

## Hitchcock House Declared Subject to Salic Law

In a stunning move, Hitchcock “President” Bruce Octavian Arthur has announced that Hitchcock is governed by Salic law, an ancient law code that governed the Frankish kingdoms more than a millennium ago. The most relevant feature of this law is the concept of agnatic – patrilineal – succession. Depending on how the shadowy Hitchcock Supreme Court rules, the law regarding succession and inheritance could be interpreted to mean that titles and property passes to either the eldest son or the eldest brother first, in either case switching to the other branch if the primary one is exhausted. For example, when President Arthur graduates, under Salic law his titles will pass on to his eldest surviving son (if he has one), and then his eldest surviving brother (if he has no sons), or else in the reverse order. We suspect that President Arthur will soon be asking the assembly to grant him the title “Caesar Augustus.”

The law also excludes, of course, females from holding title. What implications this will have for Hitchcock social and political discourse have yet to be examined in detail. At the next House meeting, there will likely be a debate – should we immediately force female members of the council to resign? Clearly, the situation is less dire than it could be, as the key positions – President, Treasurer, Secretary, Historians, and so on – are already occupied by men. However, it is important to remember that Salic law mandates the passing-on of titles and property to a close male relative – we must never again permit a female to occupy the throne.

However, the segment of the law with the most immediate consequences regards the theft of goats. Quoting from §5, ‘He who steals three goats and it is proved against him shall be liable to pay one hundred twenty denarii (i.e., three solidi) in addition to return of the animals...’ While this refers to the theft of goats in particular, the courts are likely to extend its implications to other items as well. That is, not only are those who plague section two with their goat-thieving ways likely to cease – three solidi is a hefty fine – but other rogues are likely to be deterred. For example, local legal experts predict that, under threat of Salic law’s heavy monetary penalties for transgressions, notorious criminals like Mr. Alexander of section one will probably give up their nefarious ways.

If President Arthur carries out the plan of regional hegemony outlined a confidential memo to senior council members, another section of the law is likely to become very important. §25 will work to curb the rampant sexual excesses of neighboring states such as Snell and Max Palevsky as soon as Hitchcock is able to assimilate them into its legal structure. Quoting from §25, ‘the freeman who has intercourse with someone else’s slave girl, and it is proved against him, shall be liable to pay six hundred denarii (i.e., fifteen solidi) to the slave girl’s lord...’ Conversely, ‘the freeman who publicly joins himself with (i.e., marries) another man’s slave girl shall remain with her in servitude.’ These are, clearly, powerful deterrents – no longer will anyone speak of marriage while one of the prospective partners still live in housing, or else both shall have to live subject to the whims of their lords (viz., the RMs and RHs).

Lastly, the law outlines the penalties that accompany convictions of witchcraft. The most gruesome example comes from §44: ‘If a sorcerer eats a man and it is proved against him, he shall be liable to pay eight thousand denarii (i.e., two hundred solidi).’ Ritual cannibalism is not going to be tolerated by the new authorities.

# Things Which You Ought to Know

(That is, Events, But More Than Just Events, And Also Less than Usual Because There Don't Seem to be Very Many Events)

- The trip to Devon is likely to take place on Saturday
  - House trip to see the Sox will be around May 7<sup>th</sup>
    - Camping late in May when it gets warm
- Emily Robinson's senior recital is on Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> at 2 pm, in the Fulton Recital Hall
  - House meeting, Thursday, 10 pm - be there or be square