

# A Disorganized Occasional Newsletter

for Illuminators & Scribes; Otherwise To Be Known As

AUGUST XXVII

**ADONIS**

#16

## FROM THE EDITORS

Welcome to ADONIS #16. Charters of Rank are the main topic of this edition.

Speaking of Charters, Mistress Clare, The Star Signet, is still looking for people to design new Charters. Contact her if you are interested.

Lady Margaret Pierce is sponsoring a raffle for illuminators in the Steppes who are painting Charters. Anyone who paints a Charter gets their name in the 'hat'. The more Charters the more chances to win. Contact Margaret for specifics. If you would like to organize a similar competition, contact the Sable Scroll Pursuivant and let her know what you are up to.

Speaking of Sable Scroll Pursuivant, Lady Jessica has taken over the office from Russell Jervis. Congratulations Jessica.

The ADONIS is looking for articles on materials and other scribal topics. Please send your articles along with a signed release to the Editors. All submissions must have a release for publication, and are subject to editing.

## FROM THE STAR SIGNET

There will be a new deputy position under the local herald's office, entitled "Clerk". Duties of the Clerk will be as follows:

1. being responsible to the Sable Scroll Pursuivant for painted charters.

2. maintaining a set of painted charter blanks for the Crown to use in the local area should the need arise.

3. providing a scribe (either themselves or some one) for the Crown or Presiding Noble to use at a local event. This includes pen and ink.

4. assisting the local herald in maintaining achievement logs and a list of all the scrolls that have to be finished for members in the local group.

Ideally, the Clerk's duties could be assumed by the principal of the scribe's guild in that area, but this is not mandatory. Interested individuals need to send a letter to the Star Signet's office (see Directory).

Scroll texts are available and if you wish to be mailed a copy please send \$2.00 to the Star Signet's office (see Directory). This is to cover cost of postage and handling. Make checks payable to SCA - College of Scribes and Illuminators. If you want one hand delivered, there is no charge.

## NEW SABLE SCROLL PURSUIVANT

Lady Jessica de Andalucia is the new Sable Scroll Pursuivant. The responsibilities of his office include management and distribution of Charters of Rank for painting and collection of said charters to be given to the Crown for use. If you or your Scribes Guild is interested in assisting in this much needed and ongoing project contact Jessica. For address see the Directory.

# COLLEGE OF SCRIBE MEETING REPORT, KINGDOM DANCE SYMPOSIUM

H.L. Hillary Greenslade Southern Regional  
Deputy

Mistress Clare RosMuire St. John held a meeting of the College of Scribes at the Kingdom Dance Symposium. Lady Muireall de Bretange was introduced as the Western Regional Scribe Deputy (see Directory).

Mistress Clare presented the new Clerks Office (more details in this ADONIS). These deputy officers will work with the Sable Scroll and local Heralds office.

The achievement backlog was discussed, with much enthusiasm for the idea of a regional scriptorium. Clare is working on a master AoA achievement design, that can be preprinted, then personalized for the recipient with their arms and emblazon. We saw a sample of a scroll created by the scriptorium in the Kingdom of the West, and were pleased with its quality.

The scribes were given a short heraldic test, and were amused to see how much they knew ( and didn't know). Clare would like to see the scribes begin to brush up their heraldic skills, and get more practice on heraldic art. Hope fully that will be covered in the next Kingdom Scribes Symposium (perhaps next Spring).

Several branches are running contests on the number of Kingdom award charters individuals are painting, and some of the prizes are worth bringing out some of our retired painters to compete. What is your branch doing to motivate painters? Remember to send all completely painted scrolls to the Sable Scroll , Lady Jessica de Andalucia (see Directory). She needs AoA level awards: AoA's, Thistles, Cranes, Comets, Compass Rose's.

On the subject of charters, five persons are working on new AoA charters, Clare intends to use each charter for one year and then retire it. This will allow our scrolls to be fresh and creative. Each new master must be approved by the Star Signet before it goes into production. Masters will be dated and numbered, then sent to the regional deputies and Sable Scroll for

mass production and distribution. If you are interested in creating a new master, contact the Star Signet (see Directory) for details; we really need your work.

## RIDDLE

I was born to oar the air,  
but now I dive dark water  
Caught and kept, I track a trove  
trudging spellbound, rove with care.  
  
Back and forth, I weft a row  
looming black and indigo,  
threads of red and leaves of gold  
boldly molding a rainbow.  
  
Promise of a gifted grace  
(fugitive in captive space)  
now belongs beneath my face.

--Thomas of Tenby

The solution to this riddle will be printed in the next ADONIS. Anyone wishing to guess the answer may mail their solution to the editors of the ADONIS (see Directory for address). We will publish the names of the first 10 people who send in the right answer. One entry per envelope please.

# QUESTIONS CONCERNING CHARTERS OF RANK

## 1. *What is a Charter of Rank?*

In this kingdom a Charter of Rank is a document that attests to the Crown's action of bestowing an award on an individual. The Charter is signed by the Crown only and it is usually presented in Court at the time the award is given. Due to the amount of awards bestowed during a reign, Charters are mass produced via photo copy or printing process and colored by hand.

## 2. *Who manages the Charters for the Crown?*

The office of the Sable Scroll Pursuivant (SSP) is in charge of distribution of unpainted charters to illuminators, their collection, inventory and delivery to the Crown. The SSP is aided in this job by the Regional Deputies, who also distribute, collect and deliver charters.

## 3 *How do I get charters to paint?*

By contacting the SSP, the closest Regional Deputy or your local scribes' guild. Many scribes' guilds are part of a Kingdom wide network of charter painters.

## 4. *What sort of supplies should I use?*

Please use only quality, lightfast, opaque paints when you color charters. Recommended paints:

- Winsor & Newton Designer Gouache
- Holbein Designer Gouache
- Liquitex Artistic Acrylic

These paints come with a light fast rating on the label. Use only those colors that will not fade or change.

*ed. note: Do not buy tube paint in boxed sets. These are modern pallets and many of the colors are inappropriate for illuminating scrolls of a medieval flavor.*

Do not use any of the following: crayons, felt pens, Ph. Martins Radiant Concentrated Water Colors, any oil base paint, any paint that does not have a reliable light fast rating.

- Winsor & Newton Designer Gouaches reviewed elsewhere

## 5. *Do Charters require special detailing?*

Yes. Many charters are based on historical models, some even come with directions. Please color them accordingly. Some charters include the award's badge in its design. These badges have been registered with the Heralds Office and are colored a specific way. Make sure you know how to color these badges correctly. In days of yore some illuminators painted scrolls too creatively, making them an embarrassment to the Crown, the heralds, as well as the scribes. (*see illustrations on page 5*)

## 6. *Does it matter what kind of a job I do painting a Charter?*

Oh yes! The charter you paint may be the only scroll an individual ever gets in conjunction with their award. A good test concerning the job you do would be; would you be pleased to receive it and would you want the rest of the Kingdom to know you painted it?

## 7. *Do Charters ever change?*

Yes. Over the years Charters are designed, put into production and eventually retired. If you are interested in designing a Charter contact and consult with the Star Signet for details. Charters have specific texts and regulations. Please do not design a Charter without consulting with the Star Signet.

## HOW TO PAINT CHARTERS

condensed from an article by Margaret  
Pearce ©

To start, you'll need the following materials:

### Blank Charter

Paint - In Ansteorra, the two types of paint most frequently used are acrylic paint and gouache. I use Liquitex acrylic. Permalba also makes a nice gold acrylic. I like the fact that acrylic paint is

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waterproof, which makes it easy to paint layers on top of it. Some illuminors say they don't have to lay down so many layers of the same color to get good coverage with gouache, and they like the fact that you can rehydrate a color you are working with after it has dried. Also, in period, pigments were prepared much as gouache is today.

Mixing pans

Toothpicks - for mixing paint

Paper - to cover the charter under your hand while you are painting.

Eyedropper - for getting small quantities of water into your paint.

Brushes - use either a very small, soft round brush (00 or finer) or a larger soft brush with a good point.

Water jar

Pencil - to sign your work on the back.

**Optional:**

Gold paint pen - a good type is Pilot extra fine point

X-Acto Knife - for lightly scraping off small mistakes

Technical pen - for fixing small mistakes in the copy

Before painting, decide which colors to use, and where. Two to three colors is a good number to start with.

Put a little paint in the mixing pan. (If you are using gouache, you may see a little drop of glycerin at the end of the tube before you get to the paint. Soak up the glycerin with a paper towel, as it can keep your paint from mixing and drying properly.) Put a few drops of water in the paint; mix with a toothpick (not your brush, if you want it to last!). The consistency you are looking for is thick enough to cover the paper well, but thin enough so that brush-strokes don't show.

Now paint, very carefully, between the lines on the charter.

Take breaks! One ten-minute break per hour is probably optimal, or more if your hand starts to feel tired.

If you want, you can add highlights in gold paint or gold paint pen. Try not to use much gold paint pen. We don't know how it will react over

time in Ansteorran humidity. Also, gold paint pens, and most gold paints and inks, contain brass particles, which will tarnish.

When you're done, sign the charter, lightly on the back with pencil, in a spot where it won't show through (usually over the large painted initial).

Now you're ready to turn your charter over to the Sable Scroll!

*This is a condensed version of an article that appeared in the January '92 issue of The Steppesletter. The entire article may be obtained by writing to: Katherine Christensenn, (ed. - address removed).*

## MATERIALS REVIEW

by Rose Cathan

### Winsor & Newton Designers Gouache

Gouache: An opaque water color, a water color with a neutral opacifier added.

Winsor and Newton has been manufacturing artist's paint for over 150 years. During this time they have established and maintained a reputation for fine and dependable products. Winsor and Newton Designer's Gouaches are famous for their brilliance, smooth flow, and great opacity. With finely ground pigments, accurate permanency ratings and a wide range of colors, these paints are wonderful for illumination work and heraldic paintings. They are also affordable and available at most art supply stores. Use the colors with A or AA permanency ratings. Buy individual tubes instead of the boxed sets. The sets do not contain the colors most illuminators need. Traditional colors:

Red / Cadmium Red, Pale Cadmium Red  
Blue / Ultramarine, Cobalt Blue,  
Ultramarine Light  
Yellow / Cadmium Yellow  
Green / Viridian  
Black / Ivory Black  
-White (for tinting) / Zinc White  
-White / Permanent White

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Alternate colors that cost less but have high permanency ratings:

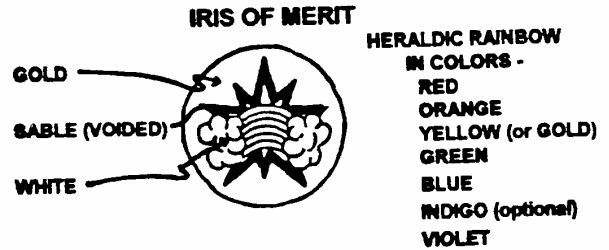
- Green / Mistletoe Green
- Yellow / Golden Yellow
- Red / Spectrum Red

- Zinc white is for tinting. Permanent white, in comparison has the highest opacity and is great for making white lines but lowers fade resistance when mixed with other colors. Read the labels.

Advice: Most reliable paint companies want to tell you everything you want to know about their product. Read the label for the permanency rating and ask your local art supply outlet for any pamphlets on the supplies you are interested in. Failing that ask for the Company's address and write to them for information.

## ILLUSTRATIONS OF BADGES

By Hillary Greenslade



### SUBSCRIPTION ORDER FORM / CHANGE OF ADDRESS

Address Change ( ) Yes ( ) No

Mundane Name \_\_\_\_\_

SCA Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

Please send \$4.00 to:

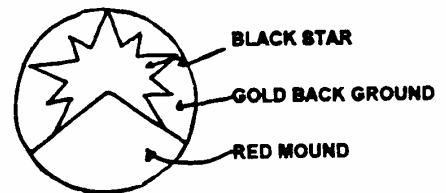
Geof and Rose Cathan, ML & ML  
 c/o Jeff and Monica Hartley  
 (ed. - address removed).

### SABLE THISTLE



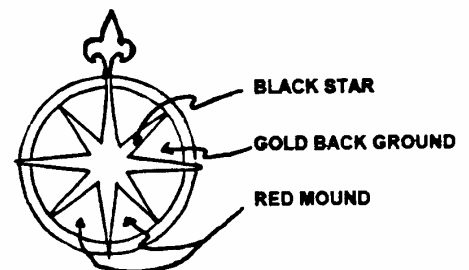
**BLACK THISTLE**  
**NO COLOR ON BACKGROUND**  
**GOLD LEAVES**

### RISING STAR



**BLACK STAR**  
**GOLD BACK GROUND**  
**RED MOUND**

### COMPASS ROSE



**BLACK STAR**  
**GOLD BACK GROUND**  
**RED MOUND**

# DIRECTORY

## of the College of Scribes & Illuminators

**STAR SIGNET:** Mistress Clare Rosmuire St. John  
c/o N.D. Wederstrandt  
(*ed. – address removed*).  
NO CALLS AFTER 10:30 PM

**SABLE SCROLL:** Lady Jessica de Andalucia  
c/o Jessica Dickerson  
(*ed. – address removed*).

### DEPUTIES TO THE STAR SIGNET:

**NORTHERN:** Baroness Anastacia Marie Travarra  
c/o Sandra Goodrich  
(*ed. – address removed*).

**CENTRAL:** Lady Margaret Pierce  
c/o Katherine Christensen  
(*ed. – address removed*).

**SOUTHERN:** Hillary Rose Greenslade  
c/o Marsha Greene  
(*ed. – address removed*).

**EASTERN:** Lady Miureall de Bretagne  
c/o Debra Mixon  
(*ed. – address removed*).

### GUILD BOARD MEMBERS:

Branwyn O'Brallaghan  
c/o Betty Bradley  
(*ed. – address removed*).

Anastacia Marie Travarra  
c/o Sandy Goodrich  
(*ed. – address removed*).

Rose Stewart Cathan  
c/o Monica Hartley  
(*ed. – address removed*).

Lassair ni Fionnuala  
c/o Dawn Draheim  
(*ed. – address removed*).

### ADONIS EDITORS:

Geof and Rose Cathan ML, ML  
c/o Jeff & Monica Hartley  
(*ed. – address removed*).

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