

The Silver Thistle

Official Newsletter of the Shire of Tir Medoin
August Anno Societatis XXXXII

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Seneschal

Greetings all!

As the Fall tourney season begins, I would like to plan to attend a tournament together. Three Kings is a popular tournament.... anyone going? It would be fun to get together and the "Krieger Boys" haven't fought together in a long time.

Also - start thinking about Gulf Wars! Pre-registration will begin before you know it!

With summer vacations over, I would like to start Guild Night up again....so come to a meeting so we can make plans!

Please don't forget to re-new your memberships!

In Service,

HE Meghann der Krieger

Hospitaler

- Activities

There were no Activities this month

- Newcomers/Inquiries

There were no newcomers or inquiries this month

Lord Alexander of Tir Medoin

Chronicler

Greetings!

I hope everyone enjoyed their summer!

I'm looking forward to all of the opportunities the shire will have to offer in the next few months, as tournaments start for Fall, and all of the fun, friends, and memory making that go along with it.

Though it's not my office and strictly volunteer work, I'm trying to create a time line. The donations to Tir Medoin's history have proven invaluable to some events, but I wanted to offer everyone a chance to share their personal history. I'll be more specific next month.

In Service,

Mungentuya

“A”, “Per”, “In”, and “-Wise” Using the Names of Ordinaries in Blazons

—Coblaith Mhuimhneach
Orbis Herald

One of the most common mistakes people make when blazoning their armory is to confuse the various terms using the names of ordinaries, like “a fess”, “per fess”, “in fess” and “fesswise”. While these terms may sound similar, their meanings are completely different, and replacing one with another can make your blazon misleading or even nonsensical.

The most obvious of these constructions are phrases in the form “a(n) [ordinary]”. They simply indicate that the ordinary, itself, is on the field or charge. The lines along its edges may be plain or complex; in the latter case, a term describing the type of line follows the phrase, as in “a pale engrailed” or “a fess nebuly”.

Phrases in the form “per [ordinary]” describe tinctures. They may apply to fields or to variegated charges. A field per pale azure and argent, for instance, is divided into two parts, one blue and one white, down a line that runs along it where a pale would. A lion per fess Or and gules, similarly, is half gold and half red, divided along a line that runs across it

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just as a fess would. Again, the line itself might be plain or complex; in the latter case, a term describing the type of line follows the phrase, as in “per pale indented” or “per fess wavy”.

Phrases of the form “in [ordinary]” describe arrangements of charges. Generally, they indicate that if you drew a line or lines through all the charges you’d create a shape like the ordinary in question. Three mullets in pale, for instance, would be arranged so that a line through all three would be vertical, like a pale, while if three mullets in fess were connected the line would be horizontal, like a fess. Where crosses and saltires are concerned, the phrase might also indicate that the charges overlap one another in such a way that they form the ordinary’s shape. Two ladders in cross, for instance, would consist of one vertical and one horizontal ladder that overlapped in the middle. It should be easy to tell which applies in any given instance, based on the number of charges involved.

These terms are usually not used if the charges are in a default or forced arrangement. Four pheons on a pale, for instance, would almost certainly be in pale, since any other arrangement would require them to be drawn far too small for identifiability. For similar reasons, two crescents in chief above a fess would probably be in fess.

Terms of the form “[ordinary] wise” describe orientation. They indicate that a line drawn down the long axis of a charge would be at the same angle as the ordinary in question. A sword palewise, for instance, has its tip toward the top and its grip toward the bottom of the device, so a line down the length of it would be vertical, like a pale. A spear fesswise, on the other hand, has its point toward the dexter and its base toward the sinister side of the shield. A line down its length would be horizontal, like a fess. When the terms are applied to winged animals, they normally describe a line drawn from the animal’s head to its other end, even if the wings are displayed and the distance from wingtip to wingtip is greater.

These terms don’t apply to charges that don’t have long axes, like roses or mullets of six points which are essentially round. They also don’t apply to animals that are in default orientations for their postures. A lion rampant is largely vertical, for instance, but it’s not necessary to call it “palewise” since that is part of what “rampant” means. By the same token, a horse passant is largely horizontal; you don’t need “fesswise” to tell you that.

It is possible to use two or more ordinary-based terms to describe a single piece of armory, or even a single charge or charge group. Each term has its own, distinct job to do, and they have no effect on one another.



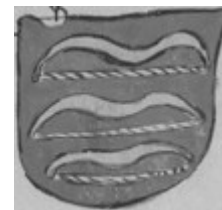
Gules, in saltire two swords proper between in cross four roses argent



Argent, a cross raguly gules



Per fess azure and Or, a wolf per fess Or and sable



Azure, in pale three bows fesswise.



Per pale gules and argent, a sword bendwise sinister argent

From BSB Cod.icon. 309, painted in southern Germany between 1475 and 1560, or BSB Cod.icon. 291, painted in England in the middle of the 16th century, both of which are in the collection of the Bavarian State Library.