

Names 101 – Intro to name rules

Presented by
Yehuda ben Moshe
Elmet Herald

1

Introduction

- Types of names
 - Personal (PN)
 - Non-Personal (NPN)
 - SCA Branches
 - Heraldic Titles
 - Award Orders
 - Households
 - Non-personal names not covered in this class, but many things in common

2

Period

- GP3A: Definition of Period - Time
 - Generally before 1600
 - The period 1600-1650 is known as the “grey period”
 - Elements will usually be allowed
 - No official beginning time, but must be from cultures known to Medieval and Renaissance Europe
 - Classical Greek and Roman elements are acceptable
 - Elements from Pharaonic Egypt are not acceptable

3

Period

- GP3B: Definition of Period – Place
 - Any part of Europe is always allowed
 - Names from other cultures that had contact with period Europe are allowed for people and households
 - Not allowed for SCA Branches

4

Definitions

- Given Name
 - Main personal name
 - Usually given at birth or naming ceremony
 - The modern “First Name” is a given name
 - Some cultures allow multiple given names
 - Such as modern “middle” name

5

Definitions

- Byname
 - Part of the name other than a given name
 - Different cultures had different types of bynames
 - Not all cultures had all types of bynames
 - Modern “last name” is a type of byname, specifically an “inherited surname”
 - Different types of bynames described in detail in SENA Appendix B

6

Definitions

- Types of Bynames
 - Locative
 - Describes where the person is from
 - Can be marked
 - “of York”
 - “de Marseilles”
 - “von Hamburg”
 - Can be unmarked
 - “Jack London”

7

Definitions

- Types of Bynames
 - Patronymic
 - Formed from the person's father's name
 - Some of the earliest and most common bynames
 - Can be marked
 - “Nialsdottir”
 - “Johnsson”
 - “Petrovich”
 - Can be unmarked
 - “John Henry”
 - Occasionally, matronymics (mother's name) were used

8

Definitions

- Types of Bynames
 - Descriptive
 - Formed from a distinguishing characteristic
 - “the Tall”
 - “Grosse”
 - “gullskæggr”

9

Definitions

- Types of Bynames
 - Occupational (type of Descriptive bynames)
 - Describes the person's occupation
 - “Draper”
 - “Guerrero”
 - “Sardello”

10

Definitions

- Types of Bynames
 - Cognomento, alias, or dictus
 - A second given name the person goes by
 - “Iohannes dictus John”
 - Inherited
 - Clan names
 - Ó Conchobhair (masculine)
 - inghean Uí Chonchobhair (feminine)
 - Inherited surname
 - Basically the modern “last” name

11

Definitions

- Name Phrase
 - A complete given name or byname, including all associated prepositions, articles, and requirements
- Naming Pool
 - A group of name phrases that are in use in a particular place and time
- Regional Naming Group
 - A group of naming pools that are culturally linked

12

Rules

- To be registerable, the following must be met:
 - Each name phrase must be acceptable (PN1)
 - The combination of name phrases must be acceptable (PN2)
 - The name must be free of:
 - conflict (PN3)
 - presumption (PN4)
 - offense (PN5)

13

Rules – Name Phrases

- Single Place and Time (PN1B1)
 - A Name Phrase must be internally consistent as to grammar and structure for a single time and place
 - A Name Phrase may not mix languages unless such a mix is attested
 - Example
 - “von Saxony” – No
 - “von Sachsen” – Ok
 - “of Saxony” - Ok

14

Rules – Name Phrases

- Sources of Name Phrases
 - Attested (PN1B2a)
 - A name phrase is considered attested if the complete name phrase is found in an acceptable source
 - Minor spelling variants that are demonstrated to be compatible with the spelling conventions of the name and place are allowed
 - In Renaissance English, “i” and “y” were interchangeable, so the attested name “Annis” can also be spelled “Annys”
 - A single period example of an attested name phrase is enough for registration

15

Rules – Name Phrases

- Sources of Name Phrases
 - Constructed (PN1B2b)
 - A name phrase can be constructed using a period pattern of name construction
 - Three documented examples of the desired pattern are generally required for registration
 - Diminitives
 - In some languages created by adding or removing an ending
 - For example, in Italian, “Urbanino” can be constructed from “Urbano”

16

Rules – Name Phrases

- Sources of Name Phrases
 - Constructed (PN1B2b)
 - Dithemic (two-part) names can be constructed from one prototheme and one deutertheme
 - Can't use any other combinations
 - Example
 - » The attested Old English “Ælfgar” has the prototheme “Ælf-” and the deutertheme “-gar”
 - » The attested Old English “Eadmund” has the prototheme “Ead-” and the deutertheme “-mund”
 - » Therefore “Ælfmund” is a valid constructed name
 - » “Garmund”, “Ælfead”, and “Ælfgarmund” are not

17

Rules – Name Phrases

- Sources of Name Phrases
 - Constructed (PN1B2b)
 - Bynames constructed from given name elements For names such as patronymics
 - Example
 - » In Old Norse, standard patronymic for men consists of the possessive form of the father's name plus the word “son”
 - » From the attested given name “Bjartmar” one can created the patronymic byname “Bjartmarsson”

18

Rules – Name Phrases

- Sources of Name Phrases
 - Constructed (PN1B2b)
 - New place names can be constructed from attested elements
 - Example
 - “Oxford”, “Swinford” and “Hartford” are attested English place names
 - The pattern is “large hooved animal” + “-ford”
 - This would allow the construction of “Sheepford”
 - This would not allow “Bookford” or “Duckford”

19

Rules – Name Phrases

- Sources of Name Phrases
 - Lingua Anglica Allowance(PN1B2c)
 - Allows translation of name phrase into standard modern English
 - Applies to attested or constructed descriptive, occupational, and locative bynames
 - Preserves the meaning for the benefit of modern speakers

20

Rules – Name Phrases

- Sources of Name Phrases
 - Lingua Anglica Allowance(PN1B2c)
 - Must be a literal and plausible translation
 - The Norse “inn rauði” can be translated as “the Red”
 - Cannot be translated as “the bloody”, “the scarlet”, etc.

21

Rules – Name Phrases

- Sources of Name Phrases
 - Lingua Anglica Allowance(PN1B2c)
 - For locatives, must be the standard modern English version of the name
 - While “Cairo” is derived from “the victorious”, the lingua Anglica form is “of Cairo”, not “of The Victorious”
 - “al-Qahira” is the Egyptian spelling, but “of al-Qahira” is not allowed as lingua Anglica, since the standard English form is “of Cairo”
 - This rule may not be used to translate the meanings of given names or place names

22

Rules – Name Phrases

- Sources of Name Phrases
 - Borrowed Names (PN1B2d)
 - Name phrases may be borrowed from
 - Secular literature
 - The Bible
 - Other Religious Literature
 - Names of Saints
 - Must be linguistically appropriate
 - For example, the Arthurian character “Lancelot” is found in Italian as “Lancilotto”, therefore, “Lancilotto” is the form allowed in an Italian context

23

Rules – Name Phrases

- Sources of Name Phrases
 - Borrowed Names (PN1B2d)
 - Must fit within a pattern of borrowing names
 - Evidence of borrowing given names does not support borrowing bynames
 - Evidence of borrowing names of major characters doesn't support borrowing names of minor characters
 - Evidence of borrowing from one type of literature doesn't support borrowing from another type

24

Rules – Name Phrases

- Sources of Name Phrases
 - Legal Name Allowance (PN1B2e)
 - An element from the submitter’s legal name may be used
 - Must provide proof of the name
 - Must be exact same form and spelling as in legal name
 - Must be used in the same manner
 - Given name as given name
 - Surname as surname
 - Middle names vary
 - Must meet all other rules
 - May not be obtrusively modern

25

Rules – Name Phrases

- Sources of Name Phrases
 - Branch Name Allowance (PN1B2f)
 - Can always use “of Branchname” as a byname
 - Must use exact spelling, grammar, and language as in registered SCA branch name
 - “of the East” – Ok
 - “von Osten” – No
 - Can only use the Lingua Anglica “of”
 - “of Fontaine dans Sable” – Ok
 - “de Fontaine dans Sable” - No
 - Households are not branches

26

Rules – Name Phrases

- Sources of Name Phrases
 - Grandfather Clause (PN1B2g)
 - Name phrases previously registered to an individual may be registered again, even if not currently registerable
 - May not allow one to evade new problems, only existing ones
 - Can also be used by close legal relative, with proof or attestation of the relationship

27

Rules – Name Phrases

- Finding Attested Name Phrases
 - Articles on heraldry.sca.org and s-gabriels.org
 - Books of period names
 - Dated forms
 - Spelling not normalized
 - Period documents
 - FamilySearch

28

Rules – Construction

- All registerable personal names must contain a given name and at least one byname (PN2B)
 - Single given names, though period, aren't registerable
 - Each name phrase must be grammatically correct for its position in the name
 - "Fearchar" is a Gaelic given name
 - Becomes "mac Fearchair" (m) or "mhic Fhearchair" (f)

29

Rules – Construction

- Culturally uniform names (PN2C1)
 - A name which matches a pattern of the grammar of names for a single time and place
 - For example: "14C England"
 - Must use an overall pattern documented to that time and place
 - See Appendix A
 - All name phrases must be from the time and place to be considered uniform names

30

Rules – Construction

- Culturally mixed names (PN2C2)
 - For non-Appendix C combinations, must document
 - If all name phrases are from naming pools which can be documented as being used together in personal names of real people, they must be dated within 300 years of one another
 - At least three period examples must be provided of a names combining the phrase pools

34

Rules – Construction

- Culturally mixed names (PN2C2)
 - If a name phrase is documented under the legal name allowance, branch name allowance, or grandfather clause, it's treated as neutral in language and time
 - May be combined with name phrases from a single regional naming group dated within 500 years of one another
 - May not be combined with name phrases from two or more regional naming groups

35

Rules – Construction

- Names In Non-Latin Scripts (PN2D)
 - Only names in a Latin script are registerable
 - Names originally in other scripts must be transliterated
 - Russian, Japanese, Arabic, Norse runes, etc.
 - Must be transcribed using any standard transliteration system
 - Many are listed in Appendix D

36

Rules – Construction

- Names In Non-Latin Scripts (PN2D)
 - Must use a single system for all name elements
 - Example
 - In Arabic, “Amina al-Hamadaniyya” or “Aminah al-Hamadaniyyah” – Ok
 - “Aminah al-Hamadaniyya” – No
 - Either use all the funny characters and accents, or none
 - In Gaelic, “Tomás Mór” or “Tomas Mor” – Ok
 - “Tomás Mor” or “Tomas Mór” - No

37

Rules – Obtrusive Modernity

- Names that are obtrusively modern are not permitted (PN2E)
 - Joke names are acceptable
 - “Drew Steele”, “Mould de Cheder”, “Hillarius Drunk”
 - Names that “yank the reader out of a medieval mindset and into a modern or fantasy mindset” are not
 - “Porsche Audi”, “Artemisian Tank Corps”, “Gecky (pronounced “geeky”) Herald”

38

Rules

- Names must be free of conflict, presumption, or offense
 - Conflict prohibits names that are too close to another SCA name (PN3)
 - Permission can be given to resolve a conflict
 - Presumption prohibits names that are too close to an important non-SCA person, or which claim special powers or position (PN4)
 - Permission cannot resolve a presumption problem
 - Offense prohibits names that are offensive to the populace or general public (PN5)

39

Rules – Presumption

- Presumption is the impermissible claim to rank, power, identity, or relationship with a non-SCA person (PN4)
- Letters of permission cannot allow the registration of a presumptuous name
- Many different types of presumption

40

Rules – Presumption

- Claim to Rank
 - Use of an element that appears to be a title (PN4B1)
 - Attested bynames identical to SCA titles may not be used unless the submitter is entitled to the title
 - Only KSCA may register the byname “Knight” or “Chevalier”
 - However, as Italian for “Viscount” is “Visconte”, the byname “Visconti” is permitted, even though derived from the same root

41

Rules – Presumption

- Claim to Rank
 - Use of an element that appears to be a title (PN4B1)
 - Bynames identical to non-SCA titles are not considered presumptuous if persons not holding that rank used such bynames
 - “Pope” is a surname used by normal people, and therefore can be registered
 - Attested given names identical to titles can only be used if obviously not a claim to rank
 - “Regina of England” is presumptuous
 - “Regina the Laundress” is not

42

Rules – Presumption

- Claim to Rank
 - Use of an element that appears to be a title (PN4B1)
 - Attested bynames incorporating the names of Society orders or real-world orders are not presumptuous
 - “de la Rose” or “atte Pelican” are not presumptuous
 - Those entitled to a permanent SCA rank may use the rank in the name
 - Court barons may use “Baron” as a byname, landed barons may not
 - No one can use “King” or “Princess”

43

Rules – Presumption

- Claim to Rank
 - Dynastic Names (PN4B2)
 - Bynames used uniquely by a single dynasty may not be registered
 - “Hohenstaufen” was used by a single ruling dynasty and is unregistrable
 - Bynames used both by a ruling dynasty and by normal people are permitted
 - “Tudor”, “Stuart”, “Bourbon”

44

Rules – Presumption

- Claim to Rank
 - Combination of Family Name and Location (PN4B3)
 - Names combining the byname of an important noble family and the area that family rules are not permitted
 - “Campbell of Argyll”
 - “Tudor of England”
 - These bynames and locatives may be ok by themselves

45

Rules – Presumption

- Claim to Rank
 - Honorific Names (PN4B4)
 - Name phrases only given out as awards may not be used
 - “Salah al-Din”, “Saif al-Mulk”
 - Combination of Occupational and Locative (PN4B5)
 - Combinations that suggest an official position are not allowed
 - “Bard of Armagh” or “Champion of Ealdormere” – No
 - “Laundress of York” - Ok

46

Rules – Presumption

- Claim of Powers (PN4C)
 - Names may not contain unmistakable claims of superhuman abilities, magical powers, or divine origin
 - Names that were used in contexts that make it clear to not be a claim of power are permitted
 - “Odinson” is permitted, since normal humans used it as a byname
 - “Lokasson” is a claim to divine origin, as the only known use of “Loki” is of the Norse god

47

Rules – Presumption

- Important Non-SCA People (PN4D)
 - Names may not make claim identity or close relationship with important non-SCA people
 - Same rules as for conflict
 - Names of important people are protected in all forms in which their names were known
 - “Christopher Columbus”, “Cristobal Colon”, “Christophors Columbus” are all protected
 - While “Carlos V of Spain” was also the count of Barcelona, we do not protect “Carlos of Barcelona” as his name was not recorded in that form

48

Rules – Presumption

- Important Non-SCA People (PN4D)
 - People who are not important enough to have an entry in a standard print encyclopedia are generally not important enough to protect
 - Sovereign rulers of significant states are generally considered important
 - Individuals whose names are recognized by a significant number of people in the SCA are important enough to protect

49

Rules – Presumption

- Important Non-SCA People (PN4D)
 - Fictional characters if
 - A significant number of people in the SCA would recognize the name, and
 - The use of the name would be considered a reference to that character
 - Combination of a name and device may be presumptuous, even if each one is allowed by itself
 - “York” and a white rose; “Lancaster” and a red rose

50

Rules – Offense

- A name is not registerable if a large segment of the populace or general public would consider it offensive (PN5A)
- Standard based on modern perception, not period practice
- Offense is not dependent on clarity – offense in a foreign language is offensive even if most English-speakers wouldn’t get it

51

Rules – Offense

- Vulgar Names (PN5B1)
 - Names which contain pornographic or scatological items will not be registered
 - Names which refer in explicit ways to genitalia will not be registered, though other body parts are permitted
 - Euphemisms are permitted
 - Names that appear vulgar to the modern English listener will not be allowed even if not vulgar in the original language

52

Rules – Offense

- Offensive Religious Terminology (PN5B2)
 - Names which include religious terms are offensive if they mock the beliefs of others
 - Includes names that are overly religious or contain incongruous combinations
 - Examples of prohibited names
 - “Muhammad the Pope”
 - “Mary the Harlot of Babylon”

53

Rules – Offense

- Derogatory Stereotypes (PN5B3)
 - Names which are ethnic, racial, or sexuality-based slurs will not be registered
- Offensive Political Terminology (PN5B4)
 - Names which include terms associated with social or political movements that are offensive will not be registered
 - Names which reference events or ideas that are offensive will not be registerable
 - The German byname “Judenfiend” is not permitted

54

Rules – Offense

- Names as a Whole (PN5C)
 - The name as a whole, not just individual elements, must be considered for offense
 - Names that mock a public person or member of the Society by adding an element like “le Idiot” are not permitted
 - The reference must be unmistakable to be prohibited

55

Final Thoughts

- Registerable vs. Authentic
 - A submission must be registerable, it need not be authentic
 - While we can encourage clients to design authentic names and devices, we cannot, and should not force the decision
 - If a client is set on a registerable but not very authentic submission, you should process it!

56

Final Thoughts

- Customer Service
 - It is our job to help our clients
 - We are here to make registrations happen, not prevent them from happening
 - When consulting, help clients create registerable submissions **they** like
 - When commenting, look for reasons to allow registration, not prohibit it
 - Heralds want a reputation for being helpful, not obstructionist!

57

About me

- Elmet Herald – I am the East Kingdom heraldic education deputy
- elmet@eastkingdom.org
- jgalak@gmail.com
- This handout can be found at:
 - <http://www.yehudaheraldry.com/ekhu>

58
