

Bryony Beehyrd (Bryony of the Bees VIS, Haos Windchaser VIS)

Huraiwa (Alasdair Blackhill AA; Vladimir Ivanovich Kurgan AA)

Muirghean ni Ghrainne (Dragmel Morgunn AA; Peter du Gaunt Noir KSCA)

Peter du Gaunt Noir (Muirghein ni Ghrainne GA; OP)

Richard de la Croix (Marguerite de Rada OL)

Sybille le Chat (Tancred di Castrogiovanni AA)

Thorfinn Hrolfsson (John of Skye VIS; Timetheos Vlastaris OL)

Yseult de Lacy (Eleanor Lyttlehales OL; Kiriell du Papillon OP)

New Scribes

I would like to extend a welcome to:

Aeron Lasair
Judy Gale-Dunne
Melanie Johnston-Hollitt

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

Standard Plea #1

The College desperately needs new scribes. We now have 40 scribes registered, but many of those are newcomers, and of the remainder less

than a dozen have turned in work in the last 12 months. We therefore have a serious manpower shortage, especially when you consider the estimated population of the Principality (1400+). Despite the heroic efforts of the working scribes, more are needed. If you know of anyone who might be interested in working for the College, please encourage them to get in touch with me.

Workshops

The recent scribes' workshop held recently at Woodstock was a pleasant and productive afternoon. Only a few hardy souls braved the wilds of Burwood, so the attendees were (in no particular order):

Giles de Laval (me)
Yseult de Lacy
Marit the Wanderer
Keridwen the Mouse
Aeron Lasair
Cairistiona nic Bheathain
Judy Gale-Dunne
Melanie Johnston-Hollitt

My thanks to all who attended and worked so hard. The next College workshop will be:

**Saturday March 17th, from 11 am onwards.
Venue will be "Bakerswood", 11 Cottle Rd
Bullaburra NSW.**

I hope to see as many of you as possible there!

Scribes at Festival

Unfortunately, due to mundane circumstances, there will not be a Scribe's Pavilion at Festival this year. Instead, there will be a scribe's day, most likely Saturday, where I am hoping that the scribes of Lochac and other interested gentles can get together to talk, get to know each other, look at scrolls, work on assignments and get help with their projects, sort of a combination running party and workshop. Check the festival notice board for the venue, and please drop by!

Handbook

Copies of the 1999 edition of the Lochac Scribe's Handbook are still available from the Provost. The handbook features articles on calligraphy, illumination and colour theory, and guides for analysing a style, gilding and fixing common mistakes. Also included are guides for completing the Lochac pre-printed AA blanks, and the scroll wordings used by the Lochac College. At the negligible price of only \$6.00, the handbook is a valuable resource and an asset to any scribe.

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 by Festival. 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 good piece of scribe work in your possession please send me a copy or scan (Richard, Rowan, Cairistiona, this means you!).

Also on the web is the SCA translations site, <http://translate.thibault.org>, where you can get scroll texts translated into several languages including Latin, Medieval French and German, Arabic, Catalan, Greek and many more (note: I already have texts for KSCA, OL and OP in Latin, contact me rather than the translations website).

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 an 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.

Special Lecture Evening

Scribes from Rowany and surrounds may be interested in this lecture, arranged by the Australian Society of Calligraphers:

Come and join us for an Italian evening of Wine, Cheese and Song, and listen to our special guest

Margaret Manion AO

Professor Emeritus and Professorial Fellow of

Fine Arts,
University of Melbourne

talk to us about

Music, Painting and Song: The Italian Illuminated Choir Book

On Wednesday, 4th April 2001
At Wills Quills, 166 Victoria Avenue,
Chatswood
Starting at 7.00pm

(Please enter by back stairs, plenty of parking)

Margaret Manion is Professor Emeritus and Professorial Fellow of Fine Arts at the University of Melbourne. Her specialty is Medieval Art, in particular the study of illuminated manuscripts. She has written and edited several books on the subject. Last year she was the curator of the Book of Kells and the Art of Illumination Exhibition at the National Gallery in Canberra.

Donation \$5 at the door.

For catering reasons it would help if you could RSVP to either Heather Curtis (9418 2371) or Linda Upfold (9416 5023) by 3rd April.

Your servant,
Giles, Provost

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