

# SECTION V -- FIELD AND DUTY HERALDING

## 3) What to Say (August, XXI)

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### [a] Paraphrasing and giving directions

Author: Hirsch von Henford

Number of Pages: 1

Policy Level: Informational

Intended Audience: All Heralds

Abstract: Introduction to the idea of paraphrasing and instructions on how to give directions as a duty herald.

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### [b] List of Alternate Wordings for Common Phrases

Author: Eilis O'Boirne  
with help from the Senior Staff

Number of Pages: 2

Policy Level: Informational

Intended Audience: All Heralds

Abstract: A list, in no particular order, of possible equivalents for common phrases, together with phrases to avoid.

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### [c] Field Litany, with variations

Author: William the Lucky

Number of Pages: 3

Policy Level: WK Policy

Intended Audience: All heralds, marshalls, fighters

Abstract: Though the author is given as William the Lucky, the Litany is traditional. Exact procedures were worked out in AS XX by the Heralds and Marshalls combined.

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## PARAPHRASING AND GIVING DIRECTIONS

Hirsch von Henford (August, XXI)

It's your turn as duty herald! The constable asks you to announce that all autos must be removed from the area immediately, and parked in the parking lot. Your problem is wording the announcement so that the information is given but people are not annoyed by the wording of the announcement. Many people are in the SCA to escape (at least temporarily) from the mundane world. These people can get quite upset if an announcement about something as mundane as *automobiles* is inserted into their world -- but will get even more upset if the automobiles remain on the field.

Paraphrasing announcements is not necessarily easy. Finding equivalent terms for mundane items in medieval terminology can be simple, like replacing *tent* for *pavilion*. Or it can be more complex, like finding an appropriate "period" term for *automobile*. Often a new herald is told to use his "common sense" in these matters, but sometimes common sense doesn't provide an answer. If the term *automobile* is not acceptable, what term is? Well, let's look at the terms most often substituted at events.

One of these terms is *fire-chariot*. Summon up this image in your mind. Would **you** willingly step into a burning chariot? Or put all your tourney gear into one? Another term often heard is *dragon*. The usual way to get inside a dragon is to be swallowed, which is not a pleasing idea. Besides, they get mad if you keep messing in their trunks. Just because a term is not modern doesn't mean that it's the best term to use.

So what substitute would be reasonable? Try *chariot*, or *wain*, or *wagon*. Your revised announcement might become "The Constable requests that all wagons be driven from the field immediately. Please remove them to the area beyond the trees."

Be careful when rewording announcements to make sure that the content is not lost. If you are not sure about it, check it out with the person who asked you to make the announcement, or with a more experienced herald. If you don't have time, or there isn't help around, announce the message in plain, formal, modern English, and resolve to do better next time. (The important thing is getting the message out!)

Another problem which arises when making announcements is indicating locations. Pointing and saying "Yonder" is funny, but not really good enough. Telling people that a meeting is occurring on the north side of the eric doesn't work well either. Even if they know which way north is, the directions are not specific enough. If you use compass directions, combine them with other information to help pinpoint the location.

This additional information could be a reference to a well-known pavilion, such as the Royal Pavilion, or County Seat (home of Frederick of Holland). Or it could be a reference to a particularly large or brightly-colored pavilion. For instance: "There will be a meeting of the College of Herald's at County Seat at 9. There will be a meeting of the Constables at the orange yurt on the south edge of the eric at 9:30." You can also use banners as a point of reference, as in "Entries for the Arts Competition should be brought to the white pavilion on the west side of the Eric. Look for the Arts banner -- a gold harp on purple." When you are giving directions, try to make them concise enough that they can be followed easily. As always, check the wording with someone if you aren't sure. And if people seem confused, or keep asking you to repeat the announcement, try a different wording.

## A LIST OF ALTERNATE WORDINGS

Including some to avoid

Eilis O'Boirne with some help from the Senior Staff (August XXI)

These words are in random order -- partially because we wrote them down as we thought of them, and partially because we don't want you to use this section as a "dictionary". Instead, read through it without trying to memorize it, and use it to inspire and guide you. We know the list isn't complete -- please send in your ideas for inclusion in later editions. Feel free to send both "problem" words and other alternates for the words given here.

**Automobile:** *Wagon, chariot, and wain* are good words to use. You can actually use *car* -- the first OED citation is 1388 -- but most people will "hear" the word as an anachronism. SCA circumlocutions commonly used are *fire-chariot* and *dragon*, and most people will understand what you're getting at, but they tend to be "cute". Avoid them, along with *auto* and *automobile*.

**X o'clock:** Use phrases like "*at the X hour...*", "*at the X hour after noon...*", or "*at X of the clock...*" Avoid using *AM/PM* if you possibly can. Don't use military time (*1500 hours*), which is modern. Don't use canonical time, since most of us aren't sure whether *prime* comes before or after *compline*.

**Watch:** *Chronometer* and *timepiece* are OK, while *wrist sundial* is cute.

**Signups** (noun): "*The Mistress of the Lists is accepting names for...*", "*Lists registration is now open...*", and other such phrases should be used.

**Sign up** (verb): "*Register for...*", "*Place your name on the list for...*", and other such phrases should be used.

**Bathroom:** Standard for SCA use is *privy*, although *bathroom* and *restroom* are acceptable. Also acceptable are *water closet*, *outhouse*, and "*euphemism*". Best avoided are *loo*, *WC*, *porta-potty*, and such extravagances as "*The Shrines of St. John of the Swirling Water*".

**Water faucet:** Use *well*, *spring* and *water tap*. If there are no decorative fountains on site, *fountain* would be OK. Avoid *creek* or *pool* unless that is actually what you are talking about.

**Drinking fountain:** OK as is.

**Garbage can/dumpster:** Use *trash receptacle*, *garbage container*, or *midden*. Avoid *dumpster*.

**Computer:** The terms in common SCA use are *golem* and *mechanical scribe*. Avoid *PC* and brand names like *IBM* and *Apple* unless they are essential to the announcement.

**Telephone:** The standard term used is *farspeaker*, although *Telephone* is perfectly acceptable..

**Answering machine:** You can say *privy scribe*, or simply request that people leave a message, without specifying the machine. A term sometimes used, but obscure is *brazen head*.

**Coleman X:** Use *Coleman X* -- but only to make a strong point. "His Majesty commands that all Coleman Stoves be removed from sight as soon as possible after their use." Otherwise, just use *X*, without the brand name, or say *mundane X*.

**Flashlight:** Use *light* or *lantern*.

**Costume:** Use *clothing, garb, tunics, robes*, etc. Avoid *costume*. (We do not wear costumes -- we wear clothing!)

**Car keys:** This is usually part of a lost-and-found announcement. Use *set of keys* or *ring of keys*.

**Driver's License:** Also usually heard in lost-and-found announcements. There isn't really a good equivalent, but you can try *charioteer's papers* if you really need something.

**Wallet:** Is a perfectly good period word.

**Money:** This is a perfectly good word. So is *cash*. There is no need to get all forsoothly about it and say things about *coin of the realm*. And if you get circuitous enough, people won't know what you're talking about! We don't generally speak about units other than the *dollar*, which is an adaptation of the older word *thaler* (pronounced tah-ler). So don't worry about it!

**Camera:** Use *portable illuminator*. *Soul-stealer* and *image-capturing device* are heard, but are cute.

**Flash photography:** This is usually heard in an announcement at Court barring it. There are no good phrases we know of -- although we have toyed with the idea of banning the *casting of spells of blindness*. You can try the brief and succinct "*No flashing!*"

**Tent:** Use *pavilion*, even for mundane tents. You can also use the specific type, like *yurt* or *Viking pavilion*.

**Toilet Paper:** There is no good phrase -- the best we came up with was *privy paper*. Avoid any of the modern euphemisms, like *T.P.*

**Tape recorder** (turn on the): Use phrases like "*Let the music begin!*" or "*Signal the musicians to start.*" Avoid the overly-affected *captive musicians*, *minstrels in a box*, or *tiny jongleurs*, and the modern *boom-box* and *ghetto-blaster*.

**Radio headsets:** *Tenfo* has become an acceptable West Kingdom term for these. Avoid *walky-talky* and *C.B.*

**Park rangers:** *Ranger* is preferred, although the "cuter" *King's Forester* is acceptable.

**Small:** (*reference to Children*) – the term "children" was perfectly period, and the term "small" sounds like you are referring to "small adults", which children are certainly not.

**Mundane police:** *Sheriffs*, *Town Constables* or *Mundane Constables* would be OK. Avoid *cops*, *CHP*, and *Chippies*.

**Mundane** (noun): When speaking of "friendly" people, use *visitors*, *guests* or *potential members* (if they are). For "non-friendly mundanes", use *Non-SCA people* or *strangers*. Avoid calling people "mundanes" -- some of them find it insulting.

**Mundane** (adjective): Use *mundane* or *20th century*. Avoid the use of the term *real* in this context.

**Anno Societatis:** Use *Anno Societatis*, "*X year of the Kingdom of the West*" or "*X year of the Society*". Abbreviating to *A.S. X* works sometimes.

**Mundane Year:** Use the phrase "*X year of the Common Era*" or "*X year Anno Domini*". Avoid abbreviating to "*X A.D.*"

**Parking lot:** If you can't give the precise location in acceptable words, try "*out of site*" or "*beyond the trees*" (if it is). If not, use *stableyard* or *parking field*.

## FIELD LITANY

William the Lucky (August, XXI)

Unto all field heralds and all knight marshals:

Attached is a copy of the current ceremony for initiating combat upon the field. Two points should be noted.

- ! The marshals should not tell the herald to start until they and the fighters are ready. It looks silly for the herald to cry "Begin!" or "Lay on!" . . . and then have everyone stand around while some detail gets attended to.
- ! It is the clashing of the marshal's staves which actually starts the fight. However, the ideal is for the staves to clash together just as the herald cries "Begin!" (or "Lay On!" or whatever) and it is usually easier for the Marshals to time their action to the herald (so long as they know what he is going to say) than vice versa.

This form of the ceremony for initiating combat is to be used in tournaments in the Kingdom of the West.

Minor variations in wording are permissible; just be sure you know what you're doing before you start making 'improvements'.

### Starting Combats in the Crown Lists

The marshals determine, by asking, that the fighters are ready, then two of them stand with their staves crossed between the fighters. One marshal then signals the herald, either by eye contact or saying:

Marshal: My Lord/Lady Herald . . .

Herald: In the Nth round of the Crown Lists, here do meet  
 \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_.  
 Gentlemen/Ladies/My Lord, My Lady: Salute the Crown.  
*(Pause while they salute)*  
 You may salute the one whose favor you bear.  
*(Pause while they salute)*  
 Salute you each the other.  
*(Pause while they salute)*  
 On your honor, and for the Crown of the West, Begin!

As the Herald cries "Begin!", the Marshals clash their staves together and then withdraw briskly to a suitable position for watching the fight. The Herald leaves the field at the same time --- also briskly, as no one will be looking to see that he is clear.

At the end of the fight, the Herald should determine from the Marshals whether the fight is over and who won. (NB This may not be as obvious as it appears.)

### Starting Combats in the Coronet Lists

The marshals determine, by asking, that the fighters are ready, then two of them stand with their staves crossed between the fighters. One marshal then signals the herald, either by eye contact or saying:

Marshal: My Lord/Lady Herald . . .

Herald: In the Nth round of the Coronet Lists, here do meet  
 \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_.  
 Gentlemen/Ladies/My Lord, My Lady: Salute the Coronet.  
*(Pause while they salute)*  
 You may salute the one whose favor you bear.  
*(Pause while they salute)*  
 Salute you each the other.  
*(Pause while they salute)*  
 On your honor, and for the Coronet of PPPP, Begin!

As the Herald cries "Begin!", the Marshals clash their staves together and then withdraw briskly to a suitable position for watching the fight. The Herald leaves the field at the same time --- also briskly, as no one will be looking to see that he is clear.

At the end of the fight, the Herald should determine from the Marshals whether the fight is over and who won. (NB This may not be as obvious as it appears.)

### Starting (Non-Challenge) Single Combats (Other than Crown or Coronet Lists)

The marshals determine, by asking, that the fighters are ready, then two of them stand with their staves crossed between the fighters. One marshal then signals the herald, either by eye contact or saying:

Marshal: My Lord/Lady Herald . . .

Herald: Here do meet \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_.  
 Gentlemen/Ladies/My Lord, My Lady: Salute the Crown/Coronet.  
*(Pause while they salute)*  
 You may salute the one whose favor you bear.  
*(Pause while they salute)*  
 Salute you each the other.  
*(Pause while they salute)*  
 On your honor, Begin!

As the Herald cries "Begin!", the Marshals clash their staves together and then withdraw briskly to a suitable position for watching the fight. The Herald leaves the field at the same time --- also briskly, as no one will be looking to see that he is clear.

At the end of the fight, the Herald should determine from the Marshals whether the fight is over and who won. (NB This may not be as obvious as it appears.)

### Starting Challenge Single Combats

The wording of the challenge should be written down, preferably by the fighters involved, and given to the Herald.

The marshals determine, by asking, that the fighters are ready, then two of them stand with their staves crossed between the fighters. One marshal then signals the herald, either by eye contact or saying:

Marshal: My Lord/Lady Herald . . .

Herald: \_\_\_\_\_ has challenged \_\_\_\_\_ for that.

*(here read the challenge as written.)*

Gentlemen/Ladies/My Lord, My Lady: Salute the Crown/Coronet.

*(Pause while they salute)*

You may salute the one whose favor you bear.

*(Pause while they salute)*

Salute you each the other.

*(Pause while they salute)*

On your honor, Begin!

Or if it fits smoothly the Herald may say instead, "On your honor and for . . ." followed by a couple of word summary of the challenge "Begin!" See the example below.

As the Herald cries "Begin!", the Marshals clash their staves together and then withdraw briskly to a suitable position for watching the fight. The Herald leaves the field at the same time --- also briskly, as no one will be looking to see that he is clear.

At the end of the fight, the Herald should determine from the Marshals whether the fight is over and who won. (NB This may not be as obvious as it appears.)

#### EXAMPLE:

Herald: Lord Frisbee of Frabbersnatch has challenged Baron Robert the Improvident, in order to provide him with something -- to wit, a swift piece of rattan.

Gentlemen: Salute the Crown.

*(Pause while they salute)*

You may salute the one whose favor you bear.

*(Pause while they salute)*

Salute you each the other.

*(Pause while they salute)*

On your honor, and for a swift piece of rattan, Begin!