

Ruling: Concerning Improper Display of a Banner August 2000

[Note: This ruling also appeared in the Letter of Registration and Return, August 2000.]

At the Imperial Crown War in September 2000, a complaint was filed with the Imperial Sovereign of Arms by Dame Roawyn O'Reilly of Umbria against Dame Delia von Burg of Umbria. The complaint alleged that Dame Delia was improperly displaying a banner which did not belong to her. Dame Roawyn claimed that the banner being flown by Dame Delia was the heraldic and actual property of the Kingdom of Umbria. Dame Roawyn's evidence of this was her recollection of an Umbrian event wherein Dame Delia, then the Queen of Umbria, had presented the banner in question to the People of Umbria as a gift. Dame Delia contended that the banner had been made by her with the intent that, should she step down off the Throne of Umbria after a full reign, she would present it to the Kingdom of Umbria as the Presence Banner of the Queen. Since Dame Delia did not complete her reign, she felt entitled to keep the banner and display it however she saw fit.

I received written statements from both the complainant and the respondent. Because this complaint was filed at an Imperial Event, the Imperial Sovereign of Arms was forced into conducting the investigation. As part of my investigation, I requested a list of the chattel goods of the Kingdom of Umbria.

The banner in question was blazoned *Quarterly or and vert, in bend two roses vert*. No record exists at any time in Adria's history for such a registration to any individual or Estate. The Steward of Umbria did not provide me a list of the chattel goods of Umbria which contained mention of the banner in question.

There is no Law in the Adrian Empire that prohibits the display of unregistered armory (and if Fleur-de-Lis has anything to say about it, there never will be). Dame Roawyn could not provide adequate proof that the banner physically belonged to anyone but Dame Delia.

Therefore, it is the ruling of the Imperial Sovereign of Arms that the banner in question is the personal property of Dame Delia von Burg, and since she is armigerous according to the definition laid out by the Estates Writ on Armigerous Rights, she may display it however she wishes.

Fleur-de-Lis would further like to strongly suggest that Dame Delia present paperwork for the registration of this banner if she wishes to continue displaying it, lest someone else register the same design.

Unto the members of the Imperial College of Arms does Sir Nigel the Byzantine, Fleur-de-Lis King of Arms and Baronet, send Greetings and Salutations!