

Dear Addie,

I have attended several events now and am curious about what people are yelling when someone got an award. Is it vivat, vivats, or something else?

Sincerely Yours,
Latin Challenged

Dear Latin,

I hope that you have been enjoying your events and courts. Court is one of the unique SCA experiences in which one can see the full range of our Society from the silly to the most solemn ceremony.

It is Atlantian tradition that once a person has finished their business with the Crowns, the herald will call for "Vivat". Such as Vivat for Lady Anne and her achievement or Vivant for the Glassmakers Guild and their contribution. Vivat, loosely translated, means long life. We use it as an exclamation of congratulations. For a single person, the term is *Vivat*. If it is two or more people the word is *Vivant*. Sometimes you will hear the herald call, "Vivats for ..." That is because we say it three times, it does not mean that you respond with "Vivats" with the "s" at the end. I have not been able to find a true translation for the word Vivat in a Latin Dictionary and am no Latin scholar, so will not speak to the correctness of the word, I can speak to the Atlantian tradition that the words are Vivat and Vivant.

Atlantia shares this traditional acclamation with the Kingdoms of the East, Aethelmearc, Drachenwald, Ansteorra, Trimaris and Meridies. Other kingdoms use different acclamations such as "Hoobah" in the Middle, "Wassail" in Ealdormere and "Huzzah" in Western kingdoms such as An Tir, Artemisia, Atenveldt, Caid, Outlands, Lochac and the West.

Two websites that were helpful in writing this article were:

Cunnan, a Wiki for collecting information for re-enactors of the Middle Ages and the Renaissance at: <http://cunnan.sca.org.au/wiki/Vivat>

Glossary for Newcomers to the Kingdom of Atlantia at

<http://chatelaine.atlantia.sca.org/newcomerdocs/chatelaine.glossary.htm>

If you have a question you would like to see answered here, please send them to countessaddie@verizon.net and I will answer them for you or find someone who can.

Yours in service,
Countess Adelia of Cumbria, OP