Pronunciation for Heralds

(Or, Linguistics 101 in 60 Minutes or Less)

By Don Conchobhar mac Michil and Lady Adeliz Fergusson

(mka Mike Bradley and Adele Beck)

Intro

The SCA is full of a wide variety of activities; from fighting, to arts & sciences, the pageantry of court, and just the general gathering of friends at events. But one thing that is almost always a constant is the need for voice heralds to announce fighting lists, competition entrants, read scrolls in court, and make announcements. And invariably, in those duties, the herald is going to have to say somebody's name. Since their name is usually important to a person, and it can be awkward for the herald if they get somebody's name wrong, learning proper ways to pronounce names correctly, or mostly correctly, is important.

Best Practices

There are a lot of ways to make sure that you pronounce someone's name correctly, however due to time, surprise, and various other constraints, not all of the methods are viable at all times. The information contained herein is mainly for the worst case scenario, in which none of the easy options are available.

Before delving into the ways to fake sounding like you know what you're talking about, we'll look at the better methods of knowing how to say someone's name properly:

- Ask the individual – This is the ideal way to find out how a person pronounces their name, especially as many people may have a preferred pronunciation that is not historically or linguistically accurate. For obvious reasons, this may not be an option.
- Ask a friend – This is also a great option, most of the time. If discretion is a high factor, this option might not be any more available than asking the individual themselves.
- Ask whoever wants you to say the name – Whether it is the Crown, local Nobility, the list minister, or person in charge of announcements, you can always ask them. While this is always an option, it doesn't necessarily work. Depending on the circumstances, they person asking you to say the name might not know it themselves; the Crown and Nobility might be giving an award to someone that they had recommendations for, but don't know personally, or the list minister might have given you a card for a fighter they don't know, or you just got a list of announcements from whomever is in charge of camp crying.
- Fake it – It's the last resort, but comes up more often than it should. This is where linguistics and an understanding of languages come into play.

How to Fake It

Non heralds have multiple ways to fake not being able to pronounce somebody's name. As a herald though, it's not appropriate to attempt to call someone into Court, or to the list field, with "hey, you" or

"that person over there" or "that one Lady that was wearing blue this morning". So how does a herald do it? Well, there are a few ways:

- Become a true polyglot. Sure, this takes years, but if you learn to speak 10 – 15 languages fluently, and their medieval versions, odds are that you'll never has to worry about pronouncing someone's name.
- Get a degree in linguistics. Again, this is probably going to take years, but at the end you should be able to figure most names out.
- Get a basic understanding of linguistics, and simple language guides, and free and fast resources to at least come up with a good approximation.

Language Basics

Linguistics, at its heart and most simple, is the study of languages. While linguistics covers a wide variety of topics under the meaning of language and context, this class covers the basics of linguistics most applicable to voice heralds, specifically phonetics, phonology, and morphology.

Phonetics is merely the study of the sounds used in speech; how they are made and perceived at the physical level. Luckily for the modern herald, we have access to the International Phonetic Alphabet to help with transcriptions and pronunciation.

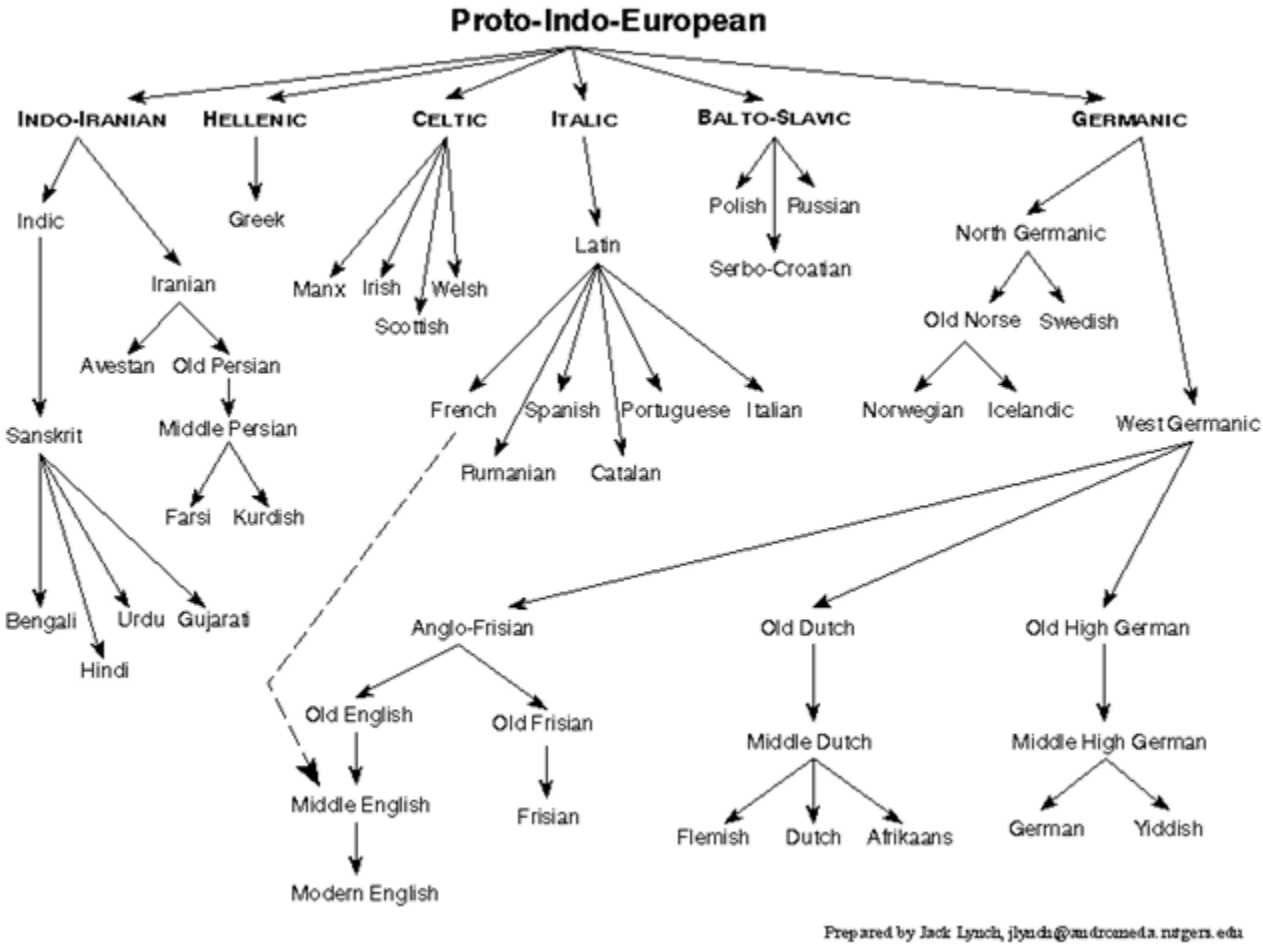
Phonology, while similar to phonetics deals with the sounds in a given language and their usage, rather than how they are physically formed. While the sounds used in a language can and are defined phonetically, individual sounds used in a language are referred to as phonemes.

Morphology is how a language puts together phonemes into morphemes to create syllables, affixes, words and other linguistic units to actually create language. Morphology helps to define the syntax and lexicon of a language, being the glue which holds everything together.

Language Families and Dialects

A standard quip in linguistics is that "a language is a dialect with an army and a navy", and while not entirely true, gives an easy way to deal with many languages when needing to fake pronunciations. Language families, and their sub-branches, having descended from the same proto-language, generally share similar sounds and word structures. Dialects are subdivisions of languages that are generally split along isogloss lines, geographical boundaries that demark slight and subtle changes in pronunciation. The relationship between languages and isogloss lines allows, for example someone on the border of Portugal to mostly understand his Spanish speaking neighbor across the border, who in turn can understand someone in central Spain, and so forth across Spain, France, and through Italy, even though the Portuguese and Italian couldn't speak directly to each other.

Knowing the relationships between language families and dialects gives an easy way to guess at pronunciations in languages that are similar to languages already known.



Resources

This section contains various tips, tricks, and resources for improving pronunciations by heralds. While some of these were garnered from years of practice, the modern herald has access to great information on the internet.

- Learn cognates of names in various languages. Knowing that John, Jean, and Juan are the same gives immediate clues into the pronunciation of Johan, Jehan, Giovanni, and other names derived from *Yôḥānān* (Hebrew) and *Iōannēs* (Greek). This is especially helpful when dealing with the Celtic language family; getting from Conchobhar to Connor isn't difficult, while getting from Mathghamhain to Mahon only comes from knowing the anglicization.
- Learn the names of languages in the language. While this certainly only gives you a small subset of the sounds in a language, the ability to correctly pronounce the name of the language gives you a feel for how it should sound.
- Watch intro or kids videos. When not going for fluency, simple videos, especially ones that say names are a great tool for hearing the sounds of a language. YouTube is a great source to find introductory and kids videos for training in nearly any language. The Cat in the Hat's song from the original animated special is great for getting to hear "cat" and "hat" in a variety of languages.

- Google Translate. While not perfect, this can be your best tool for quick pronunciation help. Not only can it translate some cognates of names, it has text to speech for many languages.
- Online IPA transcription. Various websites exist that will transcribe languages into IPA, which while not ideal, can be used to give a good approximation if you are able to recall or have handy what sounds the IPA symbols map to.
- Wikipedia/Wikimedia. Both websites contain information on the phonetics and phonology of most languages, along with audio files of native pronunciation.
- Realize that, in general, languages that do not use the Latin alphabet for their orthography (Greek, Cyrillic, Chinese, Japanese, etc.) when transcribed are going to be fairly close to a phonetic spelling.

IPA

The International Phonetic Alphabet is used to provide a single symbol for each distinctive sound in human languages. For the most part, these symbols harmonize with the Latin alphabet, along with a few oddities. A full detailing of IPA is beyond the scope of this quick guide, but at least minor explanation of the terms is necessary, as the specific language charts are given in IPA format. Anyone serious about proper pronunciation and usage of the IPA chart should give it a fair amount of study, or take an actual course in phoenetics.

In the following IPA chart, for the consonants, the headers across the top of the chart are the place of articulation, while the row listings are the manner of articulation. In cases where there are two symbols for the same place and manner of articulation, the rightmost symbol is voiced. Since most people are familiar with consonants, only brief descriptions of both follow.

Place of articulation:

- Bilabial – articulated with both lips
- Labiodental – articulated with the lower lip and upper teeth
- Dental – articulated with the tongue against the upper teeth
- Alveolar – articulated with the tongue against the alveolar ridge (the ridge behind the teeth, before falling back to the palate)
- Postalveolar – sibilants articulated with the tongue bunched behind the alveolar ridge
- Palatal – articulated with the body of the tongue pressed on the hard palate
- Velar – articulated with the back of the tongue on the soft palate
- Uvular – articulated the back of the tongue near the uvula, further back than velar

Manner of articulation:

- Plosive – a stoppage and release of air
- Nasal – air escapes via the nose
- Trill – a vibrating noise, as in the <rr> in Spanish
- Tap – a single contraction of the muscles in which the tongue doesn't vibrate
- Fricative – produced by forcing air through a narrow channel between articulators (tongue and teeth, for example)

- Approximants – air passing through the articulation points without creating fully turbulent airflow, they are less than fricatives (which are turbulent), but more than vowels (which have no turbulence)

Vowel articulation:

- The vertical axis of the chart shows the height of the tongue during pronunciation
- The horizontal axis of the chart shows how far back the tongue is
- In pairs on the chart, the rightmost symbol is a rounded vowel (with the lips rounded into more of an O shape than its unrounded counterpart)

THE INTERNATIONAL PHONETIC ALPHABET (revised to 2015)

CONSONANTS (PULMONIC)

© 2015 IPA

	Bilabial	Labiodental	Dental	Alveolar	Postalveolar	Retroflex	Palatal	Velar	Uvular	Pharyngeal	Glottal
Plosive	p b			t d		ʈ ɖ	c ɟ	k g	q ɢ		ʔ
Nasal	m	ɱ		n		ɳ	ɲ	ŋ	ɴ		
Trill	ʙ			r					ʀ		
Tap or Flap		ⱱ		ɾ		ɽ					
Fricative	ɸ β	f v	θ ð	s z	ʃ ʒ	ʂ ʐ	ç ʝ	x ɣ	χ ʁ	ħ ʕ	h ɦ
Lateral fricative				ɬ ɮ							
Approximant		ʋ		ɹ		ɻ	j	ɰ			
Lateral approximant				l		ɭ	ʎ	ʟ			

Symbols to the right in a cell are voiced, to the left are voiceless. Shaded areas denote articulations judged impossible.

CONSONANTS (NON-PULMONIC)

Clicks	Voiced implosives	Ejectives
ʘ Bilabial	ɓ Bilabial	’ Examples:
ǀ Dental	ɗ Dental/alveolar	pʼ Bilabial
ǃ (Post)alveolar	ʄ Palatal	tʼ Dental/alveolar
ǂ Palatoalveolar	ɠ Velar	kʼ Velar
ǁ Alveolar lateral	ʛ Uvular	sʼ Alveolar fricative

OTHER SYMBOLS

ʍ Voiceless labial-velar fricative

ɕ ʑ Alveolo-palatal fricatives

w Voiced labial-velar approximant

ɺ Voiced alveolar lateral flap

ɥ Voiced labial-palatal approximant

ʢ ʡ Simultaneous ʃ and x

ʜ Voiceless epiglottal fricative

ʡ Voiced epiglottal fricative

ʡ Epiglottal plosive

Affricates and double articulations can be represented by two symbols joined by a tie bar if necessary.

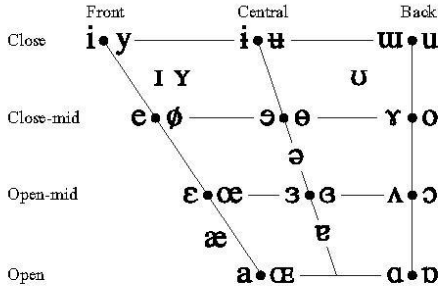
t͡s k͡p

DIACRITICS

Some diacritics may be placed above a symbol with a descender, e.g. n̊ŋ̊

◌̥ Voiceless	n̥ d̥	◌̤ Breathy voiced	b̤ a̤	◌̪ Dental	t̪ d̪
◌̬ Voiced	s̬ t̬	◌̰ Creaky voiced	b̰ a̰	◌̺ Apical	t̺ d̺
◌ʰ Aspirated	tʰ dʰ	◌̼ Linguolabial	t̼ d̼	◌̻ Laminal	t̻ d̻
◌̹ More rounded	ɔ̹	◌ʷ Labialized	tʷ dʷ	◌̃ Nasalized	ẽ
◌̜ Less rounded	ɔ̜	◌ʲ Palatalized	tʲ dʲ	◌ⁿ Nasal release	dⁿ
◌̟ Advanced	u̟	◌ˠ Velarized	tˠ dˠ	◌ˡ Lateral release	dˡ
◌̠ Retracted	e̠	◌ˤ Pharyngealized	tˤ dˤ	◌̚ No audible release	d̚
◌̈ Centralized	ë	◌̴ Velarized or pharyngealized	ɫ		
◌̽ Mid-centralized	e̽	◌̝ Raised	e̝ (ɹ̝ = voiced alveolar fricative)		
◌̩ Syllabic	n̩	◌̞ Lowered	e̞ (β̞ = voiced bilabial approximant)		
◌̯ Non-syllabic	e̯	◌̘ Advanced Tongue Root	e̘		
◌˞ Rhoticity	ɚ a˞	◌̙ Retracted Tongue Root	e̙		

VOWELS



Where symbols appear in pairs, the one to the right represents a rounded vowel.

SUPRASEGMENTALS

ˈ Primary stress ˌfounəˈtɪʃən

ˌ Secondary stress

ː Long eː

ˑ Half-long eˑ

˘ Extra-short ĕ

| Minor (foot) group

‖ Major (intonation) group

. Syllable break ɹi.ækt

‿ Linking (absence of a break)

TONES AND WORD ACCENTS

LEVEL			CONTOUR		
e̋ or ˥	Extra high		ě or ˧˥	Rising	
é ˦	High		ê ˥˩	Falling	
ē ˧	Mid		e᷄ ˦˥	High rising	
è ˨	Low		e᷅ ˩˧	Low rising	
ȅ ˩	Extra low		e᷈ ˩˥	Rising-falling	
↓	Downstep		↗	Global rise	
↑	Upstep		↘	Global fall	

Typefaces: Doulos SIL (metatext); Doulos SIL, IPA Kiel, IPA LS Uni (symbols)

QUICK PRONUNCIATION FOR IPA

Consonants

p	pip	ʒ	measure
b	bib	h	hen
t	ten	tʃ	church
d	den	dʒ	judge
k	cat	m	man
g	get	n	now
f	fish	ŋ	sing
θ	thigh	l	let
ð	this	r	ride
s	set	w	wet
z	zoo	j	yet
ʃ	ship		

Vowels

ɪ	pit	ɔ:	born
e	pet	u:	boon
æ	pat	aɪ	bite
ɒ	pot	eɪ	bait
ʌ	but	ɔɪ	boy
ʊ	book	əʊ	toe
ə	mother	aʊ	house
i:	bean	ʊə	poor
ɜ:	burn	ɪə	ear
ɑ:	barn	eə	air

i	bead, peek, mien	ɑ	bod, laud, fall	ə	about, listen, tomorrow
ɪ	bid, lift, pin	o	bode, loaf, tow	ɚ	bird, turn, earth
e	bade, lazy, rain	ʊ	bush, took, fur	ai	bide, high, cycle
ɛ	bed, letter, pen	u	booed, lute, two	aʊ	bowed, ouch, now
æ	bad, latch, pan	ʌ	bud, lump, ton	ɔɪ	boy, toil, lawyer

SPECIFIC LANGUAGES

The following is nowhere near a complete list of languages, language families, or branches. It does cover a wide range of languages used in the SCA, albeit in their modern forms. While modern pronunciation is going to vary from medieval pronunciation due to various lingual shifts (especially in vowels), it is generally going to be close enough.

The lists below contain the consonant and vowel sounds, in their IPA format, found in the language. Most of the images below were gathered from The Speech Accent Archive by George Mason University, at accent.gmu.edu, which also contains audio pronunciations of many languages. Some entries also contain the basic syllable structure found in the language in the form $(C)^xV(C)^x$, where 'C' stands for a consonant sound, 'V' stands for a vowel sound, parentheses denote optional onset or coda, and 'x' is the number of those sounds in a row. As this is the standard syllable structure for most languages, it will only be noted if the specifics are known or it does not follow the pattern. Also included is the name of the language in that language.

INDO-EUROPEAN LANGUAGES

The Indo-European language family and its branches are the most important for a herald in the SCA to have a decent grasp of, as they are the languages of Western Europe and thus the "core SCA" as defined in Copora.

GERMANIC

The Germanic branch of languages are the ones that will sound most familiar to native English speakers. It contains languages such as English, German, Dutch, Old Norse, and their modern descendants.

English (English)

Basic syllable: $(C)^3V(C)^5$

Consonant phonemes

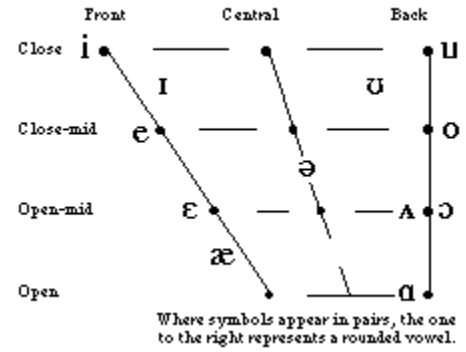
CONSONANTS (PULMONIC)

	Bilabial	Labiodental	Dental	Alveolar	Postalveolar	Retroflex	Palatal	Velar	Uvular	Pharyngeal	Glottal
Plosive	p b			t d				k g			
Nasal	m			n				ŋ			
Trill											
Tap or Flap											
Fricative		f v	θ ð	s z	ʃ ʒ						h
Affricate					tʃ dʒ						
Lateral fricative											
Approximant				ɹ			j				
Lateral approximant				l							

Where symbols appear in pairs, the one to the right represents a voiced consonant. Shaded areas denote articulations judged impossible.

Vowel phonemes

VOWELS



Where symbols appear in pairs, the one to the right represents a rounded vowel.

German (Deutsche)

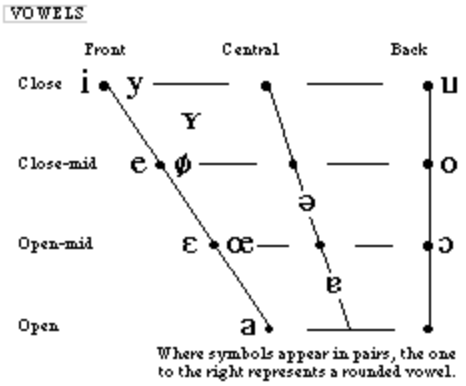
Consonant phonemes

CONSONANTS (PULMONIC)

	Bilabial	Labiodental	Dental	Alveolar	Postalveolar	Retroflex	Palatal	Velar	Uvular	Pharyngeal	Glottal
Plosive	p b			t d				k g			
Nasal	m			n				ŋ			
Trill									ʀ		
Tap or Flap											
Fricative		f v		s z	ʃ ʒ			x			h
Affricate		pf		ts							
Lateral fricative											
Approximant							j				
Lateral approximant				l							

Where symbols appear in pairs, the one to the right represents a voiced consonant. Shaded areas denote articulations judged impossible.

Vowel phonemes



Dutch (Nederlands)

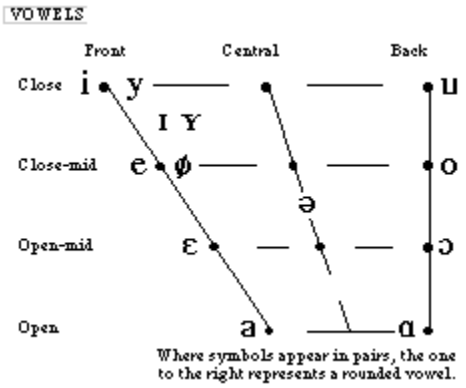
Consonant phonemes

CONSONANTS (PULMONIC)

	Bilabial	Labiodental	Dental	Alveolar	Postalveolar	Retroflex	Palatal	Velar	Uvular	Pharyngeal	Glottal
Plosive	p b			t d				k			ʔ
Nasal	m			n				ŋ			
Trill											
Tap or Flap				ɾ							
Fricative		f v		s z					χ		ɦ
Affricate											
Lateral fricative											
Approximant		ʋ					j				
Lateral approximant				l							

Where symbols appear in pairs, the one to the right represents a voiced consonant. Shaded areas denote articulations judged impossible.

Vowel phonemes



Old Norse

This is a tricky language, as was replaced with Icelandic, Norwegian, Swedish and Danish starting in the mid-14th century. Phonetic information on Old Norse is provided from Wikipedia, along with Icelandic and Norwegian, which while not perfect give an idea on how to pronounce Norse.

Consonant phonemes

	Labial	Dental	Alveolar	Postalveolar	Palatal	Velar	Labiovelar	Glottal
Plosive	p b	t d				k g		
Nasal	m	n				(ŋ)		
Fricative	f (v)	θ (ð)	s			(ɣ)		h
Trill			r					
Approximant				R	j		w	
Lateral approximant			l					

Vowel phonemes

Generic Vowel System c. 13th–14th centuries

	Front vowels				Back vowels			
	Unrounded		Rounded		Unrounded		Rounded	
High	i	iː	y	yː			u	uː
Mid	e	eː	ø	øː			o	oː
Low/Low-Mid	ɛ	ɛː			a	aː		

Generic Vowel System c. 9th–12th centuries

	Front vowels				Back vowels			
	Unrounded		Rounded		Unrounded		Rounded	
High	i • ĩ	iː • ĩː	y • ỹ	yː • ỹː			u • ũ	uː • ũː
Mid	e • ẽ	eː • ẽː	ø • ø̃	øː • ø̃ː			o • õ	oː • õː
Low/Low-Mid	ɛ • ɛ̃	ɛː • ɛ̃ː	œ • œ̃		a • ã	aː • ãː	ɔ • ɔ̃	ɔː • ɔ̃ː

Icelandic (Íslenska)

Consonant phonemes

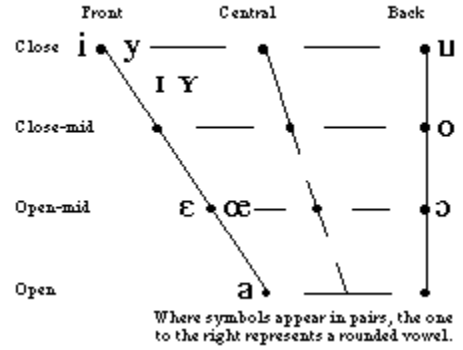
CONSONANTS (PULMONIC)

	Bilabial	Labiodental	Dental	Alveolar	Postalveolar	Retroflex	Palatal	Velar	Uvular	Pharyngeal	Glottal
Plosive	p		t					k			ʔ
Nasal	m			n				ŋ			
Trill				r							
Tap or Flap											
Fricative		f v	θ ð	s			ç	ɣ	χ		h
Affricate											
Lateral fricative											
Approximant							j				
Lateral approximant				l							

Where symbols appear in pairs, the one to the right represents a voiced consonant. Shaded areas denote articulations judged impossible.

Vowel phonemes

VOWELS



Norwegian (Norsk)

Consonant phonemes

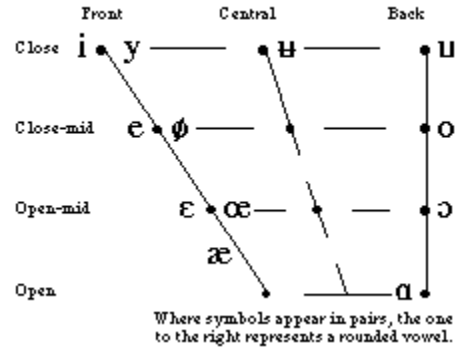
CONSONANTS (PULMONIC)

	Bilabial	Labiodental	Dental	Alveolar	Postalveolar	Retroflex	Palatal	Velar	Uvular	Pharyngeal	Glottal
Plosive	p b			t d		ʈ ɖ		k g			
Nasal	m			n		ɳ		ŋ			
Trill											
Tap or Flap				ɾ		ɽ					
Fricative		f		s		ʂ	ç				h
Affricate											
Lateral fricative											
Approximant		ʋ					j				
Lateral approximant				l		ɭ					

Where symbols appear in pairs, the one to the right represents a voiced consonant. Shaded areas denote articulations judged impossible.

Vowel phonemes

VOWELS



ROMANCE

The Romance branch of languages consists of Latin and the languages descended from it such as French, Italian, Spanish, and Portuguese. As popular European languages, most native English speakers are likely familiar with at least one Romance language.

Latin (lingua Latina)

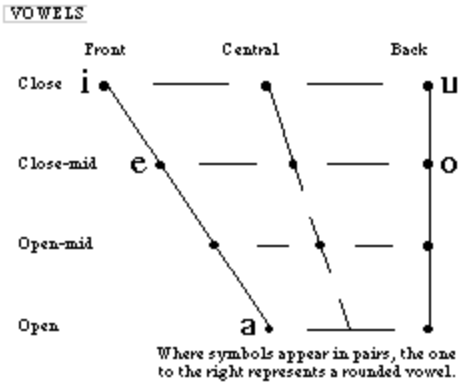
Consonant phonemes

CONSONANTS (PULMONIC)

	Bilabial	Labiodental	Dental	Alveolar	Postalveolar	Retroflex	Palatal	Velar	Uvular	Pharyngeal	Glottal
Plosive	p b			t d				k g			ʔ
Nasal	m			n							
Trill				r							
Tap or Flap											
Fricative		f		s							h
Affricate											
Lateral fricative											
Approximant							j				
Lateral approximant				l							

Where symbols appear in pairs, the one to the right represents a voiced consonant. Shaded areas denote articulations judged impossible.

Vowel phonemes



French (Français)

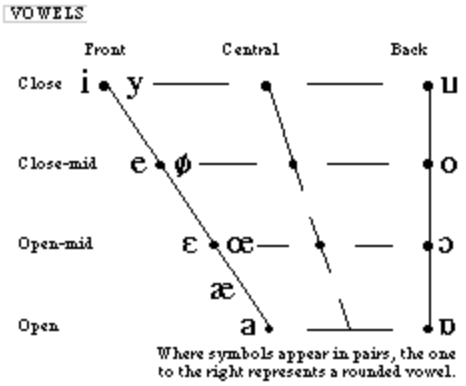
Consonant phonemes

CONSONANTS (PULMONIC)

	Bilabial	Labiodental	Dental	Alveolar	Postalveolar	Retroflex	Palatal	Velar	Uvular	Pharyngeal	Glottal
Plosive	p b			t d				k g			
Nasal	m			n			ɲ	ŋ			
Trill											
Tap or Flap											
Fricative		f v		s z	ʃ ʒ				ʁ		
Affricate											
Lateral fricative											
Approximant							j				
Lateral approximant				l							

Where symbols appear in pairs, the one to the right represents a voiced consonant. Shaded areas denote articulations judged impossible.

Vowel phonemes



Italian (Italiano)

Consonant phonemes

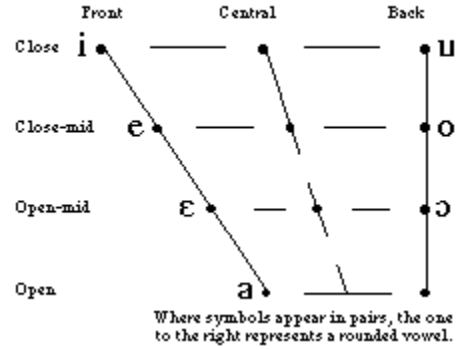
CONSONANTS (PULMONIC)

	Bilabial	Labiodental	Dental	Alveolar	Postalveolar	Retroflex	Palatal	Velar	Uvular	Pharyngeal	Glottal
Plosive	p b			t d				k g			
Nasal	m			n			ɲ				
Trill				r							
Tap or Flap											
Fricative		f v		s z	ʃ						
Affricate				ʦ ʣ	ʧ ʤ						
Lateral fricative											
Approximant											
Lateral approximant				l			ʎ				

Where symbols appear in pairs, the one to the right represents a voiced consonant. Shaded areas denote articulations judged impossible.

Vowel phonemes

VOWELS



Spanish (Español)

Consonant phonemes

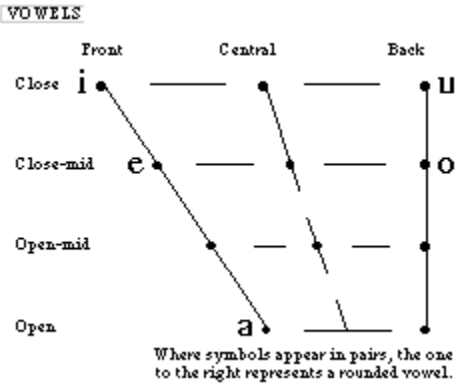
CONSONANTS (PULMONIC)

	Bilabial	Labiodental	Dental	Alveolar	Postalveolar	Retroflex	Palatal	Velar	Uvular	Pharyngeal	Glottal
Plosive	p			t				k g			
Nasal	m			n			ɲ				
Trill				r							
Tap or Flap				ɾ							
Fricative	β	f	θ ð	s				x ɣ			
Affricate					tʃ						
Lateral fricative											
Approximant							j				
Lateral approximant				l			ʎ				

Where symbols appear in pairs, the one to the right represents a voiced consonant. Shaded areas denote articulations judged impossible.

Vowel phonemes

VOWELS



Portuguese (Português)

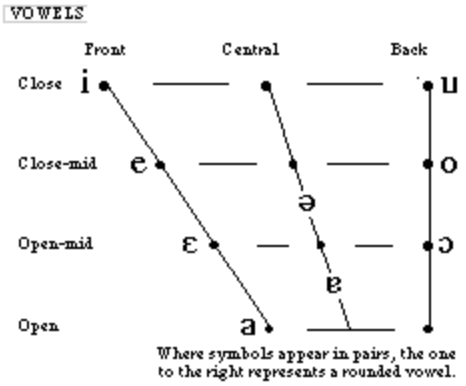
Consonant phonemes

CONSONANTS (PULMONIC)

	Bilabial	Labiodental	Dental	Alveolar	Postalveolar	Retroflex	Palatal	Velar	Uvular	Pharyngeal	Glottal
Plosive	p b		t d					k g			
Nasal	m		n				ɲ				
Trill									R		
Tap or Flap											
Fricative		f v		s z	ʃ ʒ						
Affricate											
Lateral fricative											
Approximant			ɹ				j				
Lateral approximant			l				ʎ				

Where symbols appear in pairs, the one to the right represents a voiced consonant. Shaded areas denote articulations judged impossible.

Vowel phonemes



CELTIC

Of the main Western European branches of the Indo-European family, the Celtic languages are probably the least familiar orthographically and linguistically to native English speakers. The Celtic languages include the Gaelic or Goidelic (Q-Celt) and Brythonic (P-Celt) branches. The Goidelic languages include Irish, Scottish Gaelic, and Manx, while the Brythonic languages include Welsh, Cornish, and Breton. While simple pronunciation of the phonemes is given here, due to the orthography, lenition, and various other mutations in these languages they really do require a bit of study, even to guess at.

Irish (Gaeilge)

Consonant phonemes

		Labial		Coronal		Dorsal		Glottal
		broad	slender	broad	slender	broad	slender	
Stop	voiceless	pˠ	pʲ	t̪ˠ	tʲ	k	c	
	voiced	bˠ	bʲ	d̪ˠ	dʲ	g	ɟ	
Fricative/ Approximant	voiceless	fˠ	fʲ	sˠ	ʃ	x	ç	h
	voiced	w/v	vʲ			ɣ	j	
Nasal		mˠ	mʲ	n̪ˠ	nʲ	ŋ	ɲ	
Tap				ɾˠ	ɾʲ			
Lateral				l̪ˠ	lʲ			

Vowel phonemes

	Front		Central	Back	
	short	long	short	short	long
Close	ɪ	iː		ʊ	uː
Mid	ɛ	eː	ə	ɔ	oː
Open			a		ɑː

Diphthongs: iə, uə, əi, əu.

Scottish Gaelic (Gàidhlig)

Consonants of Scottish Gaelic

	Labial	Coronal		Dorsal			Glottal
		Dental	Alveolar	Palatal		Velar	
Stop	pʰ p	t̪ʰ t̪		tʲʰ tʲ	kʲʰ kʲ	kʰ k	
Fricative	f v	s̪		ʃ	ç ʝ	x ɣ	h
Nasal	m	n̪ˠ	n	ɲ			
Approximant		l̪ˠ	l	ʎ	j		
Tap			ɾ ɾʲ				
Trill			rˠ				

Scottish Gaelic vowel phonemes[3]

	Front	Near-front	Central	Back	
	Unrounded			Unrounded	Rounded
Close	i			ɯ	u
Near-close		ɪ			
Close-mid	e			ɤ	o
Mid			ə		
Open-mid	ɛ				ɔ
Open			a[4]		

Welsh (Cymraeg)

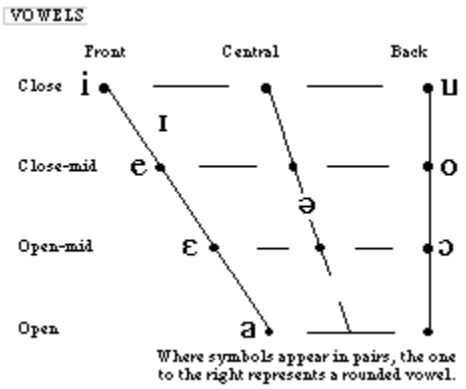
Consonant phonemes

CONSONANTS (PULMONIC)

	Bilabial	Labiodental	Dental	Alveolar	Postalveolar	Retroflex	Palatal	Velar	Uvular	Pharyngeal	Glottal
Plosive	p b			t d				k g			ʔ
Nasal	m			n				ŋ			
Trill				r							
Tap or Flap											
Fricative		f v	θ ð	s	ʃ			x			h
Affricate											
Lateral fricative				ɬ							
Approximant				ɹ			j				
Lateral approximant				l							

Where symbols appear in pairs, the one to the right represents a voiced consonant. Shaded areas denote articulations judged impossible.

Vowel phonemes



OTHER LANGUAGES

Other common languages that a herald may come across in the SCA include Eastern European (Baltic, Slavic), Northern African and Middle Eastern (Egyptian, Hebrew, Arabic), Asiatic (Chinese, Mongolian, Japanese), Hellenic (Greek), and Uralic (Finnish, Hungarian). Most of these have their own alphabets and orthographies, but generally in the SCA are written in their transliterated forms in the Latin alphabet. Because of this, they are usually written in a close enough phonetic manner that providing pronunciation charts for those languages is just this side of pointless. Depending on the transcription style, vowels may be done in Standard English, or the IPA symbols. For example, 淫糜李 is transliterated as Yin Mei Li (who holds the title Double Quaterfoyle Herald), and the first name is more properly pronounced [in] (een) rather than [jɪn] (rhymes with thin), though she is usually kind enough to answer to either pronunciation.

ABOUT THE AUTHORS

Conchobhar mac Michil is a 12th Century Scoto-Norman noble and herald hanging out in the Highlands, attempting to make the cultural merger of both his Scottish and Anglo-Norman ancestors go as smoothly as possible. His many great-grandson Don Connor MacMichil is a 16th Century Scottish expatriate living in the Florentine region of Italy, learning rapier from the masters and occasionally selling his services as a condottiero.

Mike Bradley is software designer, engineer, and programmer with degrees in Information Systems and Business Administration, and a minor in Linguistics. His love of medieval history brought him to the SCA, his love of talking made him a herald, and his love of being a herald led to him studying more languages than a sane person should. While only fluent in English, he has studied German, Latin, Gaelic, Welsh, French, & Italian and is married to a wonderful woman that takes care of the silly things like Russian for him.

Adeliz Fergusson is the daughter of a 12th C Anglo-Scot Lord, and his French Lady. Though her father's ancestral lands were on the South West border with England, Adeliz spent much of her childhood in a variety of European courts where her father was sent by the crown. Having seen much of the continent in her youth, Adeliz was not content to sit in one place long. Instead, she went on many pilgrimages across Europe, and into the Holy Land.

Adele Beck is a Linguist who discovered upon joining the SCA 18 months ago that she accidentally ended up with a Masters Degree in Book Heraldry, having done her 1st MA at the University of Sheffield, in Historical Linguistics, specializing in Onomastics of England from 1066-1400. She has a severe case of wanderlust, and has lived in 5 countries, on 4 Continents in 3 Hemispheres. She Spanish, Portuguese, and American Sign Language to varying degrees of fluency. She is currently working on her PhD in Linguistics at the University of Wollongong, in Australia. Though she currently lives in Lochac, Artemisia has her beloved nephews and “are not afraid to use them” to encourage her return to Artemisia.