

Heraldic Trestle Tables



- ◆ Duçessa Constanzia Moralez y de Zamora, OL, OP
(Lochac)

Intro – what is going to be covered

- ◆ Overview of period examples
- ◆ Summary of period design elements and then my choices
- ◆ Overview of the construction process
- ◆ Few tips about painting
- ◆ The results
- ◆ What worked well, what I would do differently
- ◆ List of materials I used, and resources
- ◆ What others have done in Lochac

Period Examples

There are two extant heraldic trestle tables

- ◆ They are both from Northern Germany
- ◆ They are both have 4 boards connected with hinges that allow the tables to fold.



Lünebourg folding table 1340, Lower Saxony

- ◆ Located in the Lünebourg Museum.



Northern German 1420

located at the Cluny Musee, Paris

Size: 76cmx by 455cms (2.5 x15')



Design Elements of the Extant Tables

- ◆ There are distinctive elements of the tables:
 - Multiple piece tabletop with folding hinges.
 - Colour – bold centre colour (both green) and framed in gold. Additional lines in red.
 - Centre piece (Religious/symbolic)
 - Large Helm crests at the ends of the tables
 - Devices around the edges on a 45 degree angle with either interlacing foliage (mid C15th) or interspersed with more helm crests (mid C14th)

My compromises

- The tables needed to be as multi purpose as possible. Hinging them would increase weight, and reduce the flexibility of use.
- Colour – Our household colours are red, white and blue (like Lochac!) We went for blue and I decided to not bother with the additional red lines but kept the gold frame.
- Centre piece – The centre pieces are quite symbolic so I wanted to provide something that would resonate with the household.
- Large Helm crests at the ends of the tables – definitely keep those.
- C₁₄th or C₁₅th? As we tend to be later period, we chose C₁₅th foliage rather than the more military helm crests of the C₁₄th style.

Process - overview of trestle top construction

Trestle top consists of:

- ◆ Table top – which we used pre cut & sanded board from Bunnings (18 x 600 x 1800mm Laminated pine FJ) (0.5" x 2' x 6')
- ◆ 2 - 3 pieces of wood close to the ends to prevent the top from sliding off the trestle legs. (70 x 35mm pine cut to suit) and help prevent warping

Construction Method

- ◆ Attach wooden pieces to board from the top down using wood screws – slightly counter sunk
- ◆ Puttied holes with Multi purpose filler
- ◆ Sanded bog when dry to be flush with the top
- ◆ Undercoat (white acrylic we had around the house)
- ◆ Top coat entire with blue external house paint underneath and sides.

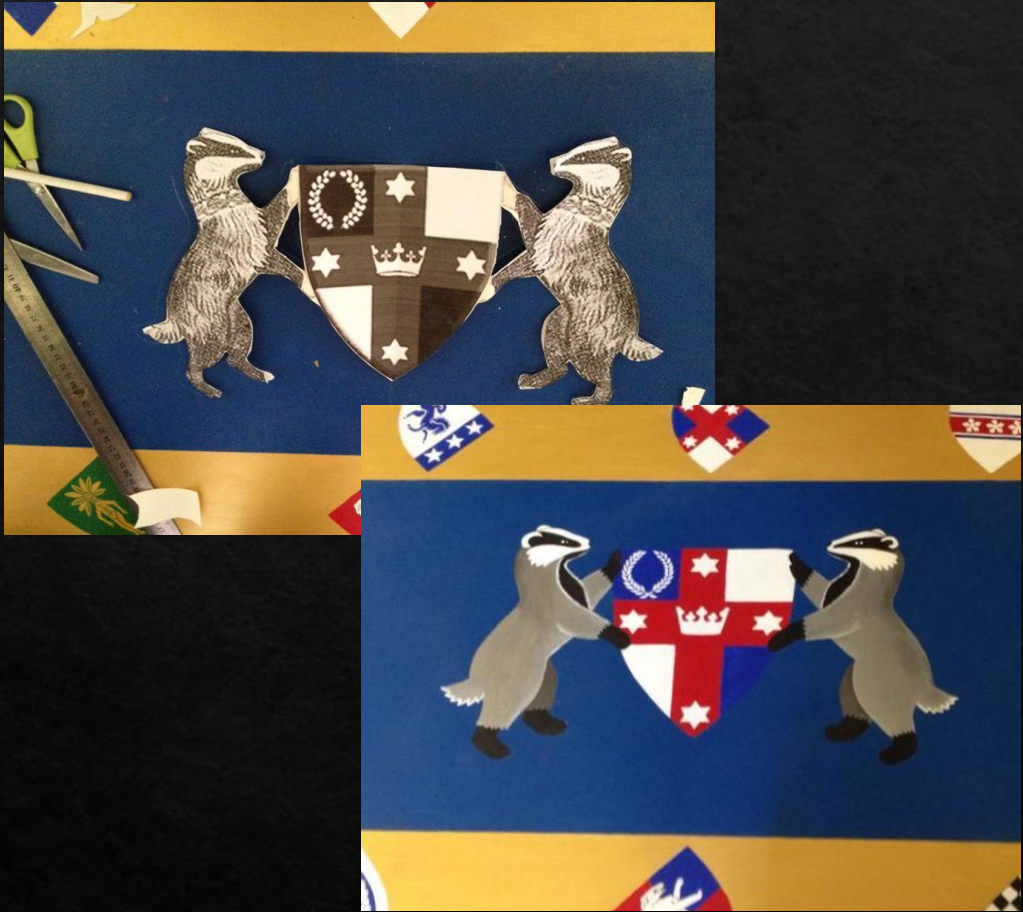


Process - the beginning



- ◇ Marked out the width of the gold border (using a pencil)
- ◇ Painted the gold edge with several coats and then let it dry.
- ◇ Used painters' tape to create a crisp edge
- ◇ Painted the house paint over the top
- ◇ Removed tape and tidied up edges where required.
- ◇ (I chose not to add additional red border because I was impatient)
- ◇ Marked shields at 45-degree angle with a pencil using same white acrylic under coat paint.
- ◇ Started painting devices

Process - Centrepiece



- ◆ Symbolism is very clear: the household services the kingdom represented by two badgers (household badge) holding up the Kingdom device. We serve the Kingdom, foremost.
- ◆ A bit of an internet search and I was able to find some badger supporters which were easy to manipulate. I printed out a few times here I got the size I wanted.
- ◆ Applied white acrylic to create a base to sketch from and then painted.

Process – Vine work



- ◆ I searched online for foliage and flowers that inspired me: Täby kyrka, Stockholm, Wienhausen Abbey in Germany
- ◆ I printed it to the size that worked for the shape, used tracing paper to get an idea how it would work so I could adapt it easily
- ◆ Played with about four different flower types to see what worked the best
- ◆ Created a cardboard template, and then drew straight onto the gold and added several layers

Process – Helm crests



- ◆ Helm crests on the edges of the tables.
(Note there's no "end" to the table with the intent of maximising use).
- ◆ Use of a quatrefoil to break up the empty space between the helm crest and the centrepiece.
- ◆ Print out to relevant size – make cardboard template
- ◆ Acrylic house paint to create a surface to draw and paint on

Process – sealing

- ◆ After all the painting is complete, you can use an acrylic pen to create the crisp edge you see in the extant tables.
- ◆ Clean the tables down from all dust and dirt acquired over the last 40 odd hours of painting.
- ◆ Check edges of the tables and repaint in main colour if required
- ◆ Use a spray craft acrylic lacquer and allow it to set. Spray a second coat and also let it set. This prevents the bleeding of paint during the process of lacquering
- ◆ Use water based (non yellowing) floor lacquer and apply to top, let it set.
- ◆ Apply lacquer to the rest (bottom and sides) let it set.
- ◆ Apply second coat of lacquer on the top let it set

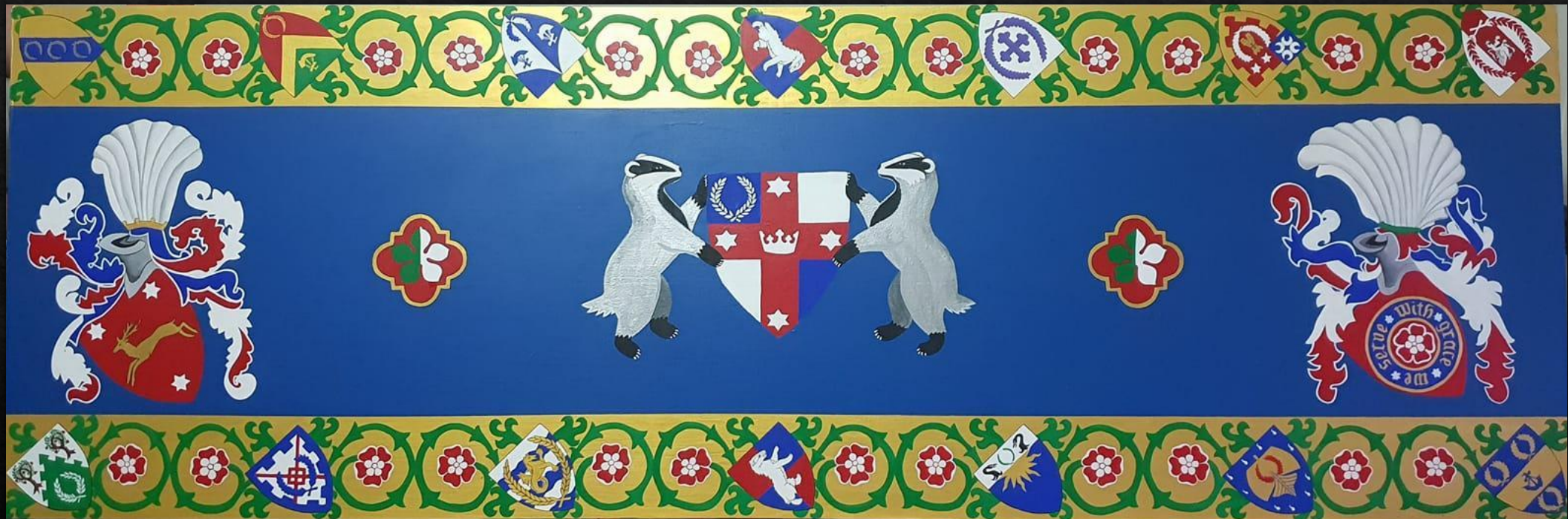


Process – General tips about painting



- ◆ Where possible, try and work from the lightest colour to the darkest.
- ◆ Paint several layers to get the depth needed in the paint. Some colours (green) will need more layers others (eg black) which might get away with one.
- ◆ Sometimes you will need to paint over the top of your background. The example here is particularly with gold paint. To get consistency of colour it will need to cover the entire surface.
- ◆ Cue tips are very helpful to clean up mistakes while wet. A toothbrush can also help scrub away unwanted undercoat or paint white dry but not the fine work.
- ◆ Use quality paint and brushes. It will save you time and give you a better finish. You will need a combination of brush types – from flat to round.
- ◆ Take care of your brushes.
- ◆ If you are going to varnish, use acrylic paint. Oil paint can often cause bubbling in the varnish due to a chemical reaction.

Result – Royal Table



Result – Royal Table

Lochac Order of
Grace

Lochac device supported by
Badgers

Rosemary worn by reigning
royalty of Lochac



Baronial
Coronet

Devices of the Lochac Baronies in
order of creation

Order of Rowan
(Courtesy)

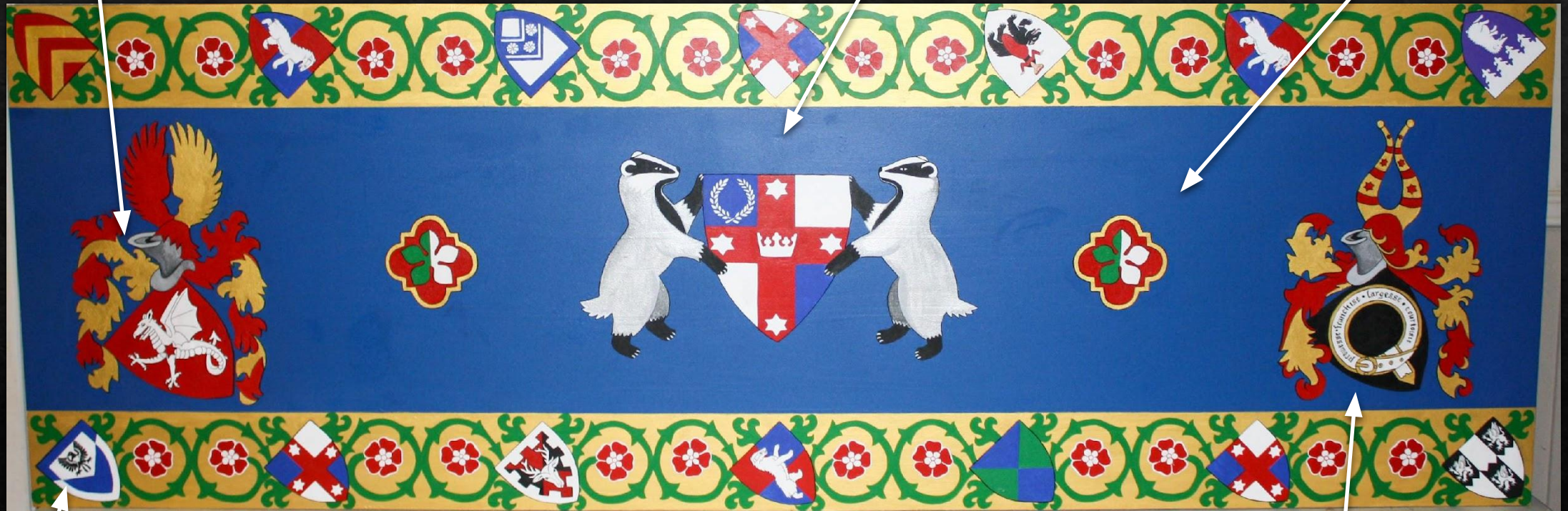
Token from the Order of the Rose and Coronoria, and using
the combined flowers (white on red) found in the foliage as the
centrepiece

Result – Chivalry Table

Order of Red Wyvern
(Grant level Marshal)

Lochac device supported by
Badgers

Order of Rowan
(Courtesy)



Devices of the Household members, Lochac badge and household badge

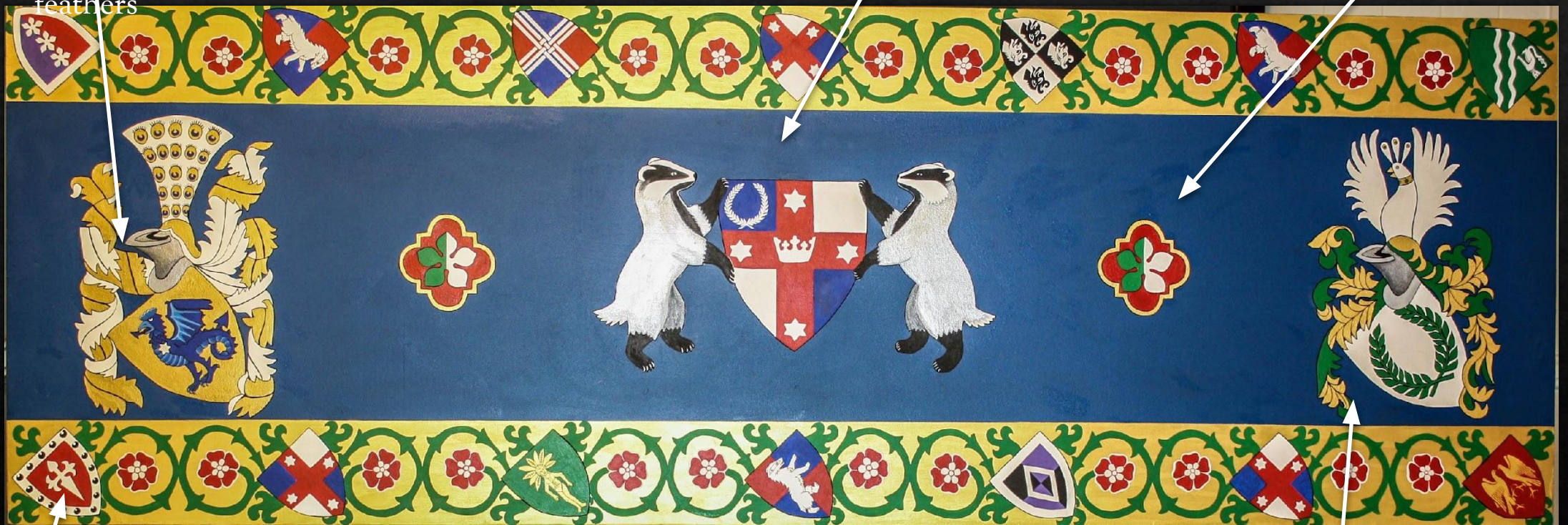
Order of Chivalry

Result – Laurel Table

Order of Cockatrice (Grant level A&S) with Peacock feathers

Lochac device supported by Badgers

Order of Rowan (Courtesy)



Devices of the Household members, Lochac badge and household badge

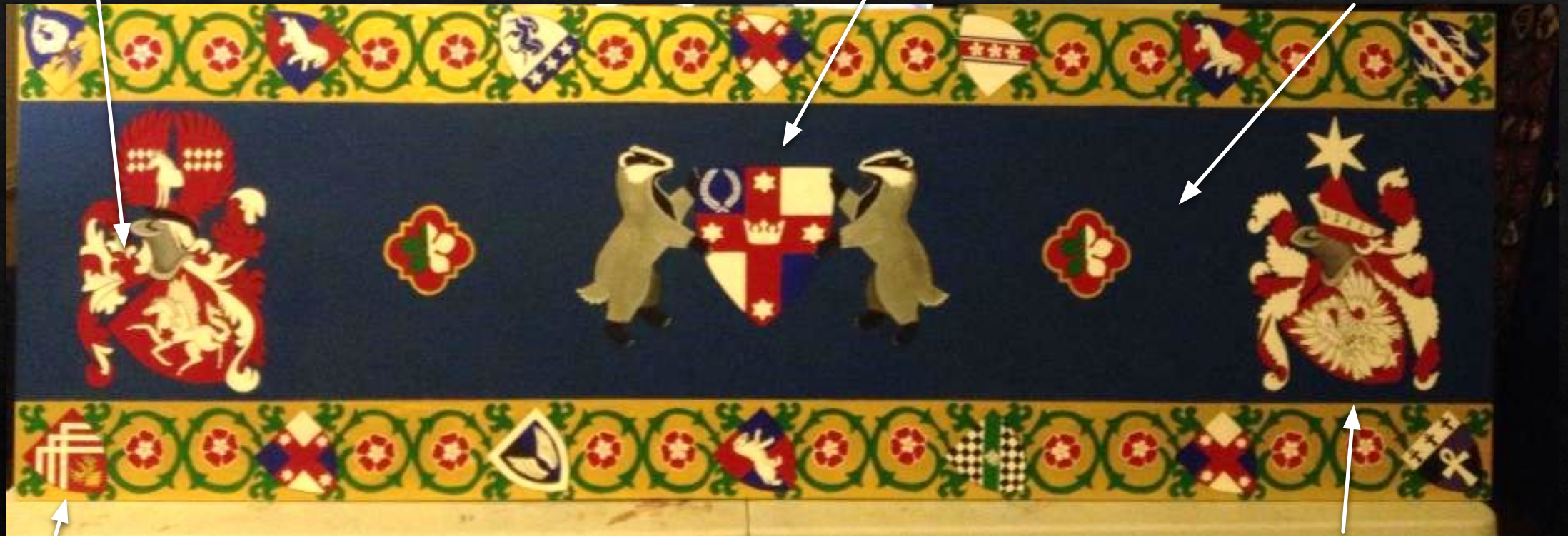
Order of Laurel with Peacock

Result – Pelican Table

Order of Pegasus
(Grant level Service)

Lochac device supported by
Badgers

Order of Rowan
(Courtesy)



Devices of the Household members, Lochac badge and household badge

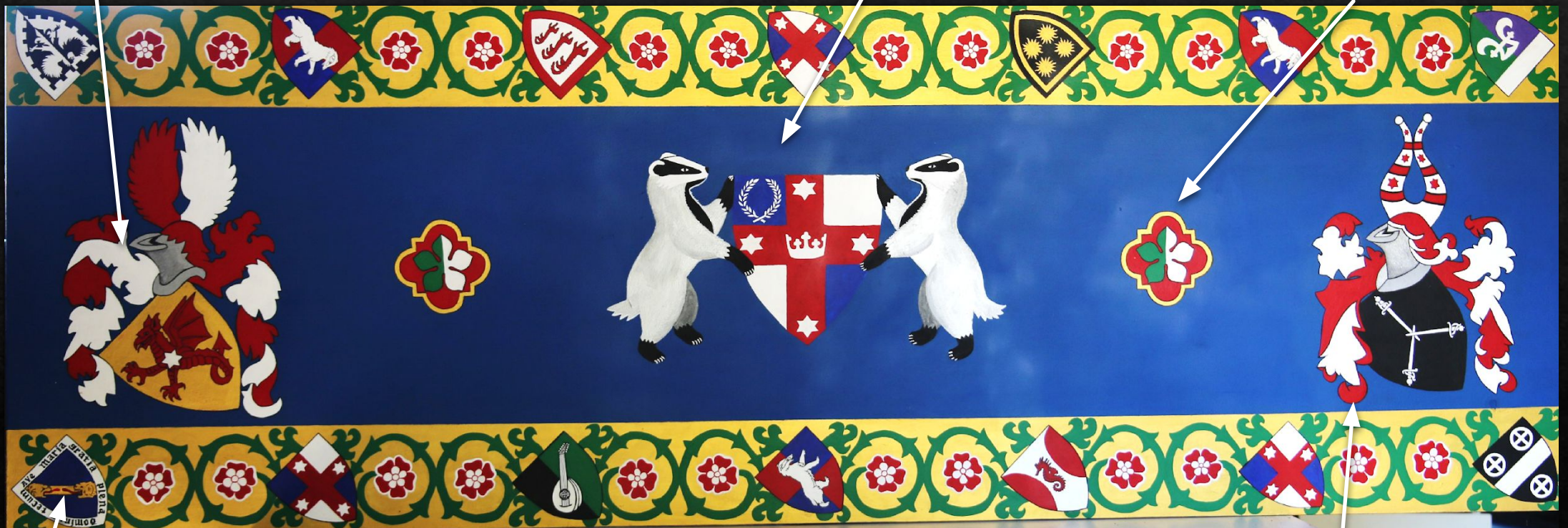
Order of Pelican with cap of Maintenance and six pointed star of Lochac

Result – Defense Table

Order of Red Wyvern
(Grant level Marshal)

Lochac device supported by
Badgers

Order of Rowan
(Courtesy)



Devices of the Household members, Lochac badge and household badge

Order of Defense

What worked well

- ◆ They really set the scene inside our dining pavilion.
- ◆ An opportunity to use and showcase the heraldry of the Lochac awards and symbols – that have meaning to members of our Kingdom.
- ◆ An opportunity to showcase the heraldry of the members of our household.
- ◆ Having many tables means you can rearrange tables to best suit the needs of camp that year.
- ◆ We also built coffins to store them and transport them.

What I would do differently

- ◆ Hard wood instead of a soft wood. The wood is easy to indent and make these very delicate to transport and store. They will warp if stored upright.
- ◆ Use a different lacquer to be less absorbent of atmospheric moisture and less affected by heat.
- ◆ Investigate hinges to create a longer consistently flat surface. At the moment we have 3 tables in a row – (540 cms). If they were hinged, I could have two tables of four panels (135cms) Setting these tables up on inconsistent ground makes the angles of the tables inconsistent
- ◆ Paint the devices last. They are the finest work and get the most dirty by the time you finish the table.

List of Materials

Hardware purchases

- ◆ Selex Laminated Pine FJ Clear Panel 18x600x1800mm
- ◆ Pine Shorts 70x0035mm 0.9m ROM
- ◆ Wood screws
- ◆ Multi purpose filler (insert)
- ◆ Acrylic undercoat
- ◆ Painters tape
- ◆ Acrylic house paint in colour of choice
- ◆ Lacquer – Cabot's Cabothane Clear (water based) clear polyurethane for doors, windows etc

Art/other Shop Purchases

- ◆ Atelier & Matisse acrylic paints (Matisse has two types: Structure will have some qualities like oil, Flow allows for additional reactivation time – which can be good or annoying)
- ◆ Posca Acrylic Pens
- ◆ Spray varnish – White Knight Crystal Clear Acrylic
- ◆ Paint brushes (Flat and Round) I prefer sable or synthetic sable
- ◆ Cue tips, paper towel, cotton wool, toothbrushes for tidying up work as you go.

Resources used

Lüneburg folding table

- ◆ Neubecker, O. 1976 *Heraldry; Sources, Symbols, and Meaning*, McGraw-Hill

North German Heraldic table located at the Musée de Cluny

- ◆ <https://www.musee-moyenage.fr/collection/oeuvre/table-allemande.html>
- ◆ Heraldic book plates - Baron von Scheibler zu Hülhoven from Southern Germany (1450)
- ◆ https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/User:Wuselig/gallery:Archiv_Scheibler

Foliage inspiration - Täby kyrka

- ◆ <https://www.svenskakyrkan.se/taby/taby-kyrka>

Flower inspiration – Kloster Weinhausen

- ◆ <https://www.kloster-wienhausen.de/index.php?id=2>

Lochac Roll of Arms

- ◆ <https://roll.lochac.sca.org/>

What else is out there in Lochac?



From the Barony of Aneala - Mistress Leonie du Grey & Master Damian
Greybeard
Based on the tables at the Musée de Cluny

What else is out there in Lochac?



From the Barony of Politarchopolis - Mistress Rowan Perigrinne
Based on the tables at the Musée de Cluny & Lünebourg folding table