

The Heraldic Registrations Of  
The Crown Province Of  
Østgardr



# The Heraldic Registrations Of The Crown Province Of Østgardr

Being a record of five decades of heraldic practice in the  
New York City chapter of the Society for Creative Anachronism.

In anticipation of the the fiftieth anniversary of the East Kingdom,  
and likewise of its birthplace, Østgardr, first among equals.

Prepared for *Il-Khan* Suuder Saran and *Il-Khatun* Lada Monguligin,  
Viceroy and Vicereine of The Crown Province of Østgardr.

Compiled by *Bóaire* Mathghamhain Ua Ruadháin, Seahorse Pursuivant.

Dedicated to my wife, *Hlæfdige* Alienor Salton,  
who led me into the crazy world of living history.

With appreciation for Baroness Shauna of Carrick Point, Laurel Archivist, who  
maintains the records of the Society's College of Arms, and who repeatedly delved  
into the catacombs to retrieve original artwork and ancient submission forms.

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# The Crown Province of Østgardr

The first Society activities on the East Coast began in 1967 (A.S. II), when Elfrida and Walter of Greenwalls moved from what is now the Principality of the Mists to what is now Østgardr, with the first tournament taking place the following summer (A.S. III).

At first this new nexus of activity was known simply as “the East Kingdom,” but as Society activity spread up and down the East Coast, a need emerged for a distinct name for the territory immediately around New York City.

Because it was the seat of the early kings and queens of the East, it was referred to as “The Crown Province,” but that was a title rather than a name, and as pressure was applied to settle on a legitimate name it was for a time jokingly called “The Nameless Province.”

In March 1972 some in the New York City group began using the name “Two Rivers,” but this did not stick and was never registered. Later that year, Sir Garanhir of Ness suggested the name “Estgard,” intended to be Norse for “East City,” but just before it was formalized, Sir Eiolf Eriksson argued that the the authentic Old Norse spelling would have been Østgardr, and that form stuck. (It later turned out that it wasn’t actually proper Old Norse.)

The new name was in use by January 1973, and was officially changed at the Eastern Coronation in Barony Beyond the Mountain on May 20, 1973 (A.S. VIII). It is unclear when (or even if) the formal name paperwork was submitted, but a registration for the name did not appear in a LoAR until an addendum in 1981, which backdated it to the Great Conclave or “Heraldicon” in June 1979.

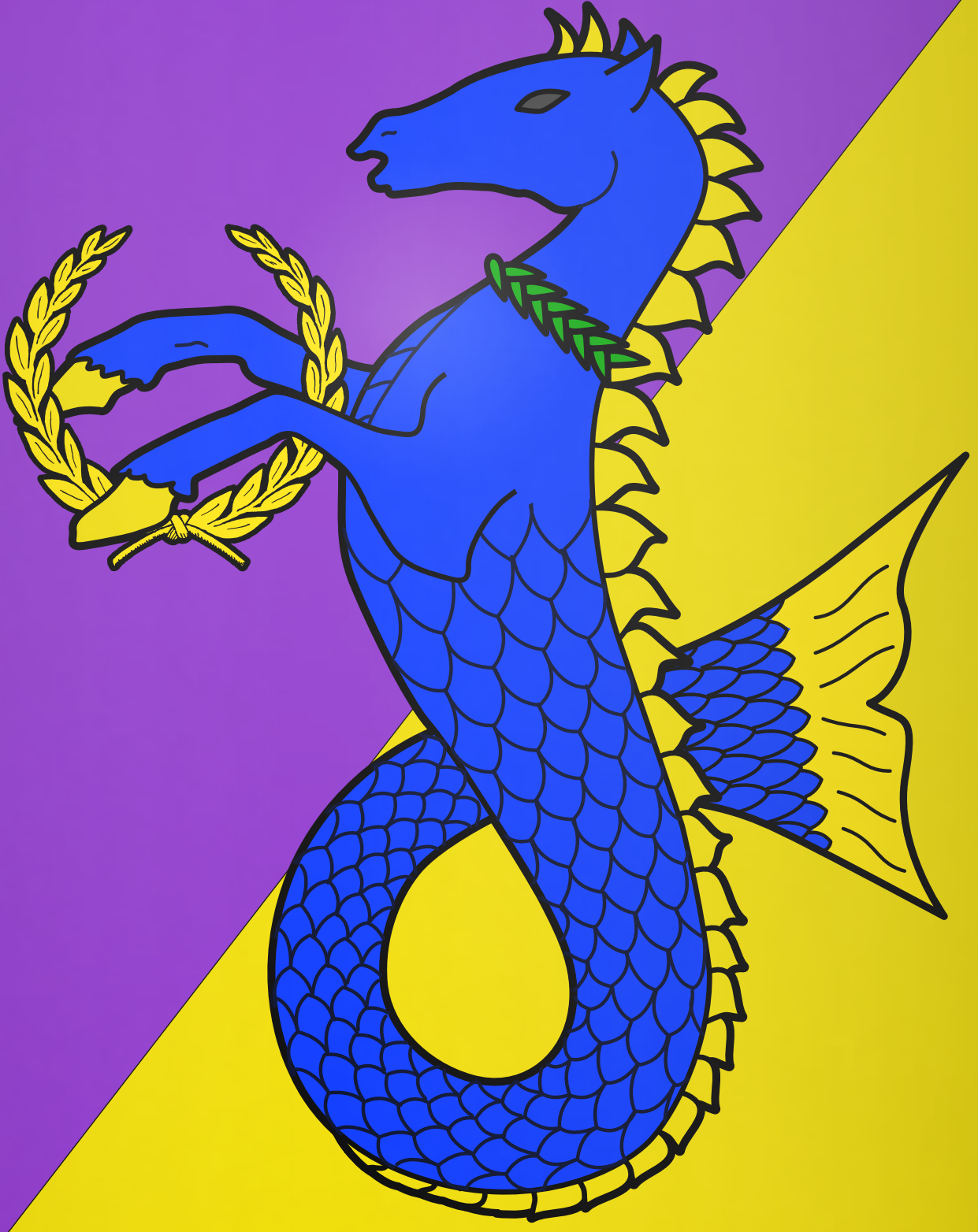
## Branch Arms

The branch’s current arms were registered in August 1984, replacing the earlier device registered in 1979.



*Argent, a sea-horse erect azure within a laurel wreath vert.*

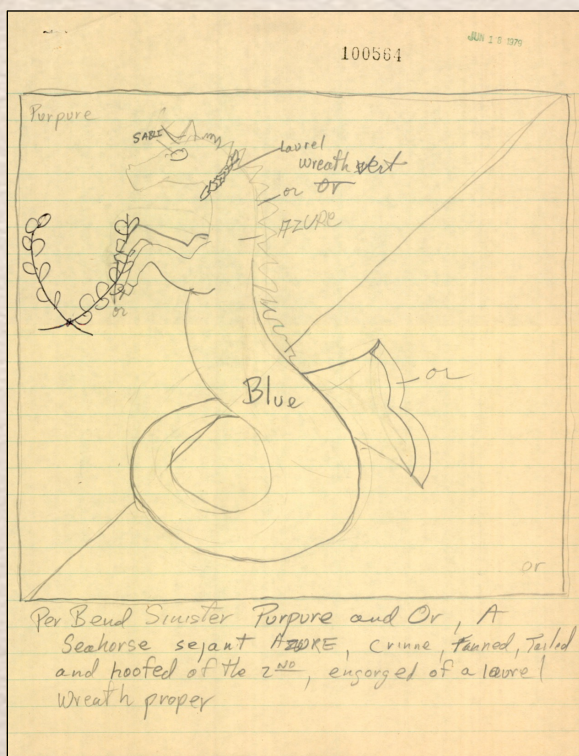
The arms as registered.



# The Ancient Arms of Østgardr

The first arms of Østgardr were submitted some time in the late 1970s, and after being caught in the monumental heraldic backlog of that time, were finally registered at the “Heraldicon” Great Conclave in June 1979.

Contrary to College of Arms policy established in June 1972 that all submissions “MUST be accompanied by an emblazon in full colour,” the device was submitted as a line drawing with colors written in.



The arms as registered.

*Per bend sinister purple and Or, a seahorse rampant azure, crined, unguled and finned Or, orbéd sable, gorged of a laurel wreath vert, grasping in its hooves a laurel wreath Or.*

And while the submitted art did include a laurel wreath, it was in profile, around the sea-horse’s neck, rather than in annulo as is traditional for branch arms. In a highly unusual step, the Conclave members appear to have unilaterally added a second laurel wreath between the seahorse’s hooves to address that requirement.

This device was released in 1984 when the current arms were registered.

## Cheese Farm

At some point, people discovered that if you spelled the Province’s name using the regular keys available on an English typewriter, Ostgardr, and omitted the final letter, which is nearly silent, you could read it as the Swedish word “Ostgård”, which means “cheese farm.”

This was thought to be hilarious, and for years people would make dairy-related jokes and insist “oh, we are merely humble cheese farmers.”





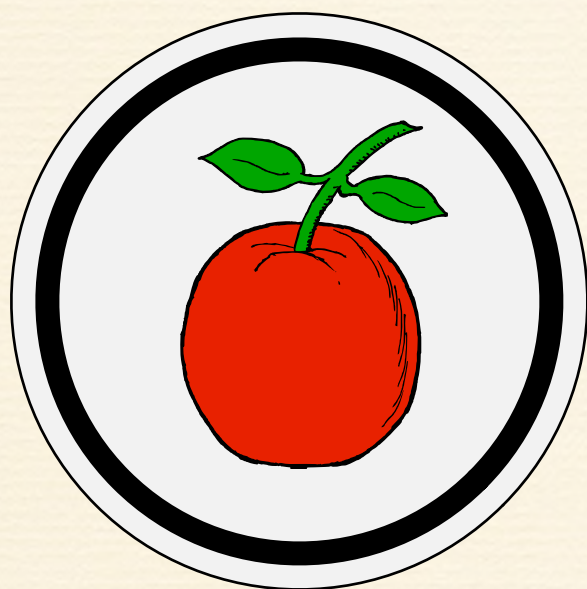
# The Canton of Whyt Whey

The territory of Whyt Whey corresponds to the Borough of Manhattan.

## Branch Arms

The badge was originally submitted in 2012 as a lantern argent, but returned at Kingdom for conflict; the mullet was added for the resubmission.

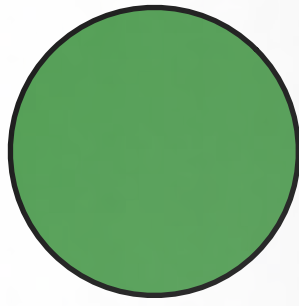
The canton's populace badge.



The arms as registered in 2017.



*Argent, an apple gules slipped and leaved proper within a laurel wreath vert and an orle sable.*



# The Ancient Arms of Whyt Whey

When the residents of Whyt Whey submitted arms for their canton in 1991, instead of a mighty lion or a swift tyger, they selected the most terrifying local creature they could identify: the cockroach.

However, the College of Arms refused to register “*argent semy of cockroaches sable, a pomme within a laurel wreath vert*” on the grounds that “no submission will be registered that is detrimental to the educational purposes or good name of the Society, or the enjoyment of its participants,” stating that they “believed that a significant percentage of the populace of the SCA will find this device so offensive as to reduce their enjoyment of and participation in SCA activities.”

Eight years later, the canton tried again, with a single cockroach, and succeeded.

This design was retained as the Canton’s ancient arms when the new device was registered.

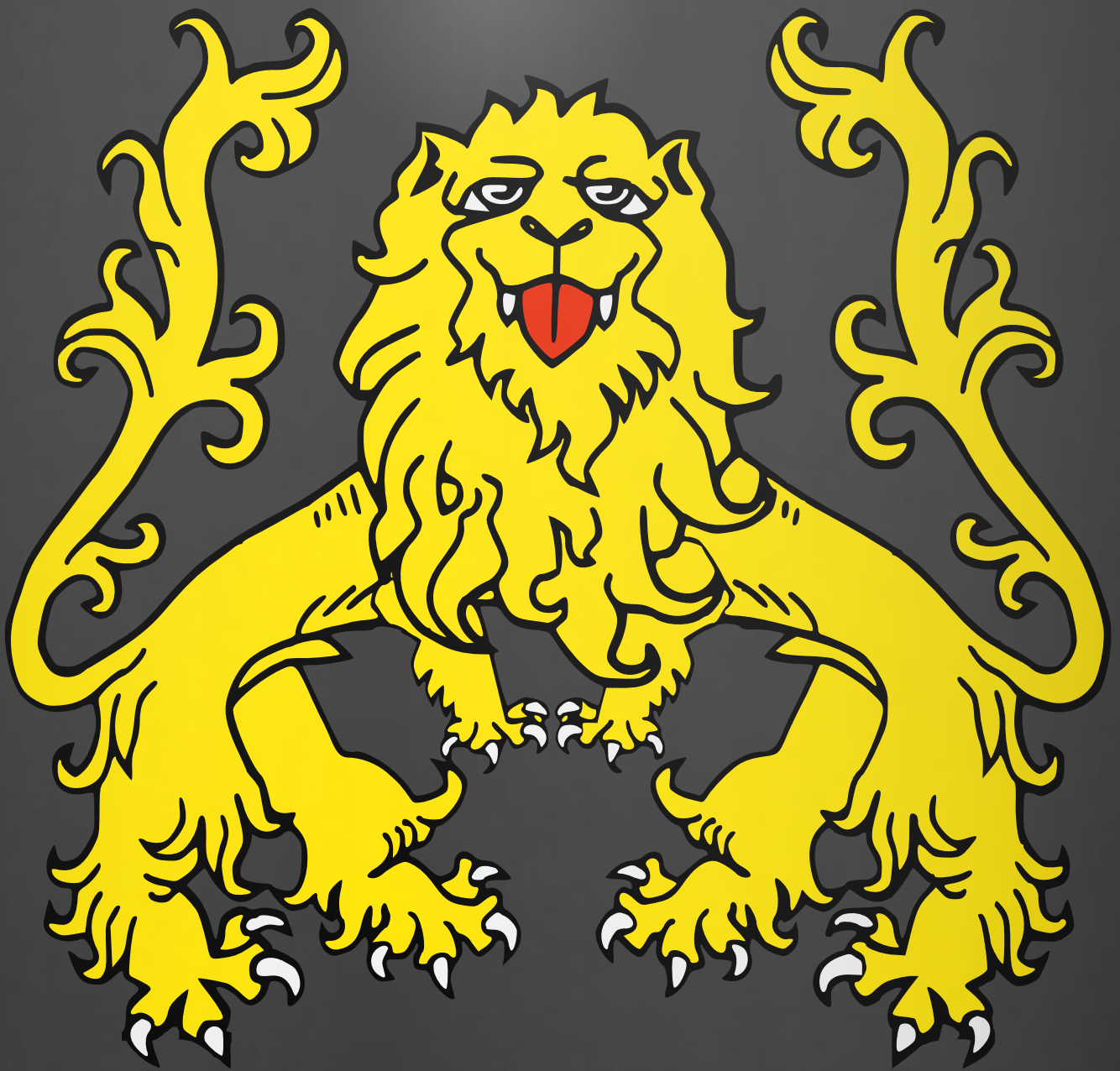


The returned submission of 1991



The arms as registered in 1999.

*Sable, a cockroach tergiant within a laurel wreath and on a chief embattled argent, a pomme.*



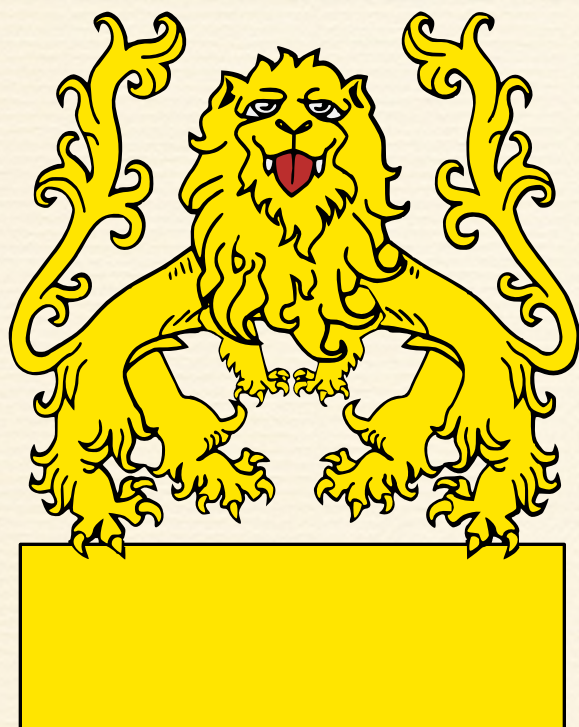
# The Canton of Lions End

The territory of Whyt Whey corresponds to the Borough of Manhattan.

## Branch Arms

The badge was originally submitted in 2012 as a lantern argent, but returned at Kingdom for conflict; the mullet was added for the resubmission.

The canton's populace badge.



The arms as registered in 2017.



*Sable, a bicorporate lion and on a chief Or, three laurel wreaths sable.*



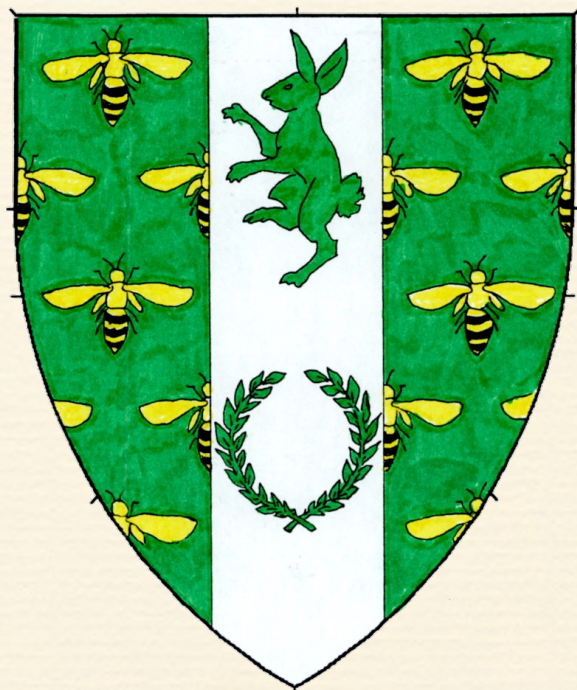
# The Canton of Brokenbridge

The territory of Brokenbridge corresponds to the Borough of Brooklyn.

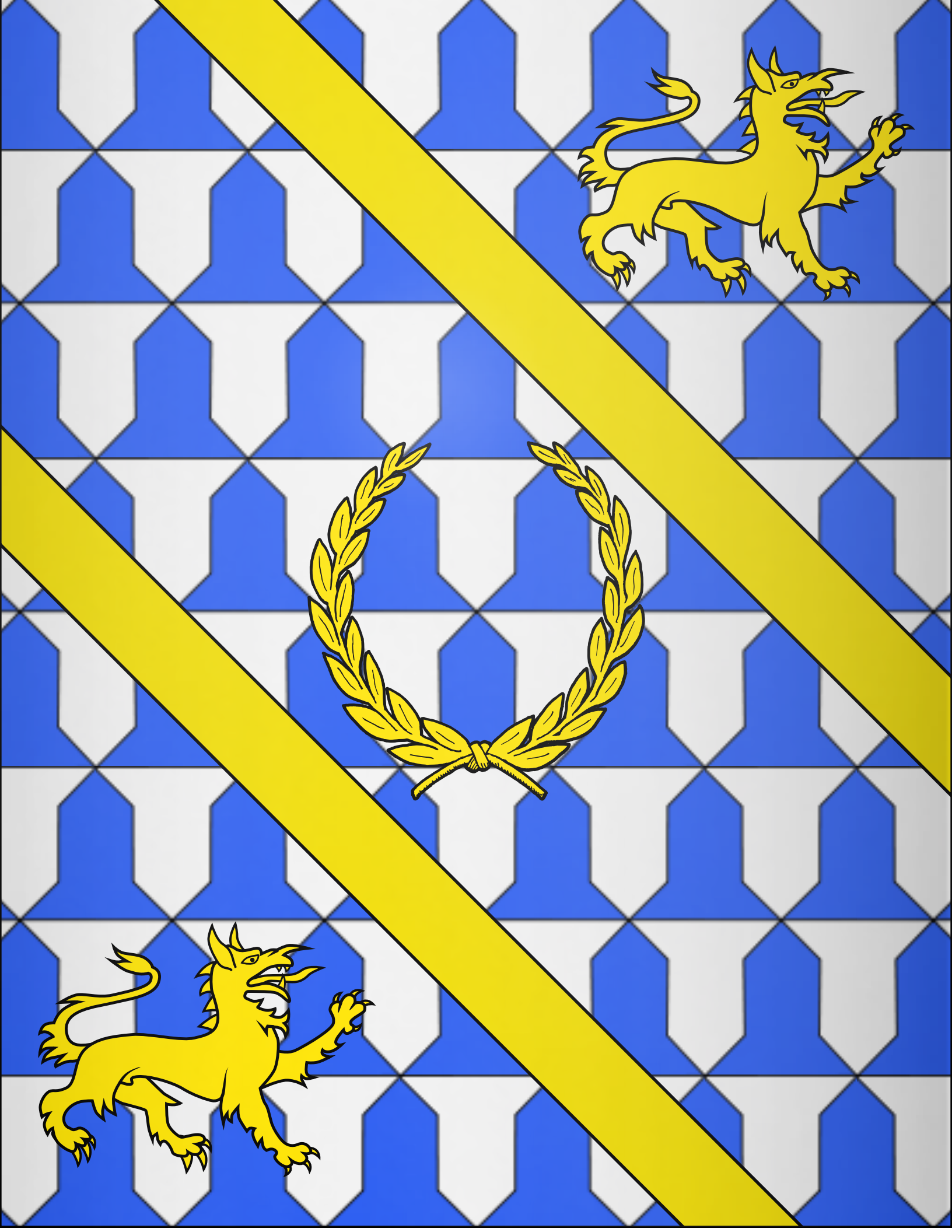
## Branch Arms

The badge was originally submitted in 2012 as a lantern argent, but returned at Kingdom for conflict; the mullet was added for the resubmission.

The arms as submitted in 2008.



*Vert semy of bees Or marked sable, on a pale argent in pale a coney rampant and a laurel wreath vert.*





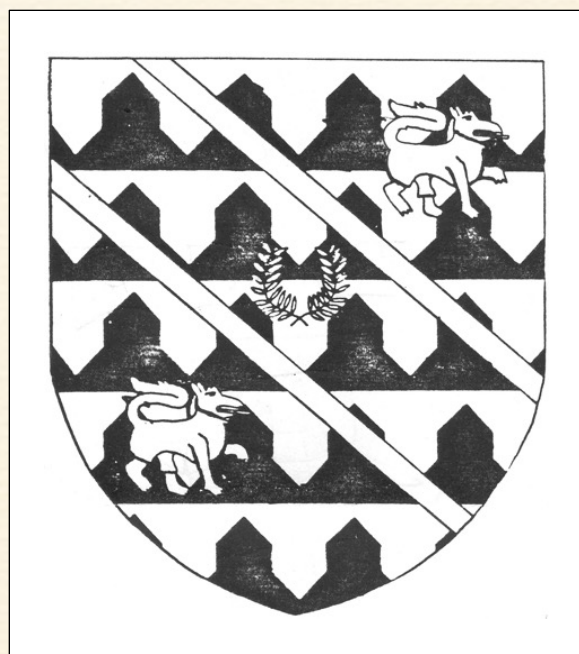
# The Canton of Northpass

The territory of Brokenbridge corresponds to the Borough of Brooklyn.

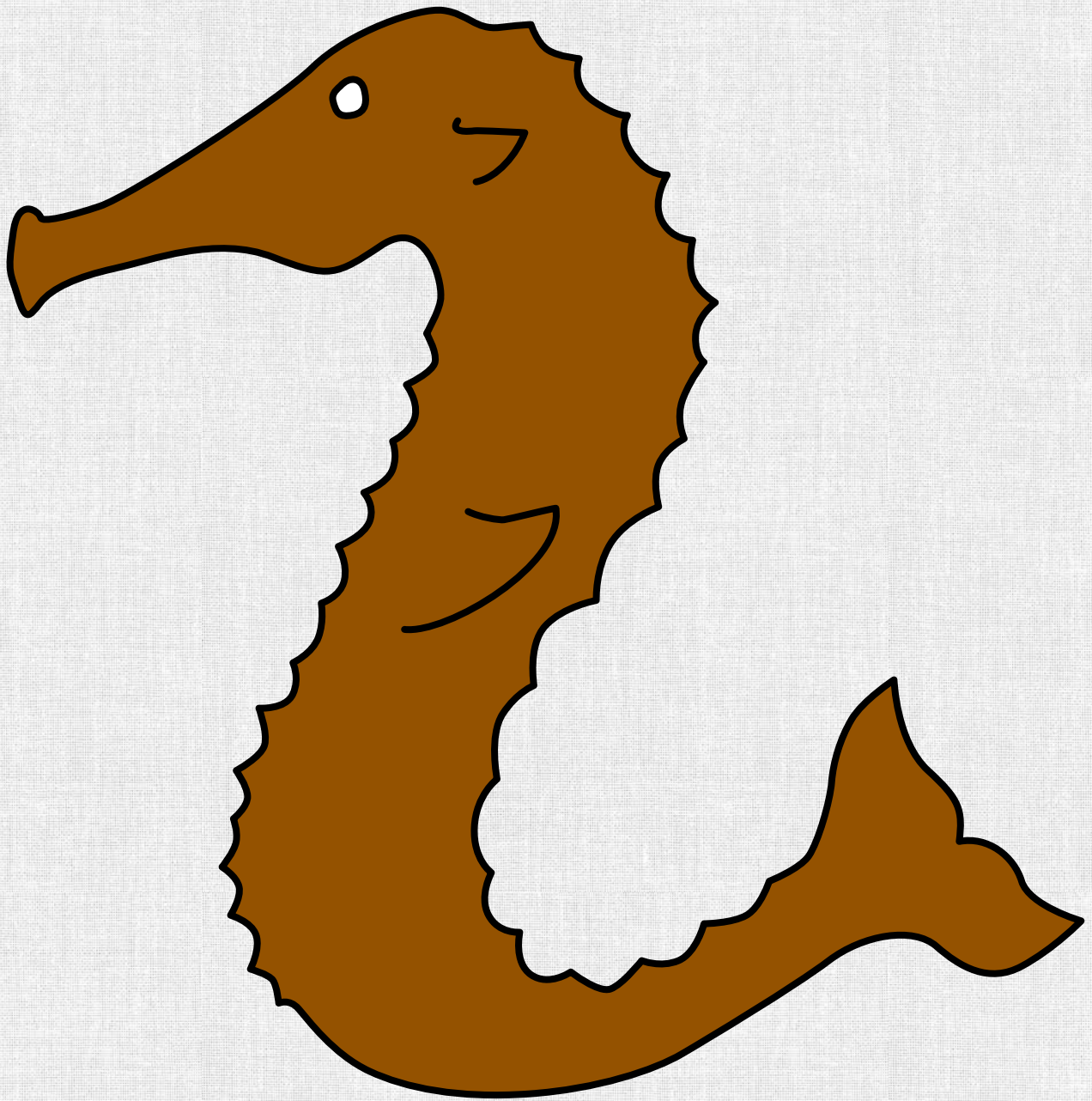
## Branch Arms

The badge was originally submitted in 2012 as a lantern argent, but returned at Kingdom for conflict; the mullet was added for the resubmission.

The arms as submitted in 2008.



*Vair, two bendlets and in bend sinister a laurel wreath between two tygers passant to sinister Or.*



| *A brown natural sea-horse proper.*

# The Order of the Seahorse

The Seahorse was Østgardr's first award, and it remains the most prestigious honor granted by the province.

It was registered as “an award of honor: purple ribbon for arts, gold for outstanding service,” although the color-coded ribbons have fallen out of use since then.

The first members of the Order were inducted in June 1975.

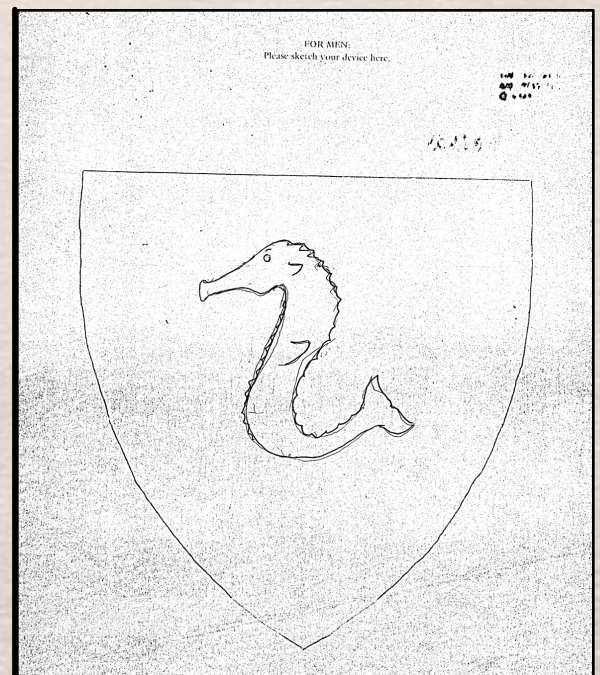
## Badge

The badge of the Order was registered in June 1975, Østgardr's first item of armory.

Originally submitted as “*a seahorse (hippocampus) proper*,” the phrasing was later changed to “*a natural sea-horse proper*” as the College of Arms shifted away from using Latin species and order names to distinguish varieties of plants and animals.

Because there are no color markings whatsoever on the original submissions paperwork, generations of heralds have struggled to pin down the tincture of this charge. The term “*proper*” either means “in standard heraldic colors” or “as found in nature,” but nobody had ever established a standard heraldic coloration for seahorses, and because they depend on camouflage, natural seahorses are found in nearly every possible color.

Finally, in 2018 this question was settled, based on the memory of a former viceregent who was able to recall a discussion of this subject back in 1980, and reported that the original intention had been for the seahorse to be colored brown.



The badge as registered in 1975.



# The Order of the Silver Sea-Lion

The Order of the Sea Dog of Østgarðr is an award for service to one of the cantons of Østgarðr. Its name is sometimes written as a single word, “Seadog.”

The first members of the order were inducted in 1998, but the name and badge were not registered with the College of Arms until August 2008.

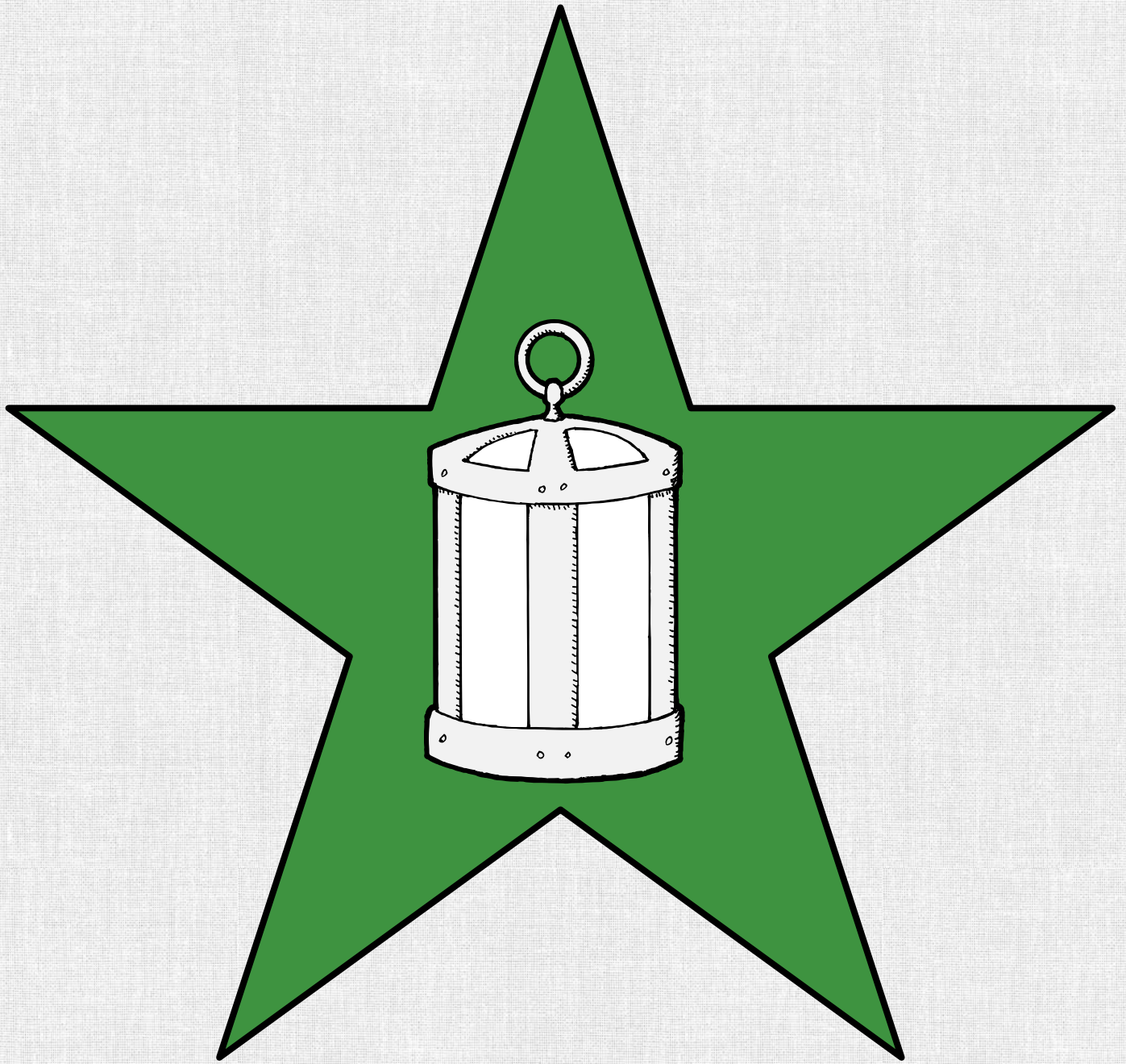
A title of Sea-Dog Herald had previously been registered, but permission to conflict was granted.

## Badge

A “sea dog” is both nautical slang for an experienced sailor and the heraldic term for a half-dog/half-fish creature with a broad scaly tail that is often identified with the beaver, a creature that was plentiful in the territory of Østgarðr during the medieval period, and is memorialized on the 1686 seal of New York City.

The badge as registered in 2013. |

| *A sea-dog rampant azure, finned Or.*



| *On a mullet vert a lantern argent.*

# Order of the Silver Lantern

The Silver Lantern was created by Her Excellency Johanne i Visby (Vicereine A.S. XLVI–LI) to “acknowledge skill, sharing and teaching in the Arts and Sciences.”

This order was registered in July 2012, and the badge was registered in December 2013.

The first members of the order were inducted in 2015.

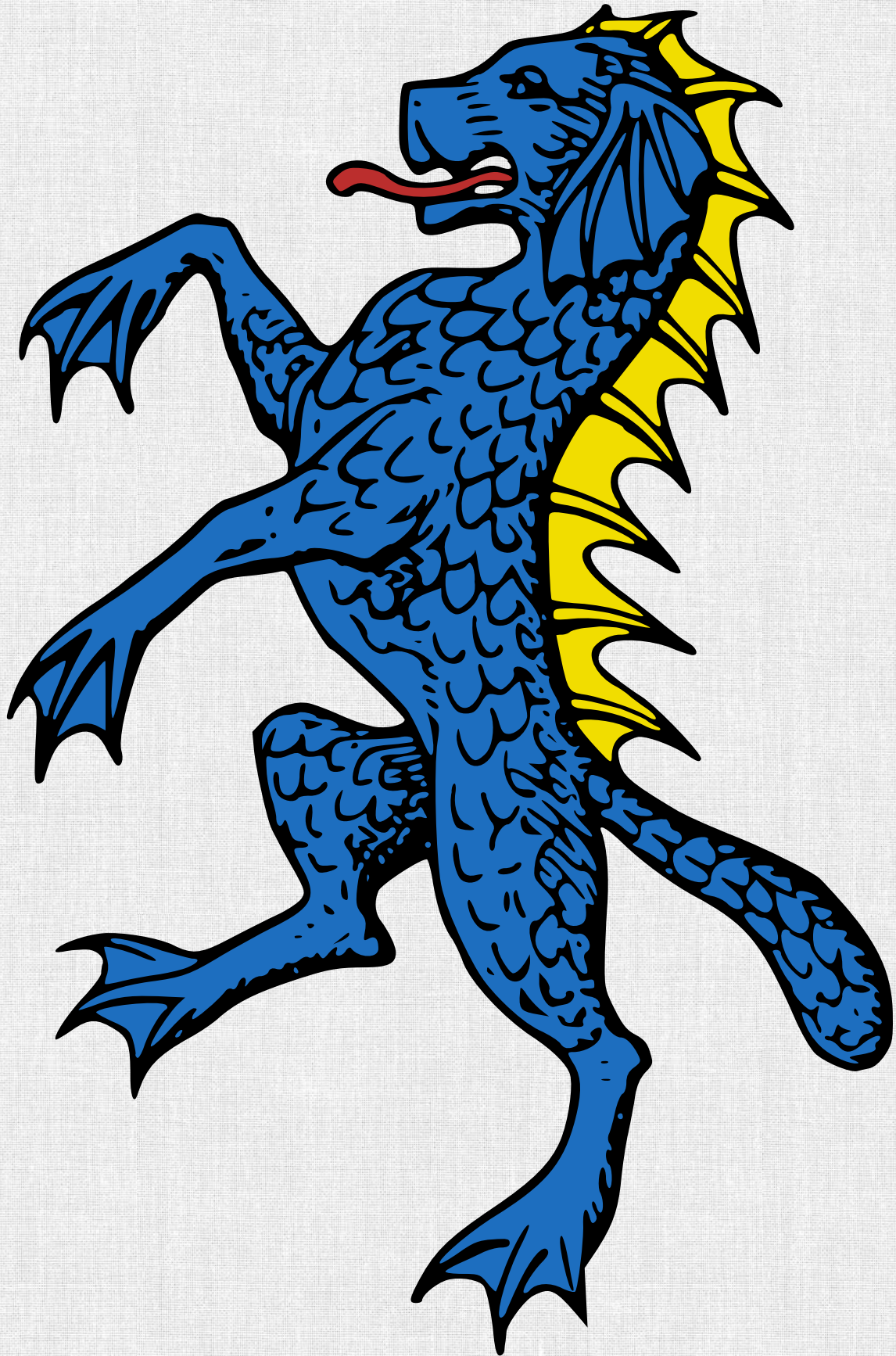
It is the only provincial order to not have the word “Sea” in its name, and as a result it is often mistakenly called the Order of the Sea Lantern.

## Badge

The badge was originally submitted in 2012 as a lantern argent, but returned at Kingdom for conflict; the mullet was added for the resubmission.

The badge as registered in 2013.





| *A sea-dog rampant azure, finned Or.*



# The Order of the Sea Dog of Østgarðr

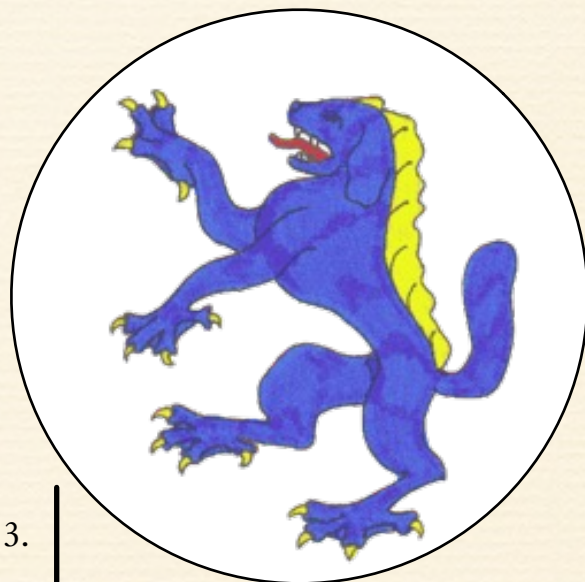
The Order of the Sea Dog of Østgarðr is an award for service to one of the cantons of Østgarðr. Its name is sometimes written as a single word, “Seadog.”

The first members of the order were inducted in 1998, but the name and badge were not registered with the College of Arms until August 2008.

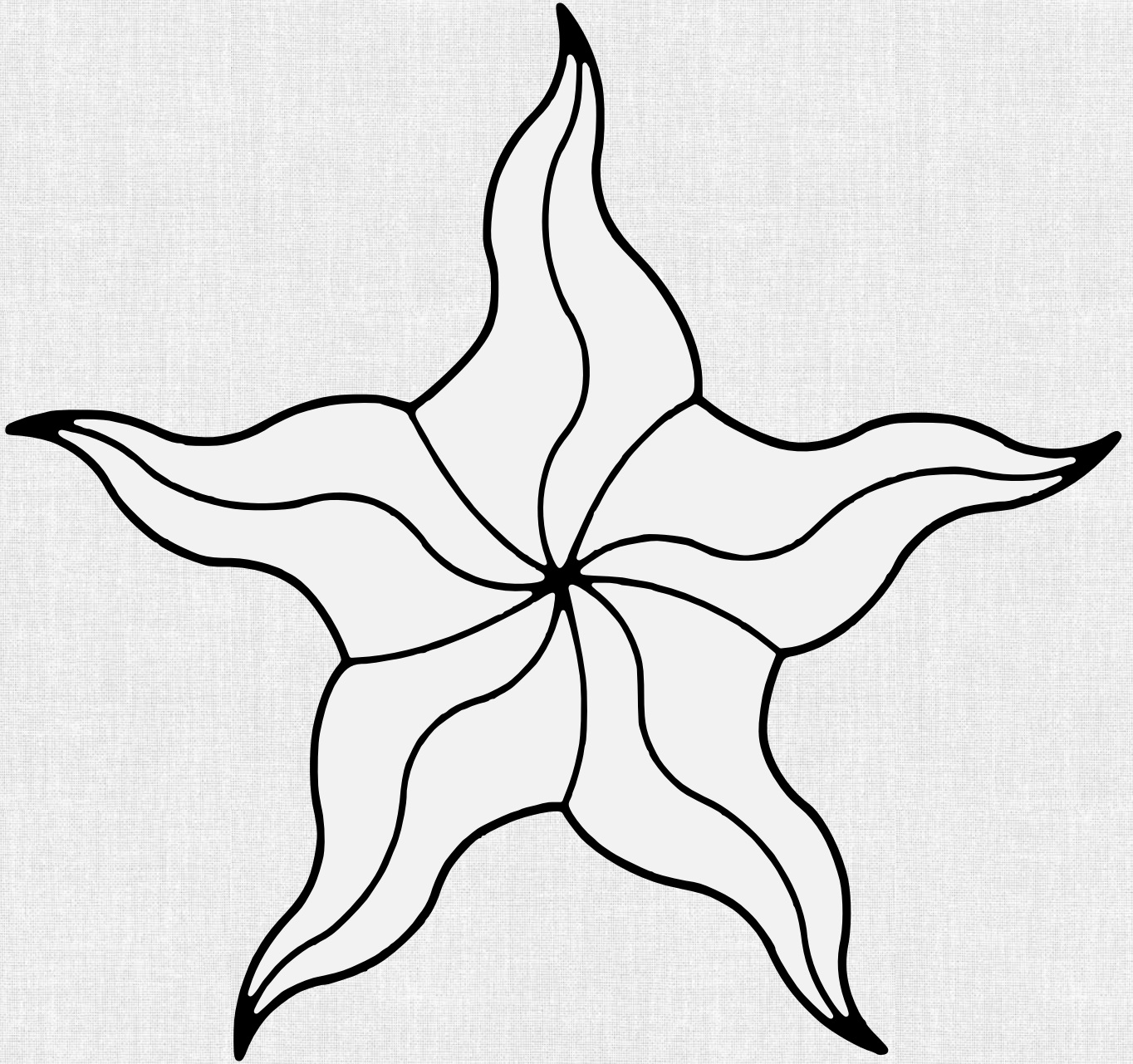
A title of Sea-Dog Herald had previously been registered, but permission to conflict was granted.

## Badge

A “sea dog” is both nautical slang for an experienced sailor and the heraldic term for a half-dog/half-fish creature with a broad scaly tail that is often identified with the beaver, a creature that was plentiful in the territory of Østgarðr during the medieval period, and is memorialized on the 1686 seal of New York City.



The badge as registered in 2013.



| *An estoile of five rays argent.*

# The Order of the Sea Star of Østgarðr

The Order of the Sea Dog of Østgarðr is an award for service to one of the cantons of Østgarðr. Its name is sometimes written as a single word, “Seadog.”

The first members of the order were inducted in 1998, but the name and badge were not registered with the College of Arms until August 2008.

A title of Sea-Dog Herald had previously been registered, but permission to conflict was granted.

## Badge

A “sea dog” is both nautical slang for an experienced sailor and the heraldic term for a half-dog/half-fish creature with a broad scaly tail that is often identified with the beaver, a creature that was plentiful in the territory of Østgarðr during the medieval period, and is memorialized on the 1686 seal of New York City.

# Seahorse Pursuivant

The Order of the Sea Dog of Østgarðr is an award for service to one of the cantons of Østgarðr. Its name is sometimes written as a single word, “Seadog.”

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A title of Sea-Dog Herald had previously been registered, but permission to conflict was granted.

A “sea dog” is both nautical slang for an experienced sailor and the heraldic term for a half-dog/half-fish creature with a broad scaly tail that is often identified with the beaver, a creature that was plentiful in the territory of Østgarðr during the medieval period, and is memorialized on the 1686 seal of New York City.

