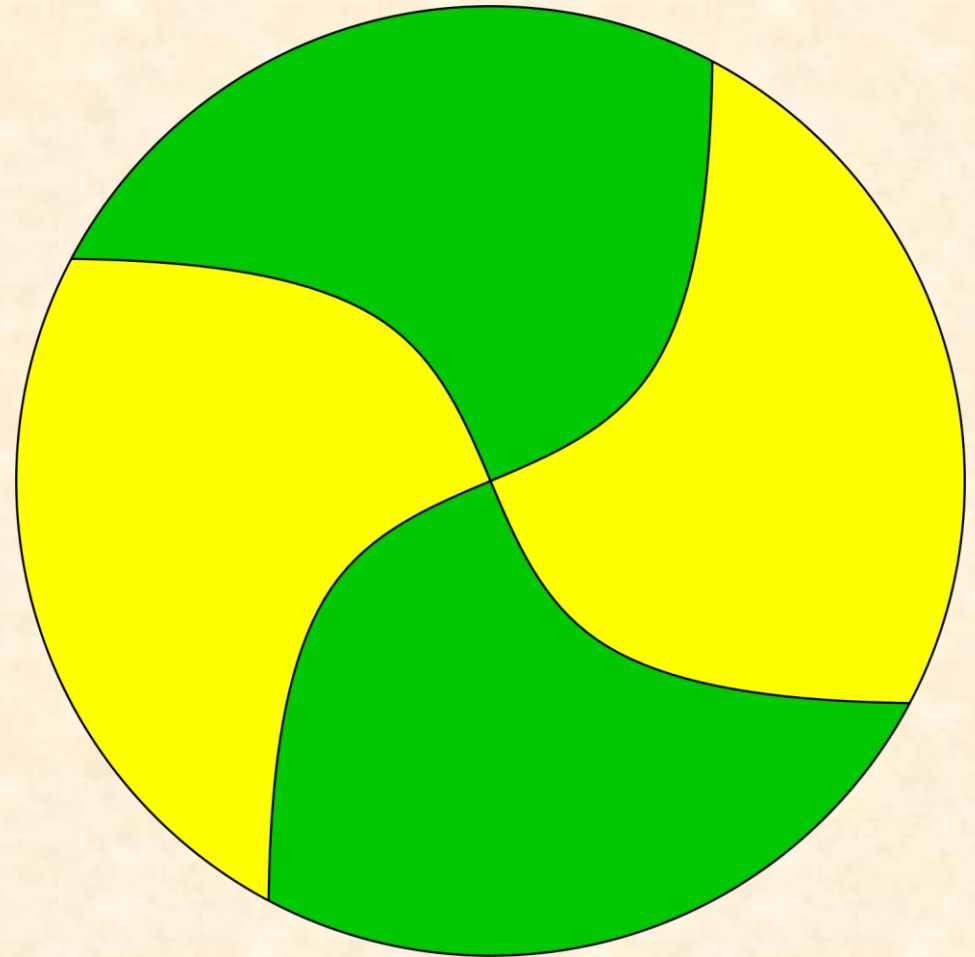


# Checking Heraldry Submissions for Conflict

Oddr Þiálfason

# Introductions

- Oddr Þiálfason, JdL GdS
- What I've done:
  - Branch officer (various)
  - Motley (Lions Blood staff)
  - Lions Blood (submissions)
- What I'm doing:
  - Motley (Black Lion staff)
  - Gorges book deputy



# Topics

- What is conflict? [20 min]
- The Standards for Evaluation of Names and Armory (SENA) [20 min]
- Conflict Checking with the O&A [25 min]
- Practice [25 min]
- Q&A [?]

# Assumptions

- You have a basic idea of SENA: GP, PN, NPN, A, Appendices
- You can identify charge groups (SENA App I)
- You have an internet connection and a web browser
- You will ask for help

**WHAT IS CONFLICT?**

# Basic Problem

- Names identify us in speech
- Names can create confusion:
  - Identity: “John Taylor” vs “John Tailor”
  - Relationships: “Oddr Þiálfason Úlfssonar” vs “Þiálfi Úlfsson”
- Names identify us in writing
- Names can create confusion:
  - Identity: “Patrick mac Brian” vs “Patrick McBrian”

# Basic Problem

- Armory identifies us visually
- Armory can create confusion:
  - Identity: “Sable, a bend Or.” vs “Sable, a bend Or.”
  - Relationship:
    - “Sable, a bend Or and a label argent.” vs “Sable, a bend Or.”
    - “Vert, a bend Or.” vs “Sable, a bend Or.”

# Cadency

- Traditions various heraldic cultures employed to create armory for closely-related individuals
- Details varied by region
- Examples:
  - Change orientation: “a lion” vs “a lion contourny”
  - Change tincture: “a lion sable” vs “a lion gules”
  - Change count: “a lion” vs “three lions”
  - Change type: “a lion” vs “a wolf”
  - Add a charge group: “a lion” vs “a lion and a chief”



# Cadency

- Some changes were typically seen only by strangers in blood:
  - Significant changes to the primary charge group:
    - “Sable, a lion Or.” vs “Sable, two lions Or.”
    - “Sable, a lion Or.” vs “Sable, a wolf Or.”
- Some changes were more commonly seen by relatives:
  - Multiple distinct changes anywhere:
    - “Sable, a lion Or.” vs “Vert, a lion and a chief Or.”
    - “Sable, a lion Or.” vs “Sable, a lion contourny and a chief Or.”
    - “Sable, a lion Or.” vs “Sable, a lion and on a chief Or three crescents sable.”

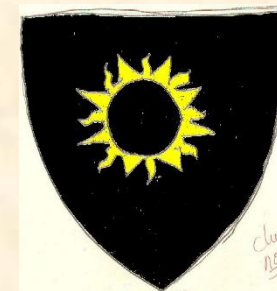
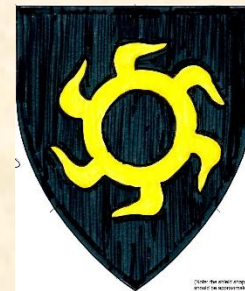
# Where we draw our line

## Names

- Must not make a claim of identity
  - Must differ in sound
  - Must differ in appearance
- Must not make an unambiguous claim of relationship
  - Generally requires the inclusion of someone else's full name

## Armory

- Must not make a claim of identity



- Must not appear to be closely related to another individual

# **THE STANDARDS FOR EVALUATION OF NAMES AND ARMORY (SENA)**

# In brief...

- GP: General Principles
  - Principles, Registration & Documentation, Definition of Period and Terms Used
- PN: Personal Names
- NPN: Non-Personal Names
- A: Armory
- Appendices (App A .. App M)
- Content [PN1, NPN1, A1, A2]
- Style [PN2, NPN2, A3]
- Conflict [PN3, NPN3, A5]
- Presumption [PN4, NPN4, A6]
- Offense [PN5, NPN5, A7]
- Individually Attested Patterns [A4]

# Standards for Conflict - Names

- SENA PN3C & PN3D, NPN3C & NPN3D
- 1 syllable difference in *appearance*, and
- 1 syllable difference in *sound*
  - *John vs Jon*
  - *Mary vs Mari*
  - *Lizabet vs Lisabet*
- Alternate forms of the names can be clear:
  - *John vs Ian vs Ivan*
  - *Mary vs Maria vs Maryam*
  - *Elizabeth vs Lizabet vs Lisbetta*

# Standards for Conflict - Armory

- SENA A5
- 1 *Substantial Change* (SC) [A5E & A5F], or
- 2 *Distinct Changes* (DCs) [A5G]
- 1 SC is not the same as 2 DCs
  - SC considers whether the two pieces of armory are estranged
  - DC measures how different two pieces of armory are

# SENA GP4D

**D. *Substantial, Distinct, and Significant*:** These terms are used in defining conflict. For armorial conflict, the terms substantial and distinct are both used to describe differences between items. Substantial changes (sometimes abbreviated as SC) are larger than distinct changes (sometimes abbreviated as DC). Generally a single substantial change is sufficient to bring two pieces of armory clear of conflict, while two distinct changes are required to do so. In prior precedent regarding armory, significant was used to mean much the same thing as distinct. In names, substantial and significant have previously been used somewhat interchangeably. In these rules, a single substantial change or two smaller changes create names that are clear of conflict.

# 1 SC

At least 1 item has a primary charge group and:

- Addition or removal of a primary charge group [A5E1]
- Complete difference in the types of primary charges [A5E2]
- Substantial difference in number, posture, orientation, arrangement of each of the primary charges [A5E3-A5E5]
- Not granted for complete difference in tincture of the primary charges

Between two pieces of field-primary armory:

- Substantial difference in partition [A5F1]
- Complete difference in tincture (be careful!) [A5F2]



# 1 DC

## Changes to fields:

- Tincture [A5G1a]
- Direction of partition line [A5G1b]
- Style of partition line [A5G1c]
- Number of pieces [A5G1d]
- Fieldless [A5G1e]

## Changes to same charge groups:

- Addition or removal [A5G2]
- Change at least half a charge group
  - Tincture [A5G3]
  - Type (including edge treatments of ordinaries) [A5G4]
  - Number [A5G5]
  - Arrangement & Position (when not forced) [A5G6]
  - Posture & Orientation [A5G7]

# Precedent

- <http://heraldry.sca.org/precedents.html>
- <http://heraldry.sca.org/loar/>
- Provide standard interpretations of SENA
  - Requirements for depictions (Chevrons: May 2011 [Cover Letter](#))
  - Conflict in usual/edge case
    - [\*Marie de Blois vs Marie du Bois\*](#)
    - [\*Stag's antler in annulo conjoined to itself vs a sun eclipsed\*](#)
- Setting/voiding precedent only happens via a submission
  - Depiction of unicorns ([July 2013 LOAR](#))

# **PRACTICUM – CHECKING AGAINST SINGLE ITEMS**

# Conflict?

Per pale gules and barry wavy  
argent and gules, a pig statant Or.

(Fieldless) A boar passant Or.

# Conflict?

Argent, a dolphin haurient gules.

Lozengy Or and purple, a dolphin  
urinant gules.

# Conflict?

Vert, a dandelion slipped and  
leaved and a chief rayonny Or.

Vert, a thistle slipped flexed-  
reflexed, head to dexter, and in  
canton a mullet, all Or.

# Conflict?

Argent, a bull statant within a bordure embattled sable.

Argent, a bat-winged bison volant sable.

# Conflict?

Per chevron argent and azure, three estoiles counterchanged.

Per chevron argent and azure, two mullets of six greater and six lesser points and a swan naiant counterchanged.



# CONFLICT CHECKING AND THE O&A

# The Ordinary and Armorial (O&A)

- Catalog of all items protected by the College of Arms
  - Registered items
  - Important non-SCA items
  - Regalia
  - Existence of Heraldic Wills
- Conflict can exist with items not in the O&A:
  - Item must be important enough to consider
  - Item can be fictitious
  - Item will be added to the O&A

# Scoring conflict

- Two items are not in conflict if 1 SC exists...
- Two items are not in conflict if 2 DCs or more exist...
- Can we give an item a score based on things it has in common with another item?

# Strategy

- Things that would grant 1 DC: 1 point
- Things that would grant an SC: “infinite” points
- We can ignore anything below 1 SC, and anything more than 1 DC from the maximum score.
  - If we have a maximum score of 10, then we need a match with 9 or 10 points to conflict
  - A matching score only means “might conflict”, not “does conflict”
  - Still need to be able to judge conflict by hand

# Sable, a lion Or.

- Point assignments:
  - Single primary lion: 10 points
  - Primary lion Or: 1 point
  - Sable field: 1 point
- Maximum score: 12 points
- Minimum for SC: 10 points
- Need 11 or more points to conflict.
- vs “Sable, a lion contourny Or.”
  - Single primary lion: 10 points
  - Primary lion Or: 1 point
  - Sable field: 1 point
  - Total: 12 points
- Might conflict
  - Does it?

# Sable, a lion Or.

- Point assignments:
  - Single primary lion: 10 points
  - Primary lion Or: 1 point
  - Sable field: 1 point
- Maximum score: 12 points
- Minimum for SC: 10 points
- Need 11 or more points to conflict.
- vs “Sable, a lion contourny and a chief Or.”
  - Single primary lion: 10 points
  - Primary lion Or: 1 point
  - Sable field: 1 point
  - Total: 12 points
- Might conflict
  - Does it?

# Sable, a lion contourny and a chief Or.

- Point assignments:
  - Single primary lion: 10 points
  - Primary lion Or: 1 point
  - Primary lion contourny: 1 point
  - Single secondary chief Or: 1 point
  - Sable field: 1 point
- Maximum score: 14 points
- Minimum for SC: 10 points
- Need 13 or more points to conflict.
- vs “Sable, a lion Or.”
  - Single primary lion: 10 points
  - Primary lion Or: 1 point
  - Sable field: 1 point
  - Total: 12 points
- Might conflict
  - Does it?

# Sable, a lion contourny and a chief Or.

- Point assignments:
  - Single primary lion: 10 points
  - Primary lion Or: 1 point
  - Primary lion contourny: 1 point
  - Single secondary chief Or: 1 point
  - Sable field: 1 point
- vs “Sable, a lion argent.”
  - Single primary lion: 10 points
  - Sable field: 1 point
  - Total: 11 points
- No conflict
- Maximum score: 14 points
- Minimum for SC: 10 points
- Need 13 or more points to conflict.



# Sable, a lion contourny Or.

- Point assignments:
  - Single primary lion: 10 points
  - Primary lion Or: 1 point
  - Primary lion contourny: 1 point
  - Sable field: 1 point
- Maximum score: 13 points
- Minimum for SC: 10 points
- Need 12 or more points to conflict.
- vs “Sable, a lion argent.”
  - Single primary lion: 10 points
  - Sable field: 1 point
  - Total: 11 points
- No conflict

# The Complex Search Form

- Uses the feature descriptions in the O&A
  - Feature names at <http://oanda.sca.org/my.cat>
- Allows us to assign points
- Does the addition for us
  
- Can shorten a search of hundreds to thousands of items to a search of a couple dozen.. Or less.
  
- Powerful, but has some limitations.

**PRACTICUM – CHECKING AGAINST THE  
ORDINARY AND ARMORIAL**

**Q&A**

# Resources

- Laurel Website: <http://heraldry.sca.org>
  - LOAR, Precedents, AH, SENA, GoT, Documentation, Contacts. Everything.
  - Learn it, Live it, Love it.
- O&A: <http://oanda.sca.org>
- Category file: <http://oanda.sca.org/my.cat>
- Complex Search Form:  
[http://oanda.sca.org/oanda\\_complex.cgi](http://oanda.sca.org/oanda_complex.cgi)
  - Hints:  
[http://oanda.sca.org/hints\\_complex.html](http://oanda.sca.org/hints_complex.html)
- Kingdom and Laurel staff
- Each other
- Morsulus Herald  
([morsulus@heraldry.sca.org](mailto:morsulus@heraldry.sca.org))
  - Herveus d'Ormonde, maintainer of the O&A and oanda.sca.org
  - Requests for correction, better indexing, better search
- Morsulus email group  
([morsulus@yahoogroups.com](mailto:morsulus@yahoogroups.com))
  - Announcements/discussion regarding O&A indexing and features
- Morsulus Website:  
<http://www.morsulus.org>
  - Search shortcuts to LOAR and Precedents

# Bibliography

- [The Standards for Evaluation of Names and Armory: The Rules for Submission](#)
- Heraldic Cadency: The Development of Differencing of Coats of Arms for Kinsmen and Other Purposes, by Robert Gayre of Gayre and Nigg
- [The Philosophical Basis of Difference](#), by Pedro de Alcazar
- SCA College of Arms – [Training Materials](#)