

So I received an Augmentation of Arms in Court. Now what?

A Primer by Iohannes Glenfidanus, Polaris Herald

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Firstly, Congratulations! You have received one of the more unusual and prestigious awards given in the SCA. This primer will help you understand what an Augmentation means and what rights and prerogatives accompany one.

What is an Augmentation of Arms?

The SCA College of Arms defines an Augmentation of Arms as “an honor added to a registered device”. Sometimes referred to as just an “augmentation,” this is an award that allows you to modify your currently registered device with a special charge. An augmentation may be given for a variety of reasons. In Northshield, it is most often given to those who have a long and consistent history of profound service to a specific population of the Kingdom. Less often, it is given for a single incident of prowess or distinction. In Northshield, augmentations are given rarely.

What do you mean by “Special Charge”?

When you received this award, one of two things will have taken place: either the special charge was defined in the award or it was not.

If it was not defined, then this award gives you the ability to choose an augmentation charge at your own discretion. Their Majesties cannot arbitrarily determine what this charge will be, but they may have one or more suggestions for you to consider.

If it was defined, then your augmentation must be that charge. The Kingdom has registered two badges specifically for this purpose. Your award scroll will explicitly state the special charge granted to you for this purpose.

My “Special Charge” was not specified. Now what?

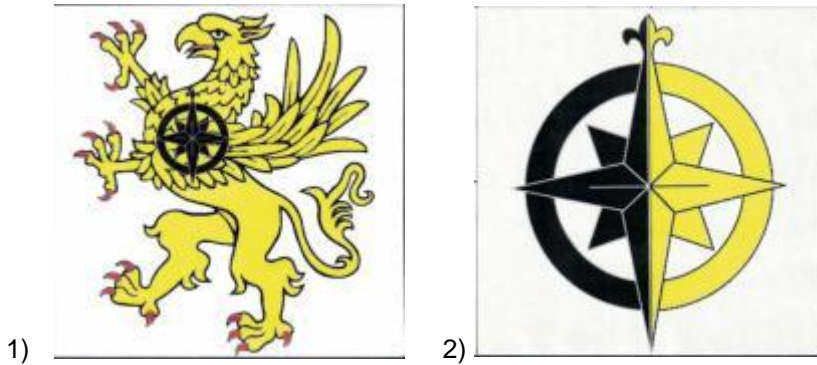
You can select any charge you wish. It is recommended, but not required, that your augmentation charge be related to the reason it was granted. You should consult with a Herald throughout the process of deciding on your augmentation charge. Depending on the final design of your new device, the Heralds may need to complete some extra steps to validate your use of the charge selected. Augmentations often add a degree of complexity to an already complicated system, so please be aware that it may take longer than a normal registration. Your Herald will be able to answer any questions you have regarding this process.

My “Special Charge” was specified. Now what?

The Kingdom of Northshield has registered two badges for use in augmentations. Your scroll will refer to one of the following blazons (descriptions):

- 1) (fieldless) on a griffon Or, a compass rose sable
- 2) (fieldless) a compass rose per pale sable and Or.

They look like this:



When used for your augmentation, they should be depicted and blazoned as noted above. The word “fieldless” means they can be placed on any background as long as the charge remains identifiable and maintains good contrast.

So I know what it is, how do I add it to my device?

You will submit the proposed augmented device in the same way you submitted your device the first time. While there is no requirement in Northshield to consult a Herald during this process, it is strongly recommended as they know the complexities of the registration system. This is especially important if your “special charge” was not specified. Your Herald will be able to guide you towards a design that is more likely to comply with the registration evaluation process, and hopefully pass in an expedient manner.

How do I find a Herald?

You should first check with your group Herald for assistance. If your group does not have a Herald, feel free to request assistance using the Northshield email list, Northshield social media sites such as Facebook, or by contacting Polaris Herald (the Kingdom Herald for Northshield) who will assist in finding a Herald for you.