

Scholars

His Excellency's Scholars of SEAGIRT

Declaration

WHEREAS in the Middle Ages, certain Royalty and Nobility did gather unto their courts the Learned and Wise, and did provide to these Learned and Wise protection and patronage, and

WHEREAS it is one of the Aims of this our Society to establish in our Current Middle Ages that which is of the best, noblest and most worthy of the original;

THEREFORE it is the pleasure of His Excellency, Uilliam mac Aillan vhic Seamus, Baron Seagirt by the grace of the Sable Lion of An Tir, to create, ordain and establish the Scholars of Seagirt, who shall be under his protection.

The Articles

ARTICLE I - TITLES AND INSIGNIA

Those Candidates who successfully meet the challenges as set forth in this document shall bear the title of 'Scholar', as befits those gentles who are learned and wise, for the greatest part of wisdom is to recognize how much more yet there is to be learned. The insignia of the Scholars shall be a girdle book, the cover of which shall be heraldic blue and bear upon its cover the Seagirt orca. Within the territory of the Barony of Seagirt, this insignia and title shall be borne exclusively by those who have successfully met these challenges¹.

ARTICLE II - DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

The Scholars shall swear fealty to His Excellency, pledging the full and unreserved application of their learning for the betterment of the Barony, the Kingdom and the Known World of these Current Middle Ages, both in peace and in war. Further, they shall assist His Excellency in evaluating Candidates and shall at all times comport themselves as true and gentle folk.

ARTICLE III - APPLICATION AND CRITERIA

Each Candidate must make formal application to His Excellency, at the annual Daffodil Tournament and shall have until Yule of that year to successfully complete the requirements set forth to achieve the title and rank of Scholar. Although His Excellency may solicit the opinions and assistance of other gentles, the final acceptance or rejection of a Candidate is the sole and exclusive decision of His Excellency.

1. It is His Excellency's intention to submit the insignia and title of Scholar to the College of Heralds and Kingdom as soon as possible in order to protect them throughout An Tir.

Introduction

1. Application

Each Candidate must apply formally at Daffodil Tournament. Candidates should bear in mind that the application may be on public display throughout the year. The exact form, subject and style of the application may vary at the Candidate's option. Documentation for this item is not a requirement.

In addition, the Candidate must complete a challenge form which lists the categories they intend to challenge, what work will be submitted for the challenge, and which category will be the major category of interest.

2. The Evaluation Process

Candidates are evaluated in three overall areas: The Historical Middle Ages, The Current Middle Ages and The Social Graces. The first two areas are evaluated prior to the Feast of the Immaculate Confection; the third is evaluated on-site, at the event.

The Historical Middle Age

This entire section is evaluated a minimum of one month prior to Yule.

REQUIREMENT

3. Candidates are required to complete:

1. Five projects from five of the eight categories; and
2. A sixth project in one of those five categories identifies their concentration category; and
3. A paper related to their concentration category

4. Of requirements 1. and 2. a minimum of four of the projects must be objects crafted by the candidate. The remaining may be additional papers.

4. Here is a Sample Challenge Form

The main purpose of the challenge form is to prevent misunderstanding regarding the categories and the forms of the challenge being undertaken.

Name:	Rosamund Kilpatrick	
Phone:	(250) 555-1234	
E-mail:	sample@home.com	
Category	Item	Form
1. Leatherworking	Shoes	item
2. Clothing & Cloth Arts	Drawn thread handkerchief	item
3. Discourses	Translation	item
4. Performance Arts	Group dramatic performance	item
5. Performance Arts	Solo dramatic performance	item
6. Miscellaneous	Sonnet	item
Concentration:	Performance Arts	
Paper on:	Theatrical Architecture in Elizabethan England	
Notes:	Candidate has Silver Whale; persona bio waived	

This Candidate will be submitting one paper and five items; if she did not have a Silver Whale qualification, or wanted to change persona, she would also have to write a persona bio.

Since some works may well be suitable for more than one category, or it may not be clear which is the most suitable category for a work, the Candidate must discuss the works and categories with His Excellency so that both have a clear understanding.

Evaluations take place during the time leading up to Yule, so it is in the Candidate's best interest to apply and submit the works as soon as possible.

Further, the Candidate will meet with an evaluation panel to discuss their concentration category, general knowledge and their paper's specifics. The remaining five categories will also be assessed, but will not necessarily be discussed with the Candidate. Since it takes time to read papers and

examine work, all items and papers are due no later than Thanksgiving weekend.

Since the works are required to be displayed to the populace at Yule, the Candidate should ensure that the items are suitable for display and accompanied by their attendant documentation, notes, etc.

FORMAT OF SUBMISSIONS

Candidates are expected to have made the works under consideration; therefore, four of the categories must be things the Candidate has sewn, built, constructed, painted, sung, played, etc. While research papers are certainly encouraged, they should not be the sole form of artistic or scientific expression.

NOTE: Since this is not a competition in the usual sense, i.e., one winner from the field, the usual custom of not recycling things does not apply here. Papers, performances, made items, etc. that have been previously entered and/or have won in competition may certainly be used by the Candidates; in fact, such practice is encouraged.

STANDARD

Papers must be neatly typewritten / printed, double-spaced on single-sided sheets with 1 inch margins all around. Candidates should avoid using fanciful and/or calligraphic fonts. The length of the essay should be between 12 and 15 pages, not including endnotes, diagrams, photographs, etc. Citations may be in the form most comfortable and convenient for the Candidate, so long as they are clear and concise. Made items should be accompanied by supporting documentation; performances (dance, song, theatrics, stories, etc.) should have sources noted on a 3 x 5 index card. Documentation should have a minimum of one primary source, where available, and one reliable secondary source, or three reliable secondary sources. Please attach photocopies of the relevant source material. See "Ruritanian Purple Feathers" in the Known World Handbook for a good discussion of primary and secondary sources.

EVALUATION

His Excellency will arrange for the evaluations to take place prior to Yule.

The evaluation panel will meet with the Candidate prior to the Yule, after receiving and reviewing the paper on the category of major interest. The panel will consist of three evaluators, one of whom will be a layperson; that is, a gentle who is not necessarily an artist or scholar, or has not studied greatly in the category of major interest. Essentially, the Candidate will

'teach' the topic to the layperson, and will be questioned on it by the other two evaluators, who will evaluate the Candidate's command of knowledge in the category of major interest. The layperson's job is to evaluate how well the Candidate communicates that knowledge to others.

In other words, two evaluators are asking the question, "Does this candidate know what they are talking about?"; the layperson is asking the question "How well does the Candidate inform me about the topic?". Each evaluator will deliver their written evaluation to His Excellency privately and independently following the assessment session. The session will probably take between 1 and 2 hours.

The other works will also be evaluated at times and places mutually convenient to the Candidate and the evaluators. His Excellency will attempt to provide the Candidate and the evaluators with as much flexibility as possible in these arrangements, which is another reason for encouraging the Candidates to apply early. A year is not too soon start.

CATEGORIES

It is important that the Candidate understand that the classifications listed under each category are by way of example of what falls into that category; the list is by no means exhaustive. It is also quite possible that more categories may have to be created. With that in mind, here are the categories:

Entertainment and Performance Arts

e.g., dance performance, European; dance performance, Eastern; choreography; music composition and theory; vocal music; instrumental music; storytelling, dramatic performance, juggling & tumbling; prose, poetry & playwriting; etc.

The Fine Arts

e.g., calligraphy; cartography; illumination; drawing & sketching; painting & iconography; printing; sculpture & stone carving; stained glass; mosaic; etc.

Clothing and Cloth Arts

e.g., costuming accessories; costuming; dyeing; fabric painting; embroidery & needlework; lace-making; knitting, nal-binding & knotted work; spinning; weaving; beadwork; felt making; tents & pavilions; etc.

Discourses

e.g., alchemy; architecture; astrology & astronomy; engineering; horology; law; mathematics; medicine; navigation & seamanship; philosophy; physics; theology; scientific instruments; etc.

The Arts of War

e.g., armour; fortifications; mining & sapping; siege engines & warfare; strategy & tactics; weapons; archery equipment; defense of the home; etc.

Domestic Arts & Sciences

e.g., candle-making; household management; medicinal herbology; soap-making; basket-weaving; games, toys & dolls; animal husbandry; etc.

The Culinary Arts

e.g., baking; banquet planning & service; brewing; wine-making; distilling; cookery; subtleties; herbs & spices; preserving; etc.

The Trades and Crafts

e.g., blacksmithing; gold & silver smithing; bookbinding; papermaking; blown glass; ceramics & pottery; jewelry; leatherwork; metalwork; woodwork; musical instrument manufacture; etc.

Miscellaneous

Items at the Baron's discretion that may not fit nicely into any other category, etc.

This entire section is evaluated off-site, prior to Yule. Each Candidate will be evaluated on their knowledge of the following:

HERALDRY

The Candidate, in order to demonstrate knowledge of heraldry, shall

- a. be able to correctly blazon their own device, if applicable (see Persona), the devices of the Barony, the Baron and Baroness, the King and Queen, and five others selected at random by the heraldry evaluator.

- b. be able to correctly identify 70% of the devices from a random selection.

Devices for parts (a) and (b) will be selected by the heraldry evaluator and provided to the Candidate beforehand for study. The possible range of selection is as follows:

-  [The Royalty of An Tir](#)
-  [The Great Offices of An Tir](#)
-  [The Branches of the Principality of Tir Rígh and neighbours](#)
-  [The Baron and Baroness of Seagirt](#)
-  [The Personal Arms of the Officers of Seagirt](#)
-  [Prominent Citizens of the Island and the Principality of Tir Rígh](#)
-  [The Kingdoms of the Known World](#)

PERSONA

- a. The Candidate must have designed an identifying mark suitable to their persona, or have reasonable and documented justification for a lack of same. The intent is that a Candidate with a Japanese persona, for example, should have designed a *mon*, a Candidate with a Celtic persona should have a clan badge or token, etc.

The Candidate should have a reasonably well-developed persona. This information must include a full name, which need not necessarily be the name by which they are known locally. The Candidate shall write a short biography (1000 to 1500 words), which should cover:

-  When and where they were born;
-  What their home life is/was like as children;
-  Where they were educated and in what subjects;
-  Where they've been, if they've traveled;
-  Where they live now, if not where they were born;
-  Daily activities and religious observances;
-  Who is/was their local nobility, if any;
-  Local geography (historical geography; not SCA)

- b. The biography must be received a minimum of two weeks prior to Yule, and the identifying mark must be displayed in a suitable manner at the Feast.

NOTE: Gentles who have successfully completed the Silver Whale or Golden Swan persona development challenges are exempted from the biography requirement of section (b) above, provided their 'active' persona is the one for which they received the Silver Whale

or Golden Swan. They may be questioned about their persona during the on-site evaluation.

GEOGRAPHY

Each Candidate must be able to correctly name the Kingdoms of the Known World and correctly locate a minimum of 75% on a blank SCA map and describe the internal geography of An Tir by naming the principalities, and describing what lands they cover and several branches in each.

The Social Graces

Each Candidate will be evaluated on their ability in the following:

DANCE (evaluated at a Seagirt event during the summer months)

Each Candidate must be able to dance either two court dances and a country dance or a court dance and two country dances. The Candidate must also be prepared to discuss the music used for each dance; at a minimum, they should know the name of the music, the instrument(s) it is played upon, the composer or the person who first set it down for posterity. If the other dancers are unfamiliar with the steps, the Candidate must be prepared to instruct them. Music may be provided on tape or compact disc, or by live performance; in the latter case, it is up to the Candidate to arrange the music troupe.

GAMES (evaluated at a Seagirt event during the summer months)

Each Candidate must be able to play games appropriate to the Society, and in order to demonstrate this capability, shall be prepared to play five games; games should cover chance, skill and active (as opposed to sit-down) types. The evaluator will select three of the games to play against the Candidate, and the Candidate will describe the other two, covering rules, game equipment if required, and a brief run-down on the history and origin of the game.

It is the Candidate's responsibility to provide the game-playing equipment, although if the game is common or popular, the Candidate may arrange for the games evaluator to bring the required equipment.

BARDIC (evaluated at Yule)

The gently born were expected to be able to regale the company with a song or a story or some other such diversion. Each Candidate will, therefore, be required to present a performance, which may be a song, story, poem or instrumental piece. The performance must be either a

period piece or an original composition in period style. If the piece is period, but not originally in English, the Candidate must either provide a translation or perform a translated version. Instrumental pieces must be performed on a period instrument. This does not mean an exact period replica; modern versions of the instruments are acceptable (i.e., recorder made of plastic). The Candidate must also know who was the composer/author, and when and where it was written. Original compositions may be about events, people, places and things in the Current Middle Ages as well as the Historical Middle Ages. It is the Candidate's responsibility to arrange instrumental accompaniment or supporting performers.

NOTE: It is the willingness and ability of the Candidate to perform that is under evaluation, not the quality of the composition.

COURTESY AND DEPORTMENT (evaluated at Yule)

Scholars are expected to display a high degree of honourable and courteous behaviour toward gentles of all stations. The following guidelines, while not exhaustive, should provide a clear idea of the standard of conduct expected:

- Courteous gentles know their worth. They have no false modesty but will not put themselves forward as first among equals. They are quick to praise and slow to censure, and do not praise themselves falsely.
- Courteous gentles honour and keep their word, and therefore do not give it lightly or in jest. They speak truthfully or else are silent.
- Courteous gentles speak considerately and with respect to all and of all, holding those of equal station as superior and those of lesser station as equals.
- Courteous gentles are known by their deeds as well as their words. They are quick to offer assistance to any that require it, and accept refusals of assistance with good grace.
- Courteous gentles are hospitable, and share what they have, however little it may be, and in turn receive the hospitality of others with grace and without greed.
- In addition to these five standards of conduct, one particularly applicable to Scholars is that they willingly share their knowledge and assist others to learn.

The gentles of the Barony will be observing each Candidate, and are encouraged to speak to Their Excellencies or one of the current Scholars during the on-site evaluation. His Excellency will make his evaluation of the Candidate base upon his own observations and the observances communicated to him.