

A SILVESTRINE
VADEMECUM

being a
Compendium of Texts
useful for a Herald

The Rule of the Society of S. *Sylvester*

We, Mag. Pietari Pentinpoika Uv, O. Pel. etc.; Dom. Johan Magnuffon Kivifuo, O. Lindq. etc.; and Dom. Dubhghall mac Ébhearáird, having come together in the pursuit of heraldic arts, have adopted this Rule to aid in such endeavour both ourselves and those who may join us.

Chapter i: In the pursuit of heraldic knowledge begins the life of the Brothers and Sisters of S. *Sylvester*.

The Rule and life of the Society of S. *Sylvester* is this, namely, to pursue knowledge and foster practice of heraldry, onomastics, and the courtly arts in this our Known World, by living in obedience, learning, and teaching.

Brother Pietari promises obedience and reverence to the Laurel Queen of Arms and her canonically appointed successors, and to the College of Arms; and the other brothers and sis-

ters are bound to obey Brother Pietari and his successors.

Chapter ij: Concerning those who wish to adopt this life, and how they should be received.

If any would desire to adopt this life and would come to our brothers or sisters, let them send them to their Prior, to whom alone, and not to others, is the permission to receive novices conceded. Let the Priors indeed examine them diligently concerning their devotion to Heraldry and the Rules of the College of Arms.

And if they believe these things and want to observe them faithfully and firmly unto the end, let them accept from these the vows of novitiate. Afterwards let them grant them

the clothes of probation, that is, a short tunic and a hood. Having truly finished the time of probation and having been examined by their Prior provincial, let them be received to obedience, promising to observe always this life and

Rule. And let those who have already promised obedience have a tunic of full length and a hood.

Chapter iij: Concerning the heraldic office and commenting; and in what manner the brothers and sisters ought to go through the world.

Heralds are to perform their courtly duties according to the customs of the land. In accepting submissions they should likewise follow local practice, save that they should encourage their clients to good heraldic and onomastic style, even beyond that required by the College of Heraldry.

And should the customs of the land permit, each convent should strive to be active in the processing of submissions, either in helping one of their brothers and sisters to hold an office in the College of Heraldry, or in commenting on submissions. But I warn and exhort them, not to despise nor judge people who wish to submit bad but still registrable names

or arms, but rather let each one judge and despise his very self.

Indeed, I counsel, warn and exhort my brothers and sisters, that when they go about through the world, they are not to quarrel nor contend in words, nor are they to judge others, but they are to be honest, peaceable, modest and fair, speaking uprightly to all, as is fitting.

Chapter iiij: On the penance to be imposed on brothers and sisters who are misbehaving.

If any of the brothers and sisters should commit acts against this Rule or their office as a herald, the afore said brothers or sisters are bound to have recourse to their Prior provincial as soon as they can, without delay. Indeed let the Priors themselves with mercy enjoin upon them a penance. And they should beware, not to grow angry and be distressed on account of the misconduct of another, since anger and distress impede diplomacy in themselves and in others.

Chapter v: On the election of the Brother general of this society; and on the General Convent.

All the brothers and sisters are bound to have always one of the brothers or sisters of this very same Society as Brother or Sister general and servant of the whole society and they are bound firmly to obey him. Every other year let an election of a successor be made by the Priors provincial and the Custodes in the General Convent, in which the Priors provincial and Custodes are bound to convene at once wherever it will have been determined by the Brother general; and this once every year or at another interval greater or less, as it will have been ordained by the aforesaid Brother.

And if at any time it may appear to all the Priors provincial and to the Custodes, that the aforesaid Brother or Sister is not sufficient for the service and common utility of the Society, the aforesaid brothers and sisters, to whom the electing has been given, are bound to choose another as their Brother general. Indeed, after the General Convent, let any two of the Priors

provincial and Custodes be able, if they want and if it will seem to be expedient for them, once in the same year to call their brothers and sisters together in convent in their own provinces.

Chapter vi: On consultation.

Let the Brothers and Sisters not engage in consultation in any group, when the Principal Herald has spoken against their doing so. And let no brother or sister at all dare work with clients, unless they will have been examined by the Brother general of this Society or his designated assistant and approved, and there be conceded to them by the same the office of consultation.

I also warn and exhort these same brothers and sisters, that in consultation that they do, their expressions be considered and diplomatic, for the utility and edification of the people, when announcing to them faults and virtues of their designs.

Chapter vij: On the admonition and correction of the brothers and sisters.

Let those who are Priors and servants of the other brothers and sisters, visit and warn them and humbly and charitably correct them, not commanding them anything which is contrary to their nature and our Rule. Indeed let the brothers and sisters who are subjects remember that for the sake of Heraldry they have to a degree renounced their own wills. Whence I firmly command them, to obey their Priors in all things which they have promised to observe and which are not contrary to their nature or to our Rule. And wherever the brothers or sisters are, who know and understand that they themselves are not able to observe the Rule spiritually, they should and can have recourse to their Priors. Indeed let the Priors receive them charitably and kindly and be so familiar with them, that they can speak to them and act as lords with their servants; for so it should be, because the Priors are the servants of all the brothers and sisters.

Indeed I warn and exhort the brothers and sisters that they beware of all pride, vain glory, envy, avarice, detraction and murmuring, and that those who are ignorant of letters not care to learn letters; but let them strive, so that above all things they should desire to be good heralds and to have honesty, and patience with clients.

The Confirmation of the Rule

This Rule we have decided to adopt. But should it prove insufficient, and the society wish to amend it, let it be with a majority vote at two successive General Convents, with the unanimous approval of the Brother General and the Custodes. And even if the Rule is changed, let each and every one of those who have given their vow to follow it decide whether they wish to continue following the old Rule or change to the new one; but let new brothers and sisters thenceforth vow to follow the Rule as changed.

Given at the Convent of S. *Silvester* in Hucka,
on S. *Bartholomew's* eve, in the xxxiiij year of
the Known World.

The Vows of the Society of S. *Sylvester*

Vows of Novitiate

I, N.N., promise to the Society of S. *Sylvester*,
and in the presence of P.P., my Prior, honesty
and obedience in my pursuit for and use of
knowledge in the Heraldic arts, as set forth in
the Rule of this Society. I promise this with
the intent of learning to become a full
Brother / Sister of the Society, and with the
knowledge that I can be freed of this promise
by announcing such a wish to my Prior.

Minä N.N. lupaan ja vakuutan P. *Sylvesterin*
veljestölle ja P.P:n, priorini edessä olevani re-
hellinen ja kuuliainen opiskelleffani ja harjoit-

taessani airuen taitoja, niin kuin veljestön Säännössä sanotaan. Tämän lupaan vakaana aikomukseni kehittyä veljestön varsinaiseksi veljeksi / sisareksi sekä tietäen, että voin vapautua lupauksistani kertomalla tällaisesta aikomuksesta priorilleni.

Final Vows

I, N.N., promise to the Society of S. *Sylvester*, and in the presence of P.P., my Prior provincial, perpetual honesty and obedience in my pursuit for and use of knowledge in the Heraldic arts, as set forth in the Rule of this Society. Moreover, I promise not to consciously break this Rule even in my activities outside the sphere of Heraldry. This I promise with the clear understanding that I can only be freed of this promise by the Brother general of the Society and under the gravest of circumstances.

Minä N.N. lupaan ja vakuutan P. *Sylvesterin* veljestölle ja P.P:n, provinssiaalipriorini edessä pyfyväni rehellisenä ja kuuliaisena opiskelleis-

ani ja harjoittaessani airuen taitoja, niin kuin veljestön Säännössä sanotaan. Samoin lupaan, etten muillakaan toimissani tietoisesti rikko veljestön Sääntöä vastaan. Tämän lupaan ymmärtäen, että minut voi lupaukseni vapauttaa vain veljestön kenraaliveli mitä vakavimpien fyiden nojalla.



Creation of a Herald or Purfuivant

Herald: Know that We _____ and _____ , _____ and _____ of _____ , have need of a purfuivant / herald to carry Our meſſages in peace and war, to be Our voice, and to teach the noble arts of heraldry[, as our loyal ſervant _____ has done]. Know alſo that hearing good report of our faithful ſervant _____ as a gentle(wo)man ſkilled in the arts of honour we are minded to create h__ as our Purfuivant / Herald [Extraordinary].

In witneſs thereof we call forth all members of the College of Heraldſ and direct them to preſent _____ before Us!

The heralds come forward, eſcorting the candidate, and ſtand aſide.

Herald: Do you _____ , of your own free will, ſwear to ſerve your King and

Queen / Baron and Barones as
purfuivant / herald?

Candidate: _____

If swearing:

Herald: You fhall fwear by the faith that you owe to the King and Queen / Prince and Princefs / Baron and Barones, our [fovereign] Lord and Lady, whose arms you bear, that you fhall truly keep fuch things as are comprifed in the articles following:

Following each of the articles, the candidate responds »I fo fwear«.

If not swearing:

Herald: By the faith that you owe to the King and Queen / Prince and Princefs / Baron and Barones, our [fovereign] Lord and Lady, whose arms you bear, you fhall truly keep fuch things as are comprifed in the articles following:

Herald: Firft, you fhall fwear that you be true to our high and moft excellent prince and

princes / baron and barones, our [fover-
eign] lord that they are, and to them that
make you a herald. And if you shold have
any knowledge or hear any imagination of
treason, you shal discover it to them or to
their noble council; and counsel it in no
manner.

And you shal promise and fwear that you
shal be serviceable to all gentle persons to
do their commandments to their worship
of noble deeds; and to excuse their worship
by your good counsel, and ever ready to of-
fer your service to them.

Also you shal promise and fwear to be
secret and keep the secrets of knights,
squires, ladies, gentlewomen, and all man-
ner of gentle folk; a confessor of arms; and
not discover them in any wise except
treason abovesaid.

Also you shal promise and fwear if you be
in any place where you hear debate or peril
between two gentles which you be privy to,
if so be it that you be required by prince,

judge, or any other to bear witness, you shall not be without license of both parties, and when you have leave, you shall not testify for any good favour or awe, but say the truth to your knowledge.

If investing a Principal, Principality or Regional Herald

Also you shall promise and swear that you shall pursue learning, and teach officers of arms under you, all manner of things pertaining to nobility.

Also you shall promise and swear that you shall forsake all places of dishonesty and hazard and dishonestly going to common taverns and places of debates and all manner of vices, and take to virtues as much as you are able.

If swearing

Herald: These articles and other abovesaid you swear truly to keep with all your might and power.

An attendant moves forward and gives the goblet of water to the sovereign/baron who slowly pours a bit of water from the goblet over the candidate's head while speaking these words:

If swearing

Prefiding noble: Then, by your oath, I do create you purfuivant / herald by the name of _____ . As you shall serve Us as purfuivant / herald, We shall reward you with largeffe.

If not swearing

Prefiding noble: I hereby create you purfuivant / herald by the name of _____ . As you shall serve Us as purfuivant / herald, We shall reward you with largeffe.

Sovereign/Baron gives the cup to the candidate.

If creating a Purfuivant

Herald: Let the purfuivant be invested with his tabard of office, and let him wear it athwart as befits his rank of purfuivant, and in no other way.

Attendants move forward and put a tabard on the candidate. The tabard should be put on so that the arms of the tabard are on the candidate's chest and the front and back drape over the candidate's shoulders and arms.

If creating a Herald

Herald: Let the herald be invested with his tabard of office and let him wear it so that he may be known as a herald.

Attendants move forward and put a tabard over the head of the candidate so that it is athwart. Then, in a separate and obvious motion, the tabard is turned so that it is worn properly. If the candidate was already wearing a tabard athwart then the attendants turn the tabard so that it is worn properly.

Sovereign: Arife, _____ , and go forth.

The herald exhorts cheers from the populace.

The text as presented here is taken from the third edition of the Drachenwald Book of Ceremonies, compiled by Pietari Uv. It is heavily based on a ceremony composed by Lothar von Katzenellenbogen and subsequently adapted by Eiríkr Sigurðarson for use within the Caidan College of Heraldry.

Alternate Herald's Oaths

Oath for a senior Herald

This would be appropriate for a Principal Herald, Principality Herald, or a Herald Extraordinary.

Ist, whensoever the Crown shall command you to give any message to any other king, prince, state, or any other person, that you shall do it as honourably and truly as your will and

reason can serve you, and greatly to the advantage of our sovereign Lord and Lady and Their realm, always keeping yourself secret for any manner motion, save to such persons as you be commanded to utter your charge unto.

2ndly, you shall do your true duty to be every day more cunning than others in the office of arms, so as you may be better furnished to teach others, and execute with more wisdom and more eloquence such charges as your sovereign Lord and Lady and Their realm or of Their realm any nobleman shall lay unto you by the virtue of the office, which Their Highnesses will erect you to at this time.

3rdly, you shall do your diligence to have knowledge of all the nobles and gentlemen within your march, which should bear coats in the field in the service of our sovereign Lord and Lady, Their lieutenants, officers, and commissaries.

4thly, you shall not be unwilling to teach pur-suivants or heralds, nor to ease them in such doubts as they shall move to you.

5thly, you shall observe and keep to your cunning and power all such oaths as you made when you were created a herald, to the honour and worship of noblesse and integrity of living, namely, in eschewing disreputable places and people, and always more ready to excuse than to blame any noble person, unless you be charged to say the truth by the Crown, or in any place judicial. Also you shall permit truly to register all acts of honour in manner and form as they be done, as forsooth as power and cunning may extend.

Adapted from an oath for a King of Arms, published for the SCA by Pedro de Alcazar.

Oath for a Herald

1st, you shall swear to our sovereign lord and lady the king and queen that make you of the order of herald in their excellent presence, and to be true in all manner point, and if you hear any manner of language or any other thing that should touch treason to their high and excellent persons, or to their noble and discreet council.

2nd, you shall be serviceable and secret in all points, except treason, and obedience to all knights and gentlenefs, to lords and ladies and to gentlemen and gentlewomen, and as a confessor of arms, and cause and counsel them to all them truth, worship, and virtue in that in you is.

3rd, you shall be true of all your reports, and diligent to seek worship, and desire to be in the places of great assembly of princes and princesses, lords, ladies, and estates of great worship, where through you may have cunning to report to your prince or princess, or other estate, such worship as is occupied there.

4th, if case fall that you be in any place, that you hear any language between gentleman and gentleman, that should touch any strife or debate between them two, and afterwards following that you be sent for to come before our sovereign, prince, lord, or judge, to bear witness of the aforesaid language, you shall keep your mouth closed, and bear no witness without leave of both parties, and with their

leave you shall say the truth, and let neither for love nor for dread, but you shall say the truth.

5th, you shall be serviceable and true to all widows, maidens, of their supports in all worship, and counsel them to all virtues, and if any man would disworship them, or force them other in any manner, or otherwise take from them their goods against the laws, and of all gentleness, if they require you of your good support, you shall truly and diligently certify that to your sovereign lord, prince, lord, or judge to help them, that they may have right, in all that in you is, as the matter requires.

6th, you shall promise to you power to forsake all vices, and take you to all virtues, and to be no common goer to taverns, the which might cause unvirtuousness and unclean language, and that you be neither a dice player nor a gambler, and that you flee places of debate and dishonest places, and the company of women dishonest. These articles and other abovesaid you swear truly to keep with all your might and power.

Adapted from an oath for a Herald, published for the SCA by Pedro de Alcazar.

Oath for a Purfuivant

You fhall difpofe yourfelf to be lowly, humble, and ferviceable to all the eftates of all gentlenefs univerfal, not lying in wait to blame nor to hurt none of the faid eftate in anything that may touch their honour.

Alfo you fhall difpofe yourfelf to be difcreet and fober in your appearance, and be not too bufy in language, ready to commend and loth to blame, and diligent in your fervice, efchewing from vices, and drawing to virtues, and true in reports, and fo to exercife while you be in the office thereof, fo that your merits may caufe you more preferring in the office of arms in time coming, for while you be and ftand purfuivant you ftand as no one of the offices of arms, but as a fervant to all kings and heralds of the office of arms, and this you fhall promife to your power.

Adapted from an oath for a Purfuivant, published for the SCA by Pedro de Alcazar.

Aijruen afettaminen wircaans

Aijrut: Tietäkää, että Me _____ ja _____ , _____ n _____ ja _____ , olemma fuurefa tarpees saada airut meijdän äänexem, cantamaan meidän wiestejäm nijn fodan quin rauhan aijcana, quin myös opettamaan caijckia nijtä jaloja aijruen taijtoja, fen jälkiin quin se meijdän ufcolinen palwelijam _____ on tekenyt. Tietäkää myös, että caijken fen hywän tähden jota me olem cuulluet meijdän ufcolifesta palwelijaftam _____ ft fijs haluam me nimittää hänet meijdän aijruexem.

Sen todiftoxex cutzum me fijs caicki aijrut-collegiumin jäfenet ja pydäm heijtä tuoman fen _____ n meijdän eteem.

Aijruet faapuwat, mucanans se quin ehdolla on, ja feijfowat fiwuun.

Aijrut: Tahdotko finä _____ finun omafta wapaaf tahdoftas wannoa palwele-

wafi finun Cuningaftas ja Cuningatartas /
Baronia ja Baronitartas aijruen wirgafa?

Ehdol asetettu: _____

Quin hän wannopi:

Aijrut: Sinun pitää wannoa fen uscollifuuden
peräft quin finä welcapää olet finun Cunin-
gale ja Cuningattarelles / Ruchtinale ja
Ruchtinattarelles / Baronil ja Baronittarel-
les meijdän corkial Herral ja Frouwalem
joiiden waacunaa finä cannat, että wifufti
täytät ja pidät caiken fen quin näiffä articu-
luxis feifopi:

*Jocaitzen articuluxen perästä se ehdol asetettu
waftapi »Minä wannon».*

Quin hän eij wanno:

Aijrut: Sen uscollifuuden nimeen quin finä
welcapää olet finun Cuningale ja Cuningat-
tarelles / Ruchtinale ja Ruchtinattarelles /
Baronil ja Baronittarelles meijdän corkial
Herral ja Frouwalem joiiden waacunaa finä
cannat, fijs pitää finun wifufti täyttämän ja

pitämän caiken fen quin näiſſä articuluxis
feifopi:

Aijrut: Enfixi finun tulee olla uſcolinen meij-
dän corkeal ja fuuriwoimaijſel fuchtinal ja
ruchtinattarellem / baronil ja baronittarel-
lem quin meijdän herram onopi, ſillä että ſe
on heijdän armoftans quin ſinut airuexi ni-
mitetään. Ja coſca ſinä tiedät eli cuulet mi-
tään mikä heijdän wahingoxens on tulewa,
nijn pitää ſinun ſaattaman ſe heijdän taicka
heijdän corkian neuwoſcuntans tiettäwäxi
ja eij edefaulttaa ſencaltaijſta cawalaa conſtia
eli ſalajuonta.

Ij. Nijn pitää ſinun myös olla yxi altis pal-
welia caijken fen wapaafyntyijſen wägen
tygö quin ſinun apuaſi tarwitzepi heijdän
jalojen töijdens tähden, ja wahwiſtaa heijtä
näijs töijſä ſinun neuwoijllas.

Iij. Samalmuotoo pitää ſinun caijcki ne ſa-
laiſuudet pitää mitä riddarit, aſemiehet,
frouwat, neijdit ja caijcki wapaa wäki ſinun
tietoofi uſcopi ja eij rickoa heijdän luotta-
muſtans waſtaan muuten jos ſe on petoliſta

nijn quin fijnä enſimäifes articuluxes fanot-
tu on.

Iiij. Ja wielä coſca finä olet joffakin paijcaſa
miſſä finä cuulet joncun rijdan eli toran ſel-
laijſen aſian jälkiin quin finä tunnet, ja coſca
finun ruhtinaas, taicka duomari, taijcka
jocu muu cuca hywänſä cutzuu finun to-
diſtajax, nijn pitää finun enſin warmiſta-
man että ne rijtapuolet hywäxywät finun
todiiſtajaxi, ja quin he ſen tehnyet owat pi-
tää finun todiiſtaman rehelifeſti ja eij min-
kään ſuoſion waan ſen oijkian totuuden jäl-
kiin.

*Quin ſijtä ehdol aſetetuſt on tulewa muijden
aijruijden edeſſeiſoja, ſe on, Waldacunnanaij-
rut taijcka joncun Ruhtinaſcunnan taij mwn
ſellaijſen alueen eſiairut:*

V. Myös pitää finun eij aijnootans itze op-
pia aijruen taijtoja mutta myös pitää ſiitä lu-
gun että ne muut aijruet joiiden edeſſeiſoja
finä olet oppewat caijken ſen quiin heijdän
ofata pitää.

V. / Vj. Lopuxi pitää finun wälttää ja cart-
taa caijckia pahuuden paijckoja ja fpelejä ja
eij wieckaasti käydä rahwaan tawerneis taijc-
ka fyynnin luolis, mutta tehdä jaloja tecoja
nijn quin finä taidat.

Quin hän wannopi

Aijrut: Nämä articuluxet pitää finun wanno-
man ja pitämän caijken finun woijmaijsi pe-
räftä.

*Yxi palwelua astuu eteen ja antapi yhden pica-
rin wettä sille jalolle waltiaalle quin caatapi
sen weden sen ehdol olewan päähän näin sano-
den:*

Quin hän wannonut on:

Waltias: Tämän finun walasi jälkiin nimitän ja
afetan finut (nuoremmaxi) airuexi quin
cutzutaan _____. Ja nijnquin
finä palwelet meitä airuena nijn me palkit-
zem finua.

Quin hän ei wannonut:

Waltias: Minä nimitän ja asetan finut (nuoremmaxi) airuexi quin cutzutaan _____ . Ja nijnquin finä palwelet meitä airuena nijn me palkitzem finua.

Waltias antaa sen picarin sille nimitetyl aijruelle.

Quin hän nuoremmaxi aijruexi nimetty on:

Aijrut: Puettacaan hänel hänen tabarttins wi-
nostti nijn quin nuoremmal aijruel fopii.

Caxi palweliala astuu eteen ja asettawat yhden tabartin sen uuden aijruen päälle hihat eteen ja taaxe.

Quin hän täyteen airuen wircaan nimitetty on:

Aijrut: Puettacaan hänel hänen tabarttins nijn että hän aijruex tunnetaan.

Caxi palweliala astuu eteen ja asettawat yhden tabartin sen uuden aijruen päälle hihat eteen ja taaxe. Wafta sen jälkiin he kääntävät tabartin oikein päijn. Quin se uusi aijrut jo oli

*puettu tabarttiin nijnquin nuorempi aijrut, siis
kääntäwät palweliat tabartin oijkein päijn.*

Waltias: Noufe, _____ , ja hoiжда
hywin aijruen wircaas.

Contents

The Rule of the Society of S. *Sylvester*

The Vows of the Society of S. *Sylvester*

Creation of a Herald or Purfuivant

Alternate Heralds' Oaths

Aijruen alettaminen wircaans



Printed by Pietari Uv
in Hwcka
anno Societatis LII