

## The Company of Sir Pentin, Knight of the Olive Vine



Sir Pentin, Knight of the OliveVine and the Baroness Josephine O’Phiolite standing on one of the O’Phiolite estates in Northern California

Sir Pentin, Knight of the OliveVine and associates (from left to right)

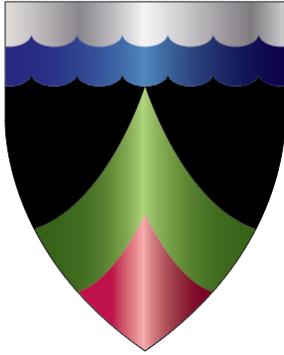
- Gab (no, never “Gabby”) Rho (in the very short Chert), Lady Josephine’s bawdy servant (usually found fluffing the pillow basalts and sheeting the dikes)
- Baroness Josephine O’Phiolite
- Chrys O’Tile, Sir Pentin’s seneschal (and part-time assassin of miners)
- Archie the Bruce Ite, Sir Pentin’s squire, lost the Kingdom of Scotland in a poker game
- Ann Tigger Ite, the better half of the Ites, veteran of many an Italian brawl
- Lizard Ite (not the most creative of pet names) perched on Ann’s left shoulder (hard to see except for the tail)
- Sir Pentin, Knight of the OliveVine
- And kneeling – Sir Pentin’s young page, Slickentite (note the slick shades and please ignore the metamorphosed beverage in the not-so-very-young page’s hand).



The other San Franciscan drinking buddies of Sir Pentin, Knight and the page, young Slickentite, include

- the Mayor Gray, a dedicated public servant, pregnant with potential but just a bit Wacke (holding the mug in the bottom right)
- Chert, a flinty pirate with a long given name and even longer rap sheet
- and the seamstress Greens-Tone, who runs a hostel called Basalty Towers and is not related at all, nope, not one whit, to the stuffy O’Phiolites no matter what odd resemblance there may appear to be, really.

These reprobates can usually be found in the Bar Melange or one of its local franchises.



## Ancestral Coat of Arms for Sir Pentin, Knight

*sable, chevron vert antique, lozenge gules on nombril point, honor bar azure engrailed, chief argent*

(black basalt with antique green chevron of serpentinite, red diamond of magma at the bottom, blue oceans bar across middle top shaped like waves, top banner of airy silver)

Familial or Ancestral Shields were designed to be simple and visibly unique across a field of battle. As noble families intermingled and exchanged lands and children, shields became more complex.



## Modern Coat of Arms with Honors

Quartered to show the combined ancestry of Sir Pentin, Knight of the OliveVine, and the O'Phiolite Barony.

In the upper right quarter, the honor of the State Seal of California representing the main estate of the Baroness Josephine in Northern California (and its vassalage of Southern Oregon) is set against the traditional O'Phiolite layered shield beds.

The bottom left quarter shows the travels and quests of Sir Pentin, Knight of the OliveVine.

The three jade tears represent the ornamental beauty carved from various land grants of Sir Pentin, Knight, as recognized by the sculptors' guild and artisans of far off lands.

The Serpentine River in Western Australia (which, while beautiful, was ultimately a fruitless search for long-lost cousins taken for granite for too long) represents the many ancestral homes of Sir Pentin, Knight of the OliveVine. Foremost of which was the Italian Alps (and Ann Tigger Itte's old Valley home) where Sir Pentin's rightful lineage was first recorded; places where the OliveVine has prospered and others where it has undergone great changes.

The mining tools of pickaxe and shovel symbolize the many commercial uses of Sir Pentin's group – the symbol is in black reflective of the deadly tendencies of the assassin, Chrys O'Tile NOTE: none of this has been proved in California (no evidence exists of Chrys O'Tile and Miss O'Thelioma conspiring) and yet there are attempts to degrade Sir Pentin's, Knight position as California's official state lithologic emblem despite the knight's provision of a unique domain and habit for rare flora and fauna of this great state.

The additional honor in the bottom right quarter of a trident emblazoned on the *chevron vert antique* represents the Lost City of the Atlantis Massif, the most recent discovery of Sir Pentin, Knight Errant, where it is said the heat of Sir Pentin's creation was so great that a new resort for exotic life has set forth in competition with the better known "black smoker" venting resorts of the mid ocean lands.

Or in the language of Science:

Serpentinite is a metamorphic rock composed of the minerals of the serpentine group (chrysotile, brucite, antigorite, and lizardite). These are created deep under the ocean at seafloor spreading centers where heat and chemical reactions alter the upper mantle rock - primarily the mineral olivine. Serpentinite was first identified in the Italian Valle d'Antigorio where the word antigorite comes from. Brucite is named for Archibald Bruce who first identified it in Maryland. The word serpentinite comes from the Latin *serpentinus* "snake", and lizard is, well, lizard.

Ophiolite is an oceanic layered rock sequence consisting of mantle rock, gabbro, sheeted dikes, pillow basalt, and sedimentary chert. Specifically the Josephine Ophiolite is a sequence of rocks found as a terrane in the Klamath Mountains in Oregon and Northern California. The word ophiolite comes from the Greek *ophios* "snake" and *lithos* "stone".

In San Francisco serpentinite is usually found with outcroppings of graywacke, chert, and greenstone (metamorphosed basalt) and often found very close to or embedded within a form of foliated serpentinite known as slickentite.

Serpentinite is usually dark green and slippery or soapy feeling, it is a soft rock (hardness of 2.5 – 4.0), less dense (specific gravity of 2.2–2.9 ) and more hydrated than its companion rocks and is often used for carving, in fact can be found as a substitute for jade or as an ornamental rock in its own right (New Zealand *tangiwai*, Afghanistan *sang-i-yashm*, Wyoming Teton jade, and Italian and Irish marble)

Serpentine National Park, River and Falls in Western Australia appear to be named for the snake-like curves of the river and not for the local granitic rocks.

Serpentinite is connected to the mining and asbestos industries as well. Chrysotile (one of the serpentine group of minerals) contains asbestos fibers which have been linked to mesothelioma a deadly lung condition. It is interesting that the asbestos industry actually drove the initial push for Serpentinite to be the state rock and now asbestos is being used as the reason to rescind the state rock status although it seems that no recorded cases of chrysotile related mesothelioma have been found in California.

Serpentinite breaks down into soils that are nutrient poor, but in California there are many plants that have adapted to the barrenness of the serpentinic soils, often these plants are only found in these unique habitats, the serpentine barrens of California.

Perhaps the youngest serpentinite on earth can be found in the mid-Atlantic – on the Atlantis Massif at a site called the Lost City. There are thermal vents there but not the black smoker thermal vents familiar from the IMAX movie, these vents seem to have the heat generated not by rising magma but by an exothermic chemical reaction of serpentinite and seawater. Calcium carbonate deposits form as hanging or climbing structures or chimneys (again similar to but not exactly like the black smoker vents).