My lords and ladies,

I apologize for the bad formatting on the Agenda which has caused so much confusion. Here is the corrected copy.

Sir Nigel

OB 5

Authored by Sir Nigel the Byzantine

That the Bylaws, Article VII.F., Definitions, and Article VII.F.4., The Sovereign of Arms, be re-written for clarification as follows. (Deleted text is in ~~strikeout~~, added text is in **bold type**, and comments are in *italics*.) Items may be taken separately, as the Chancery may so direct.

F. DEFINITIONS.

The Ministries of the Adrian Empire are the Chancellor, the Minister of Rolls, the Steward, the ~~Sovereign~~ **Minister** of Arms, the Chronicler, the Minister of Joust & War, the Minister of Arts & Sciences, the Minister of Physicks, the Hospitaler, and Viceroys.

4. THE ~~SOVEREIGN~~ **MINISTER** OF ARMS.

Comment: According to College of Arms practice, not every person serving in this position is titled "Sovereign of Arms" (see below). Retitling this section is intended to bring the Bylaws in line with actual practice.

~~The Sovereign of Arms is responsible for maintaining the Armorial. The Imperial Sovereign of Arms is responsible for supervising and coordinating the heraldic functions and activities of the College of Arms and its members. The Imperial Sovereign of Arms shall be the foremost heraldic officer of the Adrian Empire and the head of the College of Arms. The Imperial Sovereign of Arms shall have the exclusive right to resolve conflict of armorial devices submitted by the membership of the Adrian Empire. The Sovereign of Arms of a chartered subdivision shall have the exclusive right to approve armorial devices submitted by the membership of the chartered subdivision.~~

~~Requirements: An understanding of the heraldic practices of the Adrian Empire.~~

Comment: This section is re-written below under item (b).

a. College of Arms. The College of Arms shall be a sovereign body of arms, and shall consist of the Imperial Sovereign of Arms and the ~~Sovereign~~ **chief Minister** of Arms of each chartered subdivision **and other persons as appointed by the Imperial Sovereign of Arms**.

Comment: The College of Arms is structured along Period lines so that Shires have Ministers of Arms with the heraldic rank of "Pursuivant", Ducal Ministers of Arms are ranked "Herald" (with a capital H), and Archducal and Kingdom Ministers of Arms (along with the Imperial) are ranked "Sovereign of Arms". This brings the Bylaws in line with actual practice. It also allows the Imperial Sovereign of Arms to appoint his or her deputies to the College of Arms (as permitted by Bylaws VII.B.).

i. The College of Arms shall protect only the Arms of the membership, **Estates, and Domains** of the Adrian Empire and those Arms that the Imperial Sovereign of Arms and the ~~Imperial Crown~~ **College of Arms** agree are worthy of protection.

Comment: The addition of Estates and Domians recognizes them as armigerous entities, as noted elswhere in the Bylaws and Estates Writs. With regard to the Imperial Crown, the College of Arms has sovereignity over its own internal decisions and should not have to consult with the Imperial Crown on which arms need

protection; the Imperial Sovereign of Arms should rather consult with the College of Arms (for that is what the College is there for).

ii. The College **of Arms** ~~shall~~ **may** not grant **the right to bear** arms, but only approve of their design and construction **according to the established Rules of the College**.

Comment: Only the Crown and the Estates have the right to grant the right to bear arms; the Crown by making a Knight or by granting the title of Lord, Lady, or Baronet; the Estates by granting a retirement title or by creating a Protector of the Dream. Historically in our Period, Sovereigns of Arms granted arms, but this was only done by explicit direction of the Crown. This clarification makes it clear that the authority to grant the right to bear arms does not lie with the College of Arms.

iii. The College may reserve a ~~blazon~~ **device** for ~~a~~ **any** member of the Adrian Empire **as defined in Article III of these Bylaws** against the day when that member shall have the right to bear ~~them~~ **it**. **The College may also register a device for any potential Estate or potential Domain against the day when that Estate or Domain may bear it.**

Comment: This re-wording makes the terminology clearer: the "blazon" is merely the words used to describe the piece of "armory" being registered. It also makes clear whose arms are registerable. The grammar is also repaired by changing from plural to singular. The addition of Estates and Domians recognizes them as armigerous entities, as noted elswhere in the Bylaws and Estates Writs.

iv. The College of Arms shall further aid the ~~Imperial, Royal, and Noble~~ **Crowns and** Estates in the design and staging of authentic ~~ceremonial~~ **ceremonies** that are adapted to the needs of the Adrian Empire.

Comment: This tightens the language and fixes the noun form ("ceremonial" is an adjective).

v. The College of Arms is entitled and required to establish a body of standard terminology, usage, and rules for ~~heraldry~~ **heraldic registrations and display** within the Adrian Empire.

Comment: This clarifies the definition of "heraldry".

Comment: The following section takes the first paragraph of section 4 and breaks it down into its component pieces. They have been rearranged in a more logical order.

b. The Imperial Sovereign of Arms shall be the foremost heraldic officer of the Adrian Empire and the head of the College of Arms. **The Imperial Sovereign of Arms shall act as the Voice of the Imperial Crown.**

Comment: This merely codifies actual practice. The Rules of the College of Arms allow for a deputy to assume these duties if so appointed.

i. The Imperial Sovereign of Arms is responsible for supervising and coordinating the heraldic functions and activities of the College of Arms and its members.

ii. The Imperial Sovereign of Arms shall have the exclusive right to resolve conflict of armorial devices submitted by the membership, **Estates, and Domains** of the Adrian Empire.

Comment: The addition of Estates and Domians recognizes them as armigerous entities, as noted elswhere in the Bylaws and Estates Writs.

iii. The **Imperial** Sovereign of Arms ~~of a chartered subdivision~~ shall have the exclusive right to approve **the design of** armorial devices submitted by the membership of the ~~chartered subdivision~~ **Adrian Empire**.

Comment: The Imperial Sovereign of Arms, as the chief heraldic officer of the Empire and the Head of the College of Arms, is responsible for the Rules under which armory is approved, but this Bylaw has brought local Ministers of Arms into conflict with the Imperial Sovereign of Arms. This change places all of the heraldic authority at the Imperial level where it belongs. It should be noted here that the College of Arms has clear and established guidelines for resolving conflict, including an appeals process that may go all the way to the Imperial Crown (if necessary).

iv. The **Imperial** Sovereign of Arms is responsible for maintaining the Armorial, **Ordinary, and Roll of Arms, or causing them to be maintained**.

Comment: This is merely a clarification, as the Imperial Sovereign of Arms is responsible for more than just the Armorial (the list of heraldic registrations by name); he or she is also responsible for the Ordinary (the list of heraldic registrations by blazon) and the Roll of Arms (the pictorial list). This also specifically allows the Imperial Sovereign of Arms to appoint a deputy to do this task (which was prevented under the current Bylaw, according to one interpretation).

v. Requirements: ~~An~~ **A thorough** understanding of the heraldic practices of the Adrian Empire.

Comment: This makes it clear that the Imperial Sovereign of Arms must be more than just familiar with heraldry as we practice it, this person must have a complete understanding in order to hold the Imperial office. There is currently no requirement to hold a Minister of Arms position in any subdivision save that one be interested in Heraldry.

The re-written section appears in its entirety without extra formatting below:

F. DEFINITIONS.

The Ministries of the Adrian Empire are the Chancellor, the Minister of Rolls, the Steward, the Minister of Arms, the Chronicler, the Minister of Joust & War, the Minister of Arts & Sciences, the Minister of Physicks, the Hospitaler, and Viceroys.

4. THE MINISTER OF ARMS.

a. College of Arms. The College of Arms shall be a sovereign body of arms, and shall consist of the Imperial Sovereign of Arms and the chief Minister of Arms of each chartered subdivision and other persons as appointed by the Imperial Sovereign of Arms.

i. The College of Arms shall protect only the Arms of the membership, Estates, and Domains of the Adrian Empire and those Arms that the Imperial Sovereign of Arms and the College of Arms agree are worthy of protection.

ii. The College of Arms may not grant the right to bear arms, but only approve of their design and construction according to the established Rules of the College.

iii. The College may reserve a device for any member of the Adrian Empire as defined in Article III of these Bylaws against the day when that member shall have the right to bear it. The College may also register a device for any potential Estate or potential Domain against the day when that Estate or Domain may bear it.

iv. The College of Arms shall further aid the Crowns and Estates in the design and staging of authentic ceremonies that are adapted to the needs of the Adrian Empire.

v. The College of Arms is entitled and required to establish a body of standard terminology, usage, and rules for heraldic registrations and display within the Adrian Empire.

b. The Imperial Sovereign of Arms shall be the foremost heraldic officer of the Adrian Empire and the head of the College of Arms. The Imperial Sovereign of Arms shall act as the Voice of the Imperial Crown.

i. The Imperial Sovereign of Arms is responsible for supervising and coordinating the heraldic functions and activities of the College of Arms and its members.

ii. The Imperial Sovereign of Arms shall have the exclusive right to resolve conflict of armorial devices submitted by the membership, Estates, and Domains of the Adrian Empire.

iii. The Imperial Sovereign of Arms shall have the exclusive right to approve the design of armorial devices submitted by the membership of the Adrian Empire.

iv. The Imperial Sovereign of Arms is responsible for maintaining the Armorial, Ordinary, and Roll of Arms, or causing them to be maintained.

v. Requirements: A thorough understanding of the heraldic practices of the Adrian Empire.