

Greetings all from the Summits Scribe:

The new Tanist and Ban-Tanist, Sir abu nur Rustam ibn Abdallah and Viscountess Suvia filia Heriberti, are looking forward to seeing some drafts of 14th - 15th century Persian designs for their charters. To get things started, they would like to see a reasonably complete sketch/draft with some information as to where you got the idea or what you used as an example. Please send those to me at grossbeak@fromtiernet.net or thegrannygrimm@yahoo.com and I will pass it on to them. Sketches need not be to exact size at this stage. If we start now there will be plenty of time to pick out what they like and there will still be plenty of time to do the finished charters.

If you are interested in making new charters for the new reign, there are several ways to go about designing a charter, dependant on your skill level and what tickles your fancy. We want to encourage any who want to participate to do so. Do you like to draw but don't know calligraphy? Are you learning calligraphy but can't draw worth beans? Are you good with a ruler but can't paint? Have you done Celtic but the closest you've come to Persian is a hairball from your grannies cat? If you are just starting out and would like some assistance please feel free to contact myself or a local scribe. We will be happy to help.

In the next few days we hope to provide you with some links to view some examples of period works for inspiration.

For those of you with some experience and ready to dive in, please work within the very simple following criteria. These are the things we need, that make the scribes who print, paint and fill in the charters for Their most Noble Highnesses, happy and productive scribes.

Start with an 11x14 format. (Yes, you may use an 11x17 sheet of paper. Just make sure you mark the trim line with either hash marks or a dotted line.) Next you mark a 1 inch margin on right, left and top of your layout. Yes, they may be either vertical or horizontal layouts. Then you mark a 1/4 to 1/2 inch margin on the bottom. Why you ask? It is a very old trick (even the ancient Greeks used it) of the eye that anchors the design in the free floating space of the human psyche. The margins are also very important much later when it comes to framing, so be kind to the recipients and stick to the formulae.

In addition, here are some helpful hints on charter design from Mistress Keterlin.

Remember that your designs will be painted by all skill levels. You want it neither too simple nor too difficult. Avoid large open areas that make it difficult to control paint flow. The results can lead to splotchy brush strokes or wetting too large an area at one time (often causing cockling of the paper). Think, "compartmentalization" breaks up those large spaces into a manageable flow from one space to another. Also avoid the opposite of really tiny spaces that are almost impossible to paint, and inked-in heavy black areas as they can be troublesome to print. You want to encourage nice even paint application (for all skill levels) within your design. It's sort of a Zen state of mind. As you work, ask yourself, "how will this be to paint?"

For the calligraphy portions, I like to establish a layout of where the different elements will be ahead of time, measure them off and then adapt and adjust the text as needed to

make it fit well. It is by far best if you can leave a full line for the name of the recipient since you never know if the name will be Bob, or Robert the Blue of Brutesfoote Downs. Remember to leave plenty of space for the date as well, be it May or September. You need not draw lines for the fill-in areas or signatures. Simple hash marks work great.

A ductus of your chosen hand or alphabet along with months and numbers is a truly beautiful thing and so very useful for the stunt scribe filling in names and dates. Please feel free to include one. It works well to provide the ductus in the cut off portion on the 11x17 sheet.

Please don't forget to include the seal placement in your design. Do not, however, draw a circle or fill in a black circle for its placement. A simple, small x to mark the spot is perfect. The seal space needed is about 2 inches across.

Please do sign your work. Keep it small, and well away from Royal signature and seal spaces.

Again, please don't hesitate to contact me with questions or for other assistance.

YIS, HL Sharon the Merchants' Wife / Principality Scribe