

# AWARD INSIGNIA FOR THE KINGDOM OF ANSTEORRA

By Mistress Stella Silvana

Our Crown gives award insignia to the recipients of awards. Where do these insignia come from? Members of our populace make these insignia, so that those recognized by the Crown may have a beautiful sign of the award bestowed upon them. You can help! Please read these guidelines before you make insignia for the Crown and remember to make them so that you would be proud to wear them.

Finished insignia may be turned in to your Regional Scribe, Star Signet, Sable Scroll or directly to the Crown.

## **BRAIDS-**

SABLE FALCON	- Black and gold braid
QUEEN'S RAPIER	- Red and white braid
KING'S ARCHER	- Black and green braid
GOLDEN BRIDLE	- Gold, white and green braid

The insignia for these awards is a braid knotted over a 1 ½ to 2-inch metal ring, so that it may be worn on the belt. These may be three strand braids or four strand braids. Satin cord, macramé cord, leather lacing, or other fancier cords may be used. Make sure the finished braid is at least 20 inches long so that it is about 9 inches long once it is tied over the ring. The cord may end up as much as 1/3 of the length shorter once it is braided, so start with cords 30- 36 inches long. To tie the braided cord on the ring, double it in half, place the ring next to the loop and pull the ends of the cord through the loop while going around the ring.

## **MEDALLIONS-**

SABLE THISTLE, SABLE TALON, SABLE COMET, SABLE CRANE,  
RISING STAR AND COMPASS ROSE

The insignia for these awards is a medallion, usually hung from a cord, but it may be worn as a pin, etc. The constitutions of the awards call for a black silk cord, but no one seems to mind fancier braids, chains, lucet or kumihimo cords, etc. Make sure that the cord is at least 30 inches long, enough to go over the heads of adults with extra room for big hair! I find that coiling the cord with its medallion and placing them in a small plastic bag keeps the award from being damaged and the cord doesn't get tangled.

Do not use a Scottish thistle! Make sure that the comet faces the correct direction! Medallions should be 1 inch to 2 inches in size. Please do not turn in huge medallions that would not be comfortable for the recipients to wear.

Ideas for types of insignia are: cast, engraved or cut metalwork; copper enameling; carved out of amber, jet, bone, horn, or wood; painted wood or porcelain; glazed ceramic (try to keep them thin, not too chunky or too large); tooled leather; incised work on bone or horn.

There are several fieldless badges used as insignia: Sable Comet, Sable Thistle and Sable Talon. Fieldless badges do not have a background. Badges that are fieldless may be depicted on a circle. While there is not a specific color designated for the background of a fieldless badge, a white background is usually used. The badges will also show up best on white.

Other awards worn as medallions are Pelican and Laurel Medallions. These are usually made for a specific individual or passed down from another member of the Order and the Crown doesn't keep a stock of them on hand.

## **WOVEN RIBBONS-**

**STAR OF MERIT-** Yellow with black border and black Ansteorran Star at end opposite D-rings; about ½ to ¾ inch wide and 26-30 inches long.

**CENTURION-** Yellow with red border and black Ansteorran Star at end opposite D-rings; about ½ inch to ¾ in wide and 26-30 inches long.

**GOLDEN LANCE -** Black with yellow border and yellow lance embroidered at end opposite D-rings; about ½ inch to ¾ inch wide and 26-30 inches long.

**IRIS OF MERIT-** Rainbow ribbon of six colors, may have separations of gold or black between colors. Worn as a loop on shoulder attached with a pin. About 1 inch wide and 32-36 inches long. Does not have D-rings!

## **PLANS FOR WOVEN RIBBONS-**

Star and Lance ribbons use the same plan, just reverse the colors. The Centurion ribbon is the same as the Star, except for red edges instead of black. I usually break the design into 5 parts: 1 part edge, 3 parts center, and 1 part edge. For example if you are using #10 Crochet cotton (which is a good material for woven insignia, Perl cotton works very well, too) a plan of 10 threads of the edge color, 30 of the center color, and 10 more of the edge color, makes a ribbon about 1/2-3/4 inches wide.

**FINISHING GARTER TYPE RIBBONS**- Finishing off the ends makes a difference in how the ribbon looks and survives wearing. The loose warp ends left after weaving may be braided or twisted together to make a pretty fringe. The middle ribbons will have no loose ends to be braided. To finish these, I turn under ½ inch at the bottom and blind stitch the hem. You may also gather the ends into a tassel and bind it with thread, or blanket stitch the end to keep the weaving from fraying. Thread the other raw end through two ½ inch D-rings, turn under the edge ½ inch, and slip stitch in place. When the finished ribbon is threaded through the D-rings, it will reverse front and back, so you should sew the hem where the D-rings are attached on the front side.

The hardest part of making these ribbons is embroidering the Ansteorran Star. It is so small that you have succeeded if it looks like a star at all and not just a blob. Experiment with satin stitch or fly stitch. Remember to add the five arms of the small star, so that it is a mullet of five greater and five lesser points.

**FINISHING IRIS RIBBONS**- Iris ribbons can get really fancy. They may be simple stripes woven on an inkle loom, or fancier patterns may be woven with card weaving. You may use a line of black or gold between the colors. I think it looks nice to have a black edge with gold separating the colors. The colors should be in this order: violet, blue, green, yellow, orange and red. Usually the red is on the outside when worn on the left shoulder. This ribbon is formed into a loop and attached with a decorative pin. It does not have D-rings. A safety pin underneath at the back of the shoulder will keep it from falling forward off the arm.

A plan for an Iris using #10 Crochet cotton could be- 4 black, 8 violet, 2 metallic gold, 8 blue, 2 metallic gold, 8 green, 2 metallic gold, 8 yellow, 2 metallic gold, 8 orange, 2 metallic gold, 8 red, 4 black. This should make a ribbon about 1 inch wide.

Finish the ends by braiding or twisting the loose warp ends, or turn under the two ends and slip stitch into a loop with the raw edges enclosed in the seam. Make sure that you sew the ribbon together flat without twisting part of it.

## **OTHER AWARDS**-

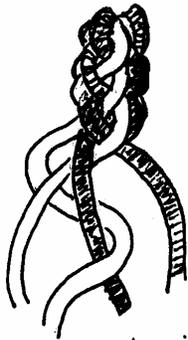
**ARC D'OR**- (Formerly the Arcus Majoris) A white bracer with a black Ansteorran Star, usually made of leather.

**ORDER OF THE WHITE SCARF**- A white scarf worn on the left elbow or shoulder. These vary in design.

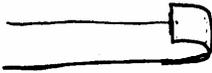
**CENTURION CLOAK**- The Centurion's of the Sable Star have a second insignia, which is a red cloak with the badge, a gold eagle displayed holding an Ansteorran Star.

## WHERE TO FIND MATERIALS-

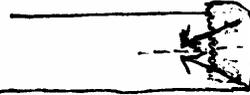
D and round rings may be found at hardware stores, leather craft stores, fabric stores and craft stores. Cords, crochet cotton and other weaving supplies may be found at craft stores, fabric stores and embroidery or weaving supply stores.



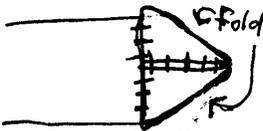
4-part braid  
under 2, back 1.  
alternate left  
+ right.  
light stays on one  
side, dark on the other.



Fold raw edge back  
1/4 inch



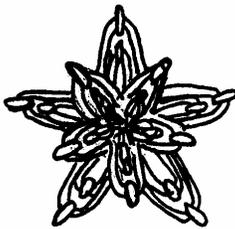
Fold corners to  
meet on center line  
making a point.



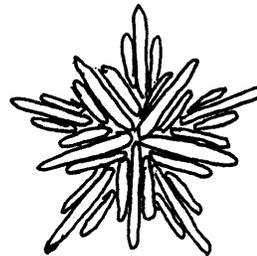
sew in place



3 part braid  
alternate Left + right  
over the center.



Star made  
with "Fly Stitch"  
also called "Detached Chain"



Star made with  
"Satin Stitch"  
Simple straight stitches.

other alternatives  
might be to cut the  
stars from black felt  
or leather.

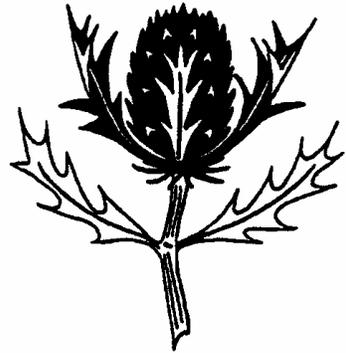
Fieldless badges: May be made without a rondel (circle) background. If placed on a circle the background should be white or metallic silver.



Sable Talon  
Black  
leaves

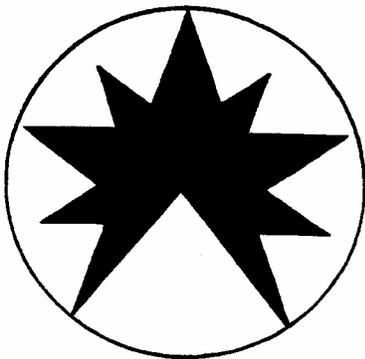


Sable Comet  
Black



Sable Thistle  
Black with yellow stem and  
leaves

Insignia on rondels with designated background color:



Rising Star  
Black star, yellow background,  
triangle (pile) at bottom red.



Compass Rose  
Black compass rose over yellow  
background and red triangle  
at bottom.



Sable Crane  
Yellow background, Crane  
has yellow crest, eye, beak,  
throat and legs.

