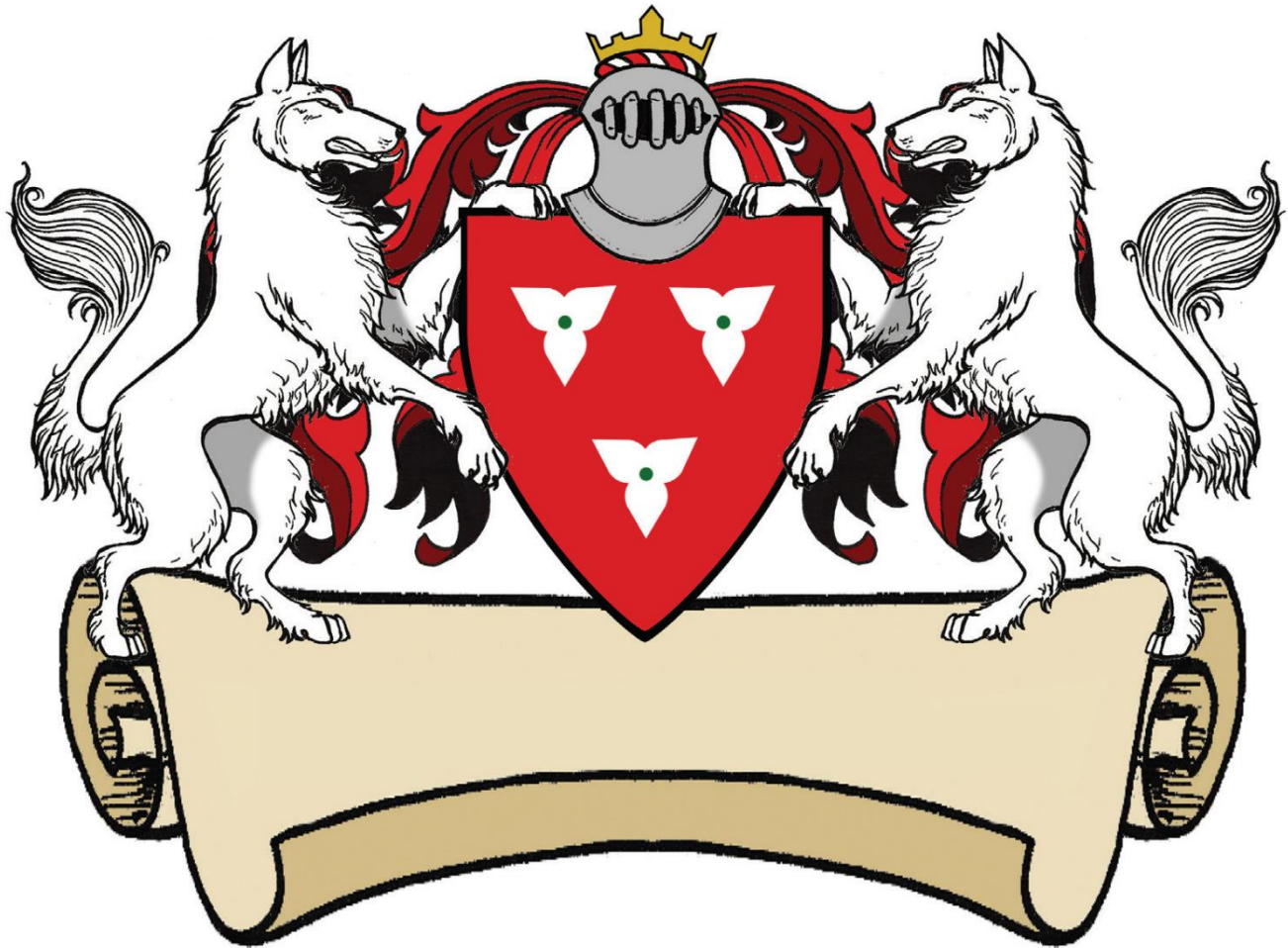


Ealdormere's Book of the Court



A book of ceremonies, customs, and protocol concerning the Kingdom of Ealdormere
Version 3.2 – January 6th, Anno Societatis LIII (2019)

CHANGE LOG:

3.2 (2019-01-06)

- * Updated all peerage ceremonies to include Order of Defense as speakers
- * Cleaned up peerage ceremonies with clearer directions for peers speaking
- * Updated default Master of Defense ceremony to reflect wishes of the order
- * Added Heraldic Titles article
- * Added Royalty Room article
- * Updated the court report instructions and gave examples

3.1

- * Corrected Typos

CHECKLIST OF THINGS TO BE ADDED TO FUTURE UPDATES

Here are a few topics we would like to address in future updates – if you would like to write one of these articles, please feel free to reach out to trilliumherald@gmail.com.

- *Master of Steel / Feast Etiquette*
- *Kingdom Arms & Badges and Proper Use*
- *Banners and Display*
- *Foreign Guests & Dignitaries*
- *Champion ceremony*
- *Herald Extraordinary*
- *Augmentations of Arms*
- *A&S Champion ceremony*
- *Order of High Merit – calling the Orders*
- *Recognizing scribes*
- *How to write a ceremony*
- *Tabard Patterns*
- *More period texts*

A Living Document - Version 3.2

By no means is this a final product. Our ceremonies and traditions have changed over time, and there is no reason to think it will not continue to evolve as our kingdom grows. This version is based on the original Principality ceremonies book, Erick's Book of Ceremonies, and the draft of the Herald's Handbook compiled by Wencenedl of Rokesburgh.

B

If you would like to make suggestions or additions to this publication, please send them to trilliumherald@gmail.com.

This version of the Book of the Court is 3.2, released under the auspices of Sciath Trillium, during the reign of King Evander and Queen Marioun, January 6th, Anno Societatis LIII (2019).

Introduction



Heraldry and ceremonies are an important part of our kingdom, and they add weight and tradition to our colourful history as a part of the Society for Creative Anachronism.

This book is the third iteration of our manual of ceremonies, and now attempts to chronicle traditions of our kingdom, spanning over Ealdormere's thirty years of history — it is not set in stone, and can be changed on the whim of the royalty, or the needs of those involved with court. However, it is meant to be a template when needed for "default ceremonies" or a stepping stone to something more elaborate, period, or personal.

Our ceremonies didn't spring up out of thin air — the origins of our traditions stretch back to well before we were a kingdom of our own. When I first joined the SCA in the Region of Ealdormere almost thirty years ago, I had the extreme pleasure of being invited to Baroness Fiona Averylle O'Connor's house in Rising Waters for a heraldry night where I first started to learn about our heraldic customs that developed before even her time in the Society. Fiona was a proper elderly British lady with tea always in the pot, and time for everyone. Her house was also crammed to the rafters with books, mostly about heraldry or history, and anywhere between one and a dozen other people interested in learning what she had to share. What I didn't know at the time (being new) was she had just stepped down from being the Dragon Principal Herald of the Middle Kingdom (which we were part of back then), and some years prior to that had been the Trillium Regional Herald for Ealdormere. She taught me our customs and traditions, and understood the need for ceremony.

Fiona has sadly no longer been with us now for many years, and if we don't write down our ceremonies, they will be lost — while we haven't truly lost anything yet, we may have occasionally misplaced, misremembered, evolved, or set aside our traditions, or possibly have nearly lost the "why", or origins, of the things we do and the culture we honour, so this book has sidebars beside some of the ceremonies to keep our knowledge and traditions alive to the best of our collective memories, and to provide "behind the scenes" pointers for the up and coming court heralds who might need them.

I would like to dedicate this book to the memory of Fiona Averylle O'Connor of Maidenhead, and the heralds who have upheld our courts, ceremonies, and traditions — James Shoen MacAndrews, Dathi Thorfinnson, Vincent the Calculator, Rolf de Chablis, Deward von Gellenbeck, Hector of the Black Height, Finnvarr Trillium, Artair Trillium, Brennain Trillium, Gwilym Trillium, Marian Trillium, Evan Trillium, Erick Trillium, Arwyn Trillium, Percival Trillium, Liadin Trillium, Cainerd Trillium, Nicolaa Trillium, Pelayo Trillium, and all the other great and talented heralds or pursuivants that have served in Their Majesties' courts, written or researched ceremonies, or contributed to the culture of our Kingdom and our College of Heraldry. Thank you all, and I hope this book serves you well.

– Brand Thorwaldsen

Event Heraldry and Announcements

Almost every herald's career starts with a simple "can you make an announcement for me please?"

A

Event heraldry is a great way to learn voice projection and help with the running of an event. This is written with the new herald in mind, with tips on how to be a good voice herald, namely, to be heard and have people pay attention to what you are saying.

STAND AND BE RECOGNIZED

If you know you are going to be an event herald, try to have a herald's tabard, or at the very least a herald's baldric — this makes it obvious why you are being loud, and it cues folks to stop and listen to you. As a side effect, folks will know who to come and ask to make the announcements! Remember, though, while you are a herald on duty you are representing your group and the Crown — if you want to go engage in drunken tug-of-war down in the bog at Pennsic, take off your baldric and leave it at home...

STANCE & POSITIONING

Know your event site, and position yourself in a good place to make announcements. When projecting, your voice travels like a cone emanating from your head, so it's important to stand and point yourself at the bulk of the people attending the event — a corner of the hall or the elevated royal dias would be good places. Don't stand behind banners or hold things in front of your face when making an announcement.

Stand still! If you rotate, or wander, your voice is a 'moving target' and people will only get part of your announcement. Far better to announce from a static position, and then make the announcement on the other side of the campground or in the next room.

VOICE PROJECTION

How you speak matters. Voice projection is a technical, mechanical issue that can be addressed at a basic level with a few common-sense steps. It all starts with air. Air in your lungs is pushed past your vocal chords, which vibrate and make sounds. This air is pushed out by a powerful belt of muscles in the abdomen called the diaphragm. If you want your words to reach beyond the end of your nose you have to give them a good, clean push. You must allow your diaphragm to function.

Stand straight, holding your head up high. If you hunch over, you cramp the diaphragm. Cramped muscles have no scope for motion. Allow room for inhalation. Once you fill the lungs with LOTS of air, it'll come out naturally. Keep your shoulders back and your elbows out from your sides; give the diaphragm room to expand and air a place to go. Worry about getting the air in — it'll get out on its own. When you breathe in, your stomach should expand slightly. With your bellows pumping air effectively, you can use your throat as a passageway for the flow of air. Some people actually try to push air with the throat, but the throat isn't built for that. Keep the throat open and relaxed. The vocal chords will do their thing without your conscious help.

Lower tones travel further with more clarity; thus the low boom of foghorns. When you speak, don't try to force your voice into a higher register. You will be most effective speaking in the low end of your natural register. Attempts to pitch your voice higher will only tire and strain you. Speak clearly and concisely, in a fashion so pronounced as to be exaggerated, like an old-time radio announcer. The first few times speaking like this you'll feel like an utter geek, but the people in the back of the hall will think you sound normal and

that's what matters. In particular, as you monitor your air flow to ensure 100% of each word gets enough push, make sure you include air (and time) for final consonants, and actually end your words.

GOOD CLEAR ANNOUNCEMENTS

Speak simply and use short words, with breaks between the words — if you speak quickly, the sound of your words will jumble together, and if you are in a hall, it will 'echo' off the back wall. Take your time and emphasize your announcement.

Some folks want to fancy up announcements to avoid using modern words — that's great if it's easy. However, calling cars "*dragons*" and children "*halfings*" isn't exactly medieval or dignified, and could confuse people. If you have to use modern terms, and there's no easy way around it, just do it.

Also remember to be polite and respectful. Telling the fighters they are late for the tournament and the List Minister has no more patience is not going to make friends or make the event more enjoyable. Ask rather than demand, be clear with times and places, and appreciate people stopped what they were doing to listen to you.

Also, remember to keep announcements short and infrequent. If you make four separate announcements before the tournament, people will start to tune you out... save them up and make all your announcements at once, if possible.

HOW TO START AND FINISH AN ANNOUNCEMENT

Remember we want our announcements to be memorable and create attention — if every ten minutes someone jumps out and starts yelling, it would be a madhouse. So, it's good to use certain verbal cues to give people a chance to stop and listen.

"Oyez! Oyez! Oyez!" This will let people know you have an official announcement from the Crown, and it has something to do with court, an official meeting, or something of equal importance.

"My Lords and Ladies!" For every other announcement from the event steward, the lunch table, the head server, the dance master, or any other person who is not the Crown, a simple call to get everyone's attention before telling them what you want to say.

Regardless, if you start with an "Oyez" or "My Lords and Ladies", wait for the event noise to die down and for most people to stop and listen. There's no point plowing ahead and announcing something everyone will miss. If you wait patiently, other folks will take up an "Oyez" to help quiet the hall so you can perform your duty.

After your announcement is complete, let everyone know by finishing with a "*Thank you!*", so they can go back to their business.

YOU CAN ENTERTAIN AND INFORM AT THE SAME TIME

Announcing "*My Lords and Ladies! Would the owner of the blue Ford Escape please move their vehicle, as it is blocking the gate*" is all fine and good, but if you are up to it, make the announcement interesting — after all, it will encourage people to pay attention to you. Maybe try "*My Lords and Ladies! I am dismayed to announce that the owner of the blue Ford Escape has earned the attention of the starving Barbarians of Ben Dunfirth. Please relocate your vehicle, else the event steward shall not be responsible if it is eaten!*"

Now go forth and cry the camp!

Tournament Calls & Salutes

Tournaments are an important part of the Society's culture, and it is the pomp and circumstance that separates a tournament from a brawl. As the officers in charge of pomp and circumstance, it falls to the heralds to bring dignity to the tournament.

Our traditions of tournament salutes date back to the first May tournament, and are based on the assumption that we do not fight in a tournament for the glory or furtherance of the fighter, but for the inspiration of a lady (or lord) and in the spirit of chivalry.

The first part of the herald's duty is to call the fighters to the field. It is always best to warn the second pairing of fighters "to be arming", or in other words, to be putting their armor on and be prepared to enter the list field at the completion of the current bout. Please also note that after the herald invokes the bout, they should always turn the matter over to the Marshalls, as they must ensure the safety and good conduct on the list field. Finally, while the salutes are important, it is essential not to repeat the wording over and over in rote so it becomes stale and meaningless — vary your wording and use your imagination to keep the salutes fresh and interesting!

TOURNAMENT SALUTES

HERALD: Would <FIGHTER A> and <FIGHTER B> please present themselves upon the list field. Also, would <FIGHTER C> and <FIGHTER D> be arming.

<fighters A & B enter the list in full armor while fighters C & D put their helmets on and prepare themselves.>

HERALD: <FIGHTER A> and <FIGHTER B>, please do honour unto the Crown of Ealdormere.

<The fighters should salute the Crown, their banner or thrones, or in some way show honour to the King and Queen.>

<FIGHTER A> and <FIGHTER B>, pay honour to the one who inspires you upon the field this day.

<The fighters should salute, bow, or in some way do honour to their lord or lady. If they do not have a consort to fight for, many fighters will salute the Crown again, their Baron and/or Baroness, their opponent, or make some other gesture to indicate what inspires them that day. If you see a new fighter who is uncomfortable or unsure of what to do, you may suggest any of the above alternative ideas.>

<FIGHTER A> and <FIGHTER B>, salute your most noble and honourable opponent.

<The fighters should salute their opponent at this point. Longtime friends might cross the field to shake hands or exchange a hug, and some of the gruffer fighters might slap their shield with their sword — respect for one's opponent can take many forms.>

As you have shown honour, please fight in honour. Prepare yourselves, and pay heed to the Marshalls!

<At this point, the herald should exit the list field completely, and leave all further business to the marshals of the field. After the fight has concluded, and the herald is absolutely sure of the victor, they should cry their name to the populace so all might know who has won the bout.>

HERALD: For the victor, <FIGHTER A>, Wassail!

Toasts

s with any other tradition or custom in the Kingdom of Ealdormere, this is not etched in stone. Consider this article a current view of our customs, which at all times should be dictated by common sense and courtesy.

A

Customs are subject to the whim of the Crown, the circumstances of the moment, and exceptional events and situations.

With that in mind...

TOASTS AT FEAST

It has been a tradition in Ealdormere to engage in a ceremony of toasts at each feast we attend. When we are called to do so, we fill our glasses, stand, and do honour to our Crown and Kingdom with a hearty Wassail and drink to the health of those that rule us.

Traditionally, one person works behind the scenes to coordinate the toasts at the beginning of feast; this can be the Feast Herald, the Head Lady-in-Waiting, Their Majesties' Chamberlain, a Peer, or someone who holds a similar position acting at the discretion of the Crown. They arrange for specific people to raise a glass and honour certain people. Traditionally, it is the duty of the highest-ranking nobles in the hall to lead the toasts in descending order of precedence, and these usually happen after the first bread (or similar dish) is brought out and people are settled at feast.

The first and most important toast is to the King and Queen of Ealdormere, whether they are present or not. We toast them because they are the premier peers of the realm and the fount of honour for our Kingdom.

Next, should any foreign Kings or Queens be present at one of our feasts, this would be the time to honour them. Also, should important guests from foreign kingdoms be present, or a number of their subjects be attending, it is considered good manners to give mention to their royalty. If there are multiple foreign guests be present, the kingdoms should be toasted in order of precedence (oldest to newest in age from the creation date of their kingdom — for example, the East Kingdom would be toasted before Calontir).

Should we have a Crown Prince and Princess, they are toasted as well. Should any foreign Crown Princes or Princesses, or any Territorial Princes or Princesses be present, they are toasted next, as above.

If the event is held within a Barony, the Baron and Baroness who are also acting as hosts and lord and lady of the feast hall are toasted as well.

Sometimes, it is the desire of the Crown themselves to end with a toast to “absent friends”.

On occasion, the toasts do not end here. For whatever occasion (someone's wedding, birthday, peerage elevation, winning a prestigious tourney, doing something particularly chivalric, etc.) other toasts might be appropriate. Any member of the populace can do this sort of toast, and this is a good way for anyone regardless of rank to recognize someone in a special way.

In our regional or principality days, these toasts were spread out over a period of time during the feast. In our Kingdom, they currently all occur in one standing (sometimes with the Peers speaking the toasts standing together). After the toasts are ended everyone may be seated and return to the matter of food.

At the end of the feast, the royalty may feel it is appropriate to toast or otherwise recognize the Head Cook and Event Steward if they have enjoyed their day and their feast. Just because they have not been toasted in the first half hour of dinner, do not assume they have been forgotten! This is the prerogative of the head table, and is best left to them.

Heraldic Titles

Any of our heraldic titles used in the Kingdom are confusing to non-heralds, as they are esoteric words, but they reflect a great deal of tradition and history in our kingdom. Here is a list of titles, their reason for their creation, and their first holders of office.

M

Our College of Heraldry evolves as the years pass, but here is the current configuration of the heraldic titles within Ealdormere.

TRILLIUM HERALD: *This title originally was held by the regional herald of Pentamere in the Midrealm (which included Michigan and Ontario at the time), and the first recorded person to hold this office was Duke Finnvarr. Since then the title was passed to the regional herald for Ealdormere, then the Principality of Ealdormere, and then the Kingdom of Ealdormere as principal herald. They are responsible for all heraldic activity in the kingdom and oversee our College of Heraldry.*

AFON FAWR HERALD: *This office offers onomastic (or name research) assistance to the College and heraldic clients submitting names. The position was first held by Lord Gwilym ap Alun.*

BEE PURSUIVANT: *The heraldic position responsible for maintaining the website of the College of Heraldry. It is named after the retired principality Order of the Bee. This position was first held by Lord Elrik.*

BUCINA HERALD: *A midrealm office passed to Ealdormere when we became a kingdom, this office is responsible for heraldic education. The first person to hold this office was Lord Justinian Clarus.*

CALEYGREYHOUND HERALD: *A position passed from the Midrealm to Ealdormere when we became a kingdom, the Caleygreyhound Herald has been responsible for our Order of Precedence, and occasionally protocol and ceremonies. The first person to hold this office was Lord Brennain O'Ross Murchada.*

GOLDEN OTTER PURSUIVANT: *Named after the principality Order of the Golden Otter, and serves the College staff as either a point person for a project, or for communication.*

GOPHER PURSUIVANT: *Originally a title given to the Trillium Herald as an aide-de-camp position when we were a principality. The implied joke was 'go for this, go for that'. The first to hold this office was Lord Brennain O'Murchada de Ros Comain..*

GREEN MANTLE HERALD: *Originally the Green Mantle position was a pursuivant's office, acting as a deputy to Fiona Averylle O'Connor, who had been given the White Mantle Herald Extraordinary title during our principality days. They acted as a personal deputy to Fiona, who specialized in name and armory research. After Fiona passed away, and Ealdormere achieved kingdom status, the office was transferred from the Midrealm to Ealdormere, and became the submissions herald position. In later years the position was divided into two offices, sharing the workload with the Seebblatt Herald's office. The first person to hold this office was Lord Mark FitzRoy.*

INLAND SEAS HERALD: *Created after Ealdormere became a kingdom, the role was intended to be a personal herald to Their Highnesses, and later became the title for the drop-dead deputy of the Trillium Herald. Registration of this title caused some consternation in Aethelmarc, as their kings have sometimes claimed the rights to the Inland Seas. The first person to hold this position was Lord Erick of Longacres.*

PENTLAND HERAD: *Our herald responsible for field heraldry, and the field heralds of Crown Tournament in specific. The first person to hold this office was Lord Osric Caerfinn.*

PRIVY SEAL: *Our kingdom law states that the Scroll of Honour would be displayed at events, and the first person who held this position was Lady Lasharfina, who arranged for the creation of a physical book to be displayed..*

QUINTAIN PURSUIVANT: *A deputy to the Green Mantle Herald, and the clerk responsible for notifying submitters if their heraldic submissions pass or fail. The first gentle to hold this position was Lord Bjorn Jennson.*

SEEBLATT HERALD: *The office that is responsible for heraldic armory research and consultation, either to assist the Green*

Mantle Herald or to act as a resource to heraldic clients attempting to submit arms. The first person to hold this position was Baron Dathi Thorfinnson.

STAVE PURSUIVANT: *First used as a replacement title for the Trillium Herald's aide-de-camp, when Ealdormere was a principality. The implied joke was the pursuivant was the Trillium Herald's 'staff'. The first gentle to hold this position was Lord Brand the Black.*

WOLF'S TOOTH MACER: *Originally created as the 'Youth Macer' and then later titled the Wolf's Tooth Macer (after the retired principality Award of the Wolf's Tooth), this position is meant for a youth member of the college, to become involved in all aspects of the College of Heralds. The first person to hold this position was Algar.*

Titles and Honours

Titles and awards can be a complicated thing in the Society. Fortunately, our kingdom is not fixated on awards, so if there is a mistake made, most people will wave it off with a small laugh. But as heralds, we are the custodians of protocol and ceremony we should do everything we can to properly recognize and honour people who have earned recognition.

While this may seem like a very formal caste system, remember we are in a hobby together and we should treat each other with reverence and respect to augment our hobby, with friends, not inferiors or subordinates.

THE ORDER OF PRECEDENCE

In Ealdormere, our order of Precedence, or the ordering of awards and titles from highest to lowest is as follows below. If two people hold equal rank, the person who has held the title the longest would be held in higher precedence than the other.

- *King and Queen*
- *Prince and Princess*
- *Dukes and Duchesses*
- *Counts and Countesses*
- *Viscounts and Viscountesses*
- *Bestowed Peers (The Order of Chivalry, the Order of the Pelican, the Order of the Laurel, the Order of Defense)*
- *Territorial Barons and Baronesses*
- *Court Barons and Baronesses*
- *Orders of High Merit (The Order of Thorbjorn's Hammer, The Order of the Wain, the Order of the Crucible)*
- *Foreign Honours conveying Grants of Arms*
- *Simple Grants of Arms*
- *Awards of Merit (The Award of the Scarlet Banner, the Award of the Maiden's Heart, the Award of the Orion)*
- *Foreign Honours conveying Awards of Arms*
- *Awards of Arms*

There are other awards from our kingdom and foreign kingdoms that do not carry precedence, but may be used as a title or honour.

HONORIFICS

Many awards affect the form of address for an individual — a knight would be referred to as 'Sir' and then their name. Other titles may carry a style, which is a way to refer to a title or office, such as 'Your Excellency' or 'Your Highness'. Below are some examples of honorifics or styles.

Title	Honourific	Style
<i>King and Queen</i>	<i>King and Queen</i>	<i>Your Majesties</i>
<i>Prince and Princess</i>	<i>Prince or Princess</i>	<i>Your Highnesses</i>
<i>Dukes and Duchesses</i>	<i>Duke or Duchess</i>	<i>Your Graces</i>
<i>Counts and Countesses</i>	<i>Count or Countess</i>	<i>Your Excellencies</i>
<i>Viscounts and Viscountesses</i>	<i>Viscount or Viscountess</i>	<i>Your Excellencies</i>
<i>Order of Chivalry (Knight)</i>	—	<i>Sir</i>
<i>Order of Chivalry (Master of Arms)</i>	—	<i>Master/Mistress</i>
<i>Order of the Laurel / Pelican / Defense</i>	—	<i>Master/Mistress</i>
<i>Territorial Barons and Baronesses</i>	<i>Baron or Baroness</i>	<i>Your Excellencies</i>
<i>Court Barons and Baronesses</i>	<i>Baron or Baroness</i>	<i>Your Excellencies</i>
<i>Orders of High Merit</i>	<i>The Honourable Lord or Lady</i>	<i>The Honourable ...</i>
<i>Awards of Merit / Awards of Arms</i>	<i>Lord or Lady</i>	—

If a person is a territorial baron or baroness, they may be referenced after their name as ‘Baron of Septentria’, or ‘Fourth Baron of Rising Waters’. It’s a subtle difference, but the founding or first person to hold that office would be referred to as ‘Baron Septentria’, or ‘Viscount Ealdormere’.

Other awards can be described or referenced after the name, such as ‘Companion of the Order of X’ or ‘Bearer of the Award of Y’.






Sometimes a person may be called into court in their capacity in an office, so it’s often helpful to announce that as part of their title — ‘His Honourable Excellency, Master Gunther von Walstadt, Lord Mayor of Eoforwic’, or ‘His Honourable Excellency, Sir Evander MacLachlan, Earl Marshal of Ealdormere’ are perfectly acceptable forms of address.

The other thing worth mentioning is there are many offices or honourifics that might not fall under structured awards — ‘Captain of the King’s Guard’ or ‘Bek of the Greater Freehold of the Rozakii’ are not official titles, but certainly can be used as long as they are not claiming an official title or rank reserved by the SCA.

It’s incredibly poor form to ‘title stack’, and certainly not medieval in practice. Usually a person would be referred to by their highest title, and other awards would be mentioned after the name. It would not be ‘Duke Sir Master Finnvarr de Taahe’, it would be ‘Duke Finnvarr de Taahe, Knight of the Realm, Master of the Pelican’. Good form is to know what sort of level of pomp and circumstance is appropriate — to call Duke Finnvarr into court, ‘His Grace, Duke Finnvarr de Taahe’ is sufficient, for announcing him in a Crown Tourney procession, ‘His Grace, Duke Finnvarr de Taahe, Knight of the Realm, Master of the Pelican’ would be more appropriate. Rarely would you want to list more than one or two awards or honorifics after a person’s name — Finnvarr’s full honours would take a fairly long time to recite!

CORONETS

Many ranks allow the wearing of coronets — our kingdom’s sumptuary laws allow for a great variety of coronets, but here is a brief overview of what might be worn in its simplest form. The best solution for anyone unsure of someone’s rank if they are wearing what appears to be a coronet is to bow and refer to them as “Your Excellency” — there’s a good chance you are right.

Duke Duchess	Count Countess	Viscount Viscountess	Territorial Baron Territorial Baroness	Territorial Baron Territorial Baroness
				
<i>A gold coronet ornamented with strawberry leaves</i>	<i>A gold coronet embattled</i>	<i>A silver coronet embattled</i>	<i>A gold coronet ornamented of six pearls</i>	<i>A silver coronet ornamented of six pearls</i>

OTHER REGALIA

Aside from coronets, there are other official and unofficial accoutrements that people might wear to denote rank or affiliations. A short list of these may include:

- *Knights – a white belt, gold chains, and gold spurs*
- *Masters at Arms – a white baldric, and gold spurs*
- *Masters or Mistresses of the Pelican – a pelican medallion or a red and ermine cap of maintenance*
- *Masters or Mistresses of the Laurel – a laurel medallion or laurel wreath*
- *Ladies of the Rose – a rose medallion*
- *Squires – a red belt or baldric, silver chain, and silver spurs*
- *Apprentices – a green belt*
- *Protégés – a yellow belt*

PROCESSIONALS FOR CROWN AND OTHER FORMAL EVENTS

When presenting a series of combatants for Crown Tournament, a processional is organized, arranging the combatants and consorts in order of precedence — this is one of the few times we actually use rank formally in Ealdormere.

In the case of Crown Tournament, the processional is organized by the combatant and consort as a couple, and arranged highest rank to lowest rank, using the highest ranking person in the couple. Thus, if a squire with an Award of Arms was fighting for a Duchess, as a couple they would be placed to the front of the line. If for whatever reason the consort cannot be present for the processional, their rank and name are still recognized and hold their place in precedence.

As with the Order of Precedence, if multiple people hold the same rank, they should be arrayed with the person holding the title or honour the longest being put to the front.

In the case of other tournaments where a processional might include participants from multiple events, such as the Lady Mary Memorial Tournament including both armored and fencing combatants and consorts, it's courteous to intermingle the participants by their rank, rather than segregate them by activity, so it doesn't appear that armored combat is held in higher regard than fencing, and so on.

If as a herald, you are presenting the combatants and consorts to the Crown, this is the perfect opportunity to use full titles and honours to give a sense of ceremony to the event.

ALTERNATE TITLES

Not everyone will want to use the default titles, and may want to use a title more appropriate to their persona — alternate titles can't just be made up, they need to be recognized equivalents. "Earl" is an acceptable alternative to "Count", but "Marquis" isn't a recognized equivalent to any rank.

A complete list of alternate titles approved by the Society's College of Arms can be found here:

<http://heraldry.sca.org/titles.html>

Royalty Room Etiquette

It is the tradition for all of our Ealdormerean events, where the hall allows, to set aside a room for the royalty to use. Being royalty is very demanding on the King and Queen's time, and throughout the day they will need to change into and out of garb, prepare for courts, have meetings, and occasionally have a quiet place to confer with each other. The royalty room allows them a place to sit, gather their thoughts, and prepare for the day's events. Each hall has a different layout, and royalty rooms will vary in size and comfort, and each set of royalty will treat their room differently depending on their personal preferences – this article outlines some default courtesies and guidelines for people interacting with the royalty and their room at an event.

Royalty Liaisons & Royalty Room Setup

Each event should have a royalty liaison assigned that will prepare the royalty room. They should confirm the royalty are coming to their event, and if so prepare a room to suit their needs by conferring with the royalty's reign website, or if there isn't one, reaching out to the royalty's chamberlain to ask about special needs, food allergies, or meetings or special requests for that event. Ideally the royalty room will have some light refreshments and snacks, a meeting table, and a place to put regalia when not in use. Ambitious royalty liaisons might provide food, tablecloths, flowers, and more, as the event site and budget allows.

Who Uses The Royalty Room?

If everyone assumes the royalty room is for the private use of the Crown, and everyone who might use it, even briefly, does so with the permission for the King and Queen as their guests, and you cannot go wrong.

Often the Crown will invite the Prince and Princess or the local Territorial Baron and Baroness to share their room, or Their Highnesses or Excellencies will ask the Crown's permission in advance – some royalty will want the room for their exclusive use,

others will gladly share their area. Occasionally a large site may have separate rooms to give Their Highnesses or Excellencies, and that's certainly fine, but event staff should make the royalty aware of what room or rooms are available, and leave it to them to work out who will and won't use the room on the day.

Unless specifically invited, retinue of Their Majesties, Highnesses, and Excellencies should not assume they can use the royalty room for their personal use. They should limit their time in the royalty room to a minimum, knock before entering, and not leave their personal items in the room or assume the food or furniture is there for their personal use.

Meetings and Privacy

Court preparations are frequently done in the royalty room, and Their Majesties will invite in scribes to drop off or finish scrolls, or heralds to organize and prepare court lists or ceremonies. As well, royalty may meet with their peerage orders or privy council, or have private meetings with their subjects, so privacy is often important. If you are looking to enter the royalty room knock, and wait for an answer – if no one comes to the door after a few moments because the room is empty, cautiously open the door rather than barging in. Don't touch any scrolls or folders, as they may be laid out in an organized manner, and if you are dropping off something, leave it in a safe place on a table, and find the royalty's entourage in the main hall and let them know where you left your item.

Everything Else

As royalty rooms may vary from an expansive room with couches to a small 10' x 10' room with a small table, and events might have anywhere from 50 to 300 people in attendance, people should adapt to the event's facilities and try to use courtesy and consideration whenever possible – if everyone is considerate of the royalty's privacy, space and time, it will be an important step towards having a successful event.

How To Herald A Court

One of the more visible aspects of heraldry is in court, with a herald supporting Their Majesties or a Baron and Baroness. The secret to success if you are heralding a court is preparation, and a few small pointers!

If you are interested in heralding court, approach your Baron and Baroness, or the Trillium Herald — they are always looking for volunteers, and can help you through your first steps of learning the ropes.

THE VOICE OF THE CROWN

The number one thing to remember when you are a court herald: you are the voice of the Crown. What that means is that whenever you speak in your capacity as a court herald, it is really Their Majesties' words you are saying, not yours. So — that means anything you say reflects on the King and Queen. Your words should not surprise or alarm the King and Queen, and while people might be paying attention to what you are saying, court is not about you personally, but the Crown.

PREPARATION BEFORE COURT

Getting ready for court should happen well before people start processing into court, so the first thing that should happen is you should volunteer, or be told you will be helping with court that day — the earlier the better.

Approach the royalty, and ask if they have an agenda or list of business they wish to conduct in court — if they do, make sure you have a copy to keep inside your herald's folder — if not, make a list of the people to call up in court, in the order the royalty wishes.

If ceremonies are going to be conducted from a script, or fealties will be sworn, make sure you have a copy of this ceremonies book at hand, and have the needed pages pulled out or bookmarked and easily accessed during court.

There may be scrolls to be presented, or proclamations to make — have these lined up

behind your agenda in your folder in the order to be presented, and take some time in the royalty room to pre-read the scrolls. It is important that you practice the scrolls aloud, at least in a low mutter, so that you identify difficult words and phrases. Usually the scribes will provide a "cheat-sheet" of typed words, but if they haven't, and the scroll calligraphy looks difficult, make sure you write out the wording in advance. It is a rare person who can read calligraphy cold. Even if the scroll text is conveniently typed out in readable format on the back of the scroll, you will want to pre-read it anyway to get a sense of the rhythm and pacing of the text, and to practice all the names which are going to be mentioned.

INCOMING BUSINESS

With Their Majesties permission, you will also want to give the populace an opportunity to bring forth any additional pieces of business for court. About two hours before court is scheduled (if possible), cry the hall. With a loud "Oyez, oyez, oyez!", announce that anyone wishing to present business in Their Majesties' court must come and see you by a certain time. It is wise not to make this deadline any later than an hour before court is scheduled to start, so that you can incorporate the new pieces of business into your existing court list.

Any pieces of business which come from the populace should be run by Their Majesties first to make sure they're okay with it. Their Majesties should never be surprised in court! Even if a gift is being presented, try to give the royalty a rough gist of what is being brought forth (for example, "Your Majesties, the Barony of Skraeling Althing wishes to present some regalia and a donation to your travel fund"). Typically, once approved, 'incoming business' or presentations from the populace should occur before their Majesties' 'outgoing business' or award presentations.

Sometimes if court is long, or presentations are particularly informal or bizarre, the royalty may ask for them to be presented at feast — however, all gifts of regalia, money, or awards must be presented in an official court.

STARTING COURT

Right before court, make a washroom break, put on your tabard or baldric, arrange the scrolls in your folder in the correct order, and ask the royalty if they have any last-minute changes. If props or other items are needed in court, ensure they are up by the thrones beforehand, ensure chairs have been set up for court, and let the populace know court is imminent.

The royalty will often wish to process in to court — if this is the case, the typical order of royalty and retainers are as follows (although this list is very comprehensive, it's just a guideline — sometimes the King's champion may not be present, or the Prince and Princess may not have a herald of their own):

- *The King and Queen's herald*
- *The King and Queen's armed champions and/or spear bearers*
- *The King and Queen*
- *The King and Queen's retainers and other champions*
- *The Prince and Prince's herald*
- *The Prince and Prince's armed champions*
- *The Prince and Princess*
- *The Prince and Prince's retainers and other champions*
- *The Baron and Baroness' herald*
- *The Baron and Baroness' armed champions*
- *The Baron and Baroness*
- *The Baron and Baroness' retainers and other champions.*

When everything is in place, the herald will then announce the presence of the royalty processing into court with a loud "All Rise for their Majesties!" Enterprising court heralds may elaborate the announcement into a 'boast'. If you are trying an elaborate announcement, make sure you have written it out in advance! An extreme example might sound like:

"All rise and due reverence to King Nigel and Queen Adrielle, third of their line and sovereigns of the North, Admiral of the Inland Seas and Protector of the Beornweald come this day on business of the court! Also be upstanding for Prince Siegfried and Princess Kristinia, heirs to the throne, and Baron Dafydd and Baroness Mahild of Septentria!"

As you are announcing the presence of the royalty, you should be processing up towards the thrones at a stately pace — sprinting ahead of the royalty isn't necessary! The spear-bearers (if any) should take their places on either side of the royal presence, and the other retainers should make their way behind the thrones as the royalty become settled. As the royalty sit, they will invite the nobles

attending court to sit as well, often saying something along the lines of "please seek what comfort you may".

Once you have checked with the royalty and everyone is ready to go, you should officially 'open' court. It can be as simple as "*herein opens the court of their Majesties!*" or as elaborate as "*All gentles and nobles gathered here mark well the occasion of the court of Nigel and Adrielle upon the occasion of the Feast of the Bear held in their canton of Eoforwic this 12th day of May, Anno Societatis LI! Pay notice to the following business of the Crown ...*"

If there is a baronial court to be held, traditionally their herald will ask permission of the Crown, and it will occur before kingdom business.

As you proceed through your court list, you should call people forth, proceed down your court list, and check with a quiet word to the royalty as you complete each item, advising them what is coming up — after all, you have the court list in front of you, and they usually do not!

When presenting a scroll, regalia, or gift in court as the herald, do not hand it to the recipient directly! Give it to the royalty to present it from their hands.

As awards are given out, wait till the royalty have finished speaking to the award recipient, and they have stood up, and give a hearty "*For John of London, wassail!*" Keep your court list at the front of your herald's folder, so you won't blank on the recipient's name after you have given the scroll to the royalty!

If a person is not present, check with the royalty — they will either ask you to call "... or someone to accept for them", and have you read the scroll and they will give it to someone on their behalf, or they will have you simply move on to the next item.

After all items on your court list are done, check with the royalty to see if they want to do anything else, and if not, close their court with the announcement "there being no further business before this court, it is closed, all rise for Their Majesties!". If the royalty plan on having another court later in the day, don't close the court, but instead announce it is suspended or prorogued. Process out with the royalty, and you are (almost) done!

AFTER COURT

Congratulations, you are almost done! Return with the royalty to the royalty room, and give back anything that belongs to them as needed.

If an award scroll wasn't presented in court, return it and strike it from your court list as it has not been officially presented.

If you are feeling particularly ambitious, you may wish to help the royalty's retinue disassemble the thrones and banners and pack them up if they are done with them for the day.

COURT REPORTS

When you get home, or within a few days at most, you need to submit a report of the business conducted in court that you heralded. It is important to keep an accurate list of events so you can report exactly what happened.

Court reports are submitted to the email address Ealdormere.courtreports@emaildodo.com. This is a mailing list that distributes your message to the following people:

- Their Majesties
- Their Highnesses
- The Trillium Herald
- The Caleygreyhound Herald
- The Trillium Signet
- The Kingdom Chronicler

Your report must include at minimum:

- The Date of the court
- The Royalty that presided over it
- Awards given and the names of the recipients
- Gifts of regalia
- Donations of money
- Proclamations of kingdom law
- The change of kingdom offices

The 'Signet on Scene' for any event is highly encouraged to take pictures of scrolls and send them to the court report email address after the event as well, so a record is kept of the artisans, reasons, and wording.

You may certainly also provide further details about the awards, such as reasons for the awards, photos of the scrolls, and the names of the scribes that contributed. You can also include other incoming

items of business (presentations to the crown) or other events that occurred on your court list, such as fealties, ambassadors, and other well-wishes.

A minimal report might look like the following:

*Court Report – TRM David & Elina
October 28, 1998*

*Kingdom Seneschal passed to William of Eoforwic
Donation of \$200 to the Travel Fund by Greyfells
AOA – Malcom Wintersson
AMH – Keisha the Grey*

A more descriptive report might be given in the following manner:

Greetings, herein lies the reporting of Their Majesties Ealdormere Court, held in company with Their Royal Highnesses Ealdormere, and The Royal Highness Kateryn of Midrealm. It was a glorious morning, when the procession of of the combatants commenced, and many fine introduction to inspirations, near and far, where presented. Their Majesties then invited both the Order of the Laurel and the Order of the Pelican into Their court. The Orders were instructed to take the candidates Lucia (OL) and Arlette (OP) to attend their vigils. Court was then suspended, and Their Majesties joined the Orders in putting the candidates on vigil.

Glorious and chivalrous feats of prowess commenced, and many joined in warm joy of friendship in the heart of Winter.

Afternoon court re-commenced, and Their Majesties invited the young wolves of Ealdormere to seek out their treasure - which they quickly found despite the efforts of Lord Evan.

Their Majesties then called forth for the Order of the Laurel, and bid Baroness Lucia de Enzinas to join them in her court. Mistress Siglinde spoke Lucia, and of her virtues as an artisan. Sir Æflwyn came forth to speak for Lucia on behalf of the Order of Chivalry. Mistress Xristinia came forth to speak of Lucia's dedication and selflessness on behalf of the Order of the Pelican. Maestro Gionvanni, representing the Order of the Masters of Defence, spoke of his beloved's honour. Finally, Countess Arlette spoke of Lucia's true worth, as a Lady of the Rose. Lucia then accepted the burden, and Their Majesties accepted Lucia's bond. The Order then bestowed upon Lucia the tokens of the Order, the ring of the Order, cloak, torc (made by THL Cesere), as well as a family medallion worn by all of Mistress Siglinde's apprentices when they were elevated. Elevation scroll artisans: Illumination and calligraphy by THL Jane Caldwell, wording by Lord Evan Quicktongue.

Lord Cameron McGregor was bid forth to share news of the days martial events.

Baron Brand and Baroness Jocea of Ben Dufirth were invited to open their court. They then recognized the people of the Shire of Bastille du Lac, and gifted them with a wealth of bumper stickers - Shire of Bastille du Lac - the Couer of Ealdormere!

Their Majesties then called for Their Territorial Barons and Baronesses, who were bid to carry writs to their nobles.

The Honourable Lady Brennait was invited into Their Court, and she was recognized for her marshal skills with an Award of the Scarlet Banner. Award scroll artisans: Calligraphy and illumination by Mistress Kersteken; wording by Lord Evan Quicktongue

Duke Trumbrand the Wanderer was bid to come before Their Majesties, who wished to recognize his noble efforts to develop his skill in rapier arts with an Award of the Scarlet Banner. Award scroll artisan: Magistra Nicolaa de Bracton of Leicester

THL Marina Anastasia Ozeroski came before Their Majesties with a donation to Their Majesties travel fund. The funds came from the sales of the Royal Guild of Ealdormerean Cooks Guild calendar. THL Jane Caldwell, Kingdom Exchequer, came forth to collect said donation on behalf of Their Majesties.

Their Majesties then invited Order of the Pelican, and Countess Arlette of the Rozaki, into Their Court. Mistress Isobel spoke of the heritage of the pelican medallion, Sir Kaylah the Cheerful spoke on behalf of the Order of Chivalry, Her Majesty placed a cap of maintenance upon Arlette's head, Prince Roak then spoke of Arlette's courtesy and hospitality, and Mistress Lucia spoke on behalf of the Order of the Laurel, Mistress Jocea spoke on behalf of the Order of the Pelican, and Maestro Giavanni spoke on behalf of the Order of the Masters of Defense. Elevation scroll by: Written by Antarcus Valentio, called 'Boy'; Illuminated as a 'scribal chain letter' by Lysele Wollenmonger, Master Martin Bildner, Mistress Roselyne, Matilda, Otelia D'Alace from Aethelmarc, Alysandir, Alia, Katia, Katrina Prebensdottir, Baron Richard Larmer, THL Augusta, Lady Kaolin, Mistress Wencenedl, Bernice, Sabrina, Lord Rubeus, Mary of Caer Draeth, David, Lord John Spooner, Baroness Annabelle, Lady Griete Von Groniger, Her Highness Hyrrokin, His Highness Roak, Her Majesty Marioun, and last but not least, His Majesty, King Evander.

Princess Kateryn spoke a few words of the great friendship between Ealdormere and the Midreald, and her joy in attending the event.

Court report based on the notes and tired recollection of Sciath Trillium, who was seconded by Lord Joffr in the evening court

You are certainly also welcome to share the court report via social media, but use caution! Do not under any circumstance report on items not announced in court (due to the fact the recipient was not present), and if you are unsure, first send the court report to the email address Ealdormere.courtreports@emaildodo.com and get confirmation everything is accurate before publicly distributing it.

TIPS TO MAKE COURT BETTER

No one enjoys listening to a herald shrieking incoherently at the top of their lungs. Good court heralds don't **yell**, they **project**, and there is a big difference between the two. The trick is to speak from your diaphragm. The breath should come from deep within your torso, not high up in your chest or throat. This gives strength to your voice and allows you to be loud without yelling. This can be tricky for those who are not used to it — practice is the key. If you've got experienced heralds you can practice around, so much the better. If you yell your way through a court, you lose a lot of enunciative control, and your voice. It's also not particularly pleasant for the audience to listen to.

Another important factor in heralding clearly is enunciation. Don't mumble your way through. In fact, you need to enunciate *more* than when you normally speak so that the audience can understand what you're saying (remember, they're pretty far away). Rhythm, tempo and pacing are also extremely important. Speaking in a monotone is really boring for your audience, and doesn't bring any kind of dignity to the court. But if your voice flows up and down at the appropriate points, if you pause in the right places, if your phrasing is right, if you speak not-too-fast and not-too-slow, then you will make it interesting and will bring a wonderful sense of ceremony to the whole thing. That makes Their Majesties look good and brings a sense of mystique and wonder to the institution of SCA Royalty.

We've all heard of courts which just dragged on and on and *on*. Sometimes there is really nothing a herald can do about this. If Their Majesties are giving out 43 awards, for example, then court is going to belong and repetitious and people are going to get bored. But there are some things you can do to snap it up a bit. First of all, if *you* sound interested, people will find court less boring. A snappy, interesting herald with good rhythm and pacing who does a court with 20 pieces of business will be far less painful than a monotone, hard-to-hear, stumbles-when-they-read herald doing a court with only five pieces of business. Secondly, there is stuff you can do to save time:

- *When reading award scrolls, you don't have to read the whole thing. It is not necessary every single time to say the date, event and hosting group, which usually appears at the bottom of the scroll. Everybody already knows this. If you just end with "done this day!", you can skip the last paragraph and shave a few minutes off of each award presented.*

- *If the hall is really huge and the person being called up has to walk all the way up to the front, and the royalty wish, you can start reading the award scroll as they're walking up. This can save you another few minutes per award.*
- *If a person is called up, and it turns out that they're at the event but not in the hall, and someone is going to have to go and get them, ask Their Majesties for permission to move on to the next piece of business while the first person is being fetched. This saves quite a bit of time, and you can re-call the missing person as the next item.*
- *While the royalty are talking to the award recipient, take a moment to make sure your next item of business is in place in your folder and ready to go — that avoids fumbling or delays between awards.*
- *Watch you timing for completing an award presentation, crying "Wassail!", and calling the next person. Don't step on anyone's lines and keep dignity to the whole affair, but avoid huge long delays.*

Never ever forget that it's not your show. As the herald, you are the voice, and the visible stage director of whatever occurs, but it's really Their Majesties who are in charge. Don't lose sight of this. This is why you need to be careful about using humour. If Their Majesties are trying to run something very serious and dignified, and you are attempting to be witty, you have lost sight of whose show it really is. Don't clash with Their Majesties' style and don't try to steal the show. This is not **at all** to say that being funny is bad — most Royals really like to infuse Their courts with some entertainment, but it's better to channel some British "Yes, Minister" humor rather than Robin Williams zaniness. Know the style of the Royals

whose court you are heralding, and follow Their lead, and you should be alright.

As you are the servant of the Crown, try to look the part — take off any coronet you might be wearing, set aside the sunglasses, and don't wear your flashiest court garb that would upstage the royalty.

Another side effect of court not being your show is that Their Majesties may decide to throw in something unexpected — you should always be ready to roll with the punches. A herald who can think particularly well on their feet is a precious jewel.

WHEN THINGS GO WRONG

Even the best heralds mess up — some of them have epic stories! The trick is not to get so totally flustered that you screw up the remainder of court. Don't freeze or panic! If you keep going, the mistake is quickly forgotten, and if you are mildly self-deprecating, the crowd will love it. Take the stumble with good grace, do the best you can to fix whatever went wrong, and recover as much as possible. If you have a choice between the royalty looking bad, or you taking the blame for a mistake, jump on that grenade (for example, "*My apologies your Majesty, I completely forgot to call Master Berengar of Bastille!*").

Don't be afraid to roll with the punches. Royals are greatly appreciative of heralds who can really think on their feet.

Setting Up For Court

Sometimes the Crown's chamberlain, champion or head lady-in-waiting may come to you and ask for help setting up for court. While it might appear confusing, it's actually easier than it sounds.

S There is an order to how things are set up by default — of course, this can change due to the whim of the Crown, a specially themed event to a specific time period, or the available space. But, as a guideline, think of the following little mantras ...

THE QUEEN IS ALWAYS RIGHT

If you are facing the audience, from the position of the Sovereign's throne, the Consort should be immediately to his right. So, if it's a king by right of arms, the queen is to the right of him.

THE PRINCE IS THE KING'S RIGHT HAND MAN

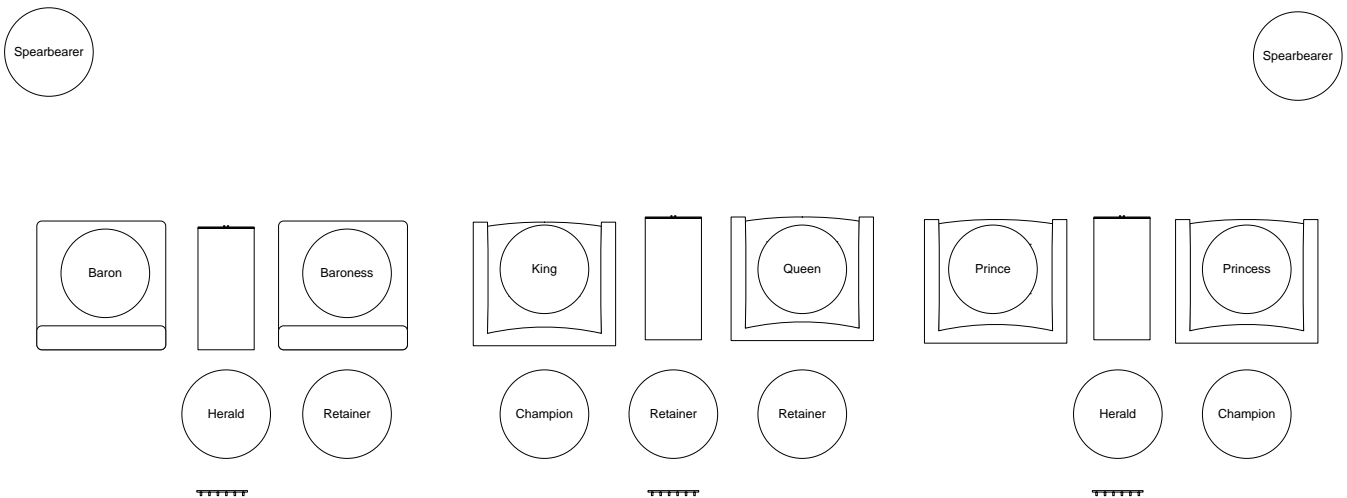
If the king and queen are center stage, then the Heir and Heir's Consort are to the right of the Sovereign and Consort. So, think that the prince is the right-hand man to the king, and as far as the prince is concerned, the princess is always right (as above for the king!)

RIGHT, LEFT, RIGHT, LEFT

It doesn't matter if you have three sets of thrones in the court, or seven, the general pattern is start with the Crown in the center, and alternate descending ranking couples to the right, then the left, then the outer right, then the outer left, and so on.

LEAVE ROOM FOR THE HELP

If there is a back wall behind the thrones, make sure there is enough room for the royalty's retainers to move around and work behind them. If there are banner stands to set up, set them behind the retainers, and if the royalty have boxes to set drinks or prizes on between their thrones, set those out as well.



Creation of The Trillium Herald

oing back to the days of Artair Trillium, our Trillium Herald changeover was celebrated with some sort of variant of the following ceremony.

G

This ceremony is based on an outline of a 16th c. English ceremony found in Gerard Legh's *Accidens of Armorie*, 1585. The wording and actions are based on the sequence of events outlined in the original ceremony, as supplemented by an illustration from Vincent's *Precedents*, and early 17th c. source, which shows a scene from the creation of a Garter King at Arms.)

HERALD: The Crown invites forth N to their court.

<The new Trillium Herald comes forth and kneels before the Crown.>

HERALD: Know that <KING> and <QUEEN>, King and Queen of Ealdormere have need of a Herald to serve their persons in peace and war, to be their voice, and to teach the noble art of heraldry as our loyal servant, <OLD TRILLIUM> has done. Know also that hearing good report of our faithful servant <CANDIDATE> they are minded to create <CANDIDATE> our Trillium Herald.

Do you swear to be ready in your apparel of arms at coronations, creations, tournaments and festivals to speak true and with all your power where you shall give guidance to all officers of arms serving under you.

CANDIDATE: Candidate: I so swear.

HERALD: Do you swear to devote yourself to bearing messages in confidence and of any person high or low? To honour chivalry and courtesy and all acts thereof?

CANDIDATE: I so swear.

HERALD: Do you solemnly swear to flee taverns, brothels, and other places of ill repute? To cast yourself away from hazarding, games of dice, and other poor diversions ill befitting a servant of the Crown?

CANDIDATE: I so swear.

<Attendant moves forward and gives a goblet of water to the Crown.>

CROWN: Then, by your oath, We do name you Trillium Herald.

<The Crown pours water from the goblet over the candidate's head, and places the kingdom herald's tabard on them.>

HERALD: For <NEW TRILLIUM>, Wassail!

A Name Given

If you think this is like a baptism ceremony, it's got some similar origins. A herald's title wasn't just the name of an office, it was a name, so from a historical standpoint, Pelayo de Lanza, upon being made Trillium Herald, could style himself Pelayo Trillium.

Investiture of the Lawspeaker

The Lawspeaker is a unique position in our kingdom, harkening back to the Icelandic Althing or parliament, and represents the interests of the people, rather than the Crown, and this investiture upholds this fundamental belief.

T

It's important to note the royalty are specifically portrayed in this ceremony as interested spectators, rather than the authority that sanctions or drives the ceremony, as with most other office investitures.

HERALD: Your Majesties, the Seneschals of the Realm have business with you.

CROWN: Allow them to present their case before us.

HERALD: Their Majesties invite the seneschals of their Shires, Cantons, Baronies, and other holdings to present their business before them.

<The seneschals come forth.>

A SENESCHAL: Your Majesties, we come bearing the wishes of the people. We ask that a new Lawspeaker be appointed for a term to represent the wishes of the people of Ealdormere, and sit upon your council, and to carry such authority as the laws of our realm permit.

CROWN: We are pleased to know the wishes of our people. Herald, invite forth the Lawspeaker.

HERALD: Their Majesties invite forth <LAWSPEAKER>, the Lawspeaker of Ealdormere to conclude his/her office.

<The Lawspeaker comes forth.>

LAWSPEAKER: Your Majesties, my rightful term is ended, and another gentle from your Kingdom should take my place at this time.

CROWN: We thank you for your wise counsel over the past years. Go with our thanks.

HERALD: For <LAWSPEAKER>, Lawspeaker of Ealdormere! Wassail!

<Wassail from the nobles. The Lawspeaker departs.>

HERALD: Since the Crown intends to have consultation with the gentry, nobles and peers of the realm, while meeting with the King's Council and other principal officers of our kingdom with regard to remedies and governance for the kingdom. On that account we consider, ordain, and require by custom to cause one member of the kingdom who is not held to the Crown's will or warrant, who is held to be discreet and capable of laboring, to be elected without delay.

Good seneschals, have you conducted such an election?

A SENESCHAL: Yes. The people have chosen <NEW LAWSPEAKER>.

HERALD: Their Majesties would have it noted that the Council of Seneschals request the presence <LAWSPEAKER> to join their court, so they may witness the will of the people.

<The new lawspeaker comes forth.>

HERALD: By the law of this kingdom, the Lawspeaker shall come to us at the appointed times and places and confer upon the royalty the will of the Ealdormereans. He/she shall set himself/herself aside at all times from the will and dictates of the Crown, and shall not be influenced by their power or majesty. He/she shall offer counsel without fear.

A SENESCHAL: This is a noble purpose, but the Lawspeaker shall not do these rightful acts by command of the Crown, but because he wishes to vouchsafe the people of his Kingdom, and shall not swear to the kingdom, but the people.

<NEW LAWSPEAKER>, shall you keep the best reputation you are able in Ealdormere, to be a champion of the peace and the well-being of Ealdormere, and at what times you are needed to hear and determine conflicts, mediations, councils, moots and other mindful gatherings, and to enact calm and purposeful care to such meetings and persons you encounter?

NEW LAWSPEAKER: I shall.

A SENESCHAL: Then accept no token or regalia, for this office is not for the glory of the Kingdom, but it's well-being. We go with our thanks.

<Seneschals withdraw.>

HERALD: The Crown has witnessed a right and proper thing. Know that you will have the support and care of the Crown, its' Heirs, and their Privy Council in the term of your service.

CROWN: <Says something nice.>

HERALD: For the people of Ealdormere, and their Lawspeaker, Wassail!

Based on the Summons of Representatives of Shires and Towns to Parliament (1295)

The king to the sheriff of Northamptonshire. Since we intend to have a consultation and meeting with the earls, barons and other principal men of our kingdom with regard to providing remedies against the dangers which are in these days threatening the same kingdom; and on that account have commanded them to be with us on the Lord's day next after the feast of St. Martin in the approaching winter, at Westminster, to consider, ordain, and do as may be necessary for the avoidance of these dangers; we strictly require you to cause two knights from the aforesaid county, two citizens from each city in the same county, and two burgesses from each borough, of those who are especially discreet and capable of laboring, to be elected without delay, and to cause them to come to us at the aforesaid said time and place.

Moreover, the said knights are to have full and sufficient power for themselves and for the community of the aforesaid county, and the said citizens and burgesses for themselves and the communities of the aforesaid cities and boroughs separately, then and there for doing what shall then be ordained according to the common counsel in the premises; so that the aforesaid business shall not remain unfinished in any way for defect of this power. And you shall have there the names of the knights, citizens and burgesses and this writ.

Witness the king at Canterbury on the third day of October.

from summonses in E. P. Cheyney, trans., University of Pennsylvania. Dept. of History: Translations and Reprints from the Original Sources of European history, published for the Dept. of History of the University of Pennsylvania., Philadelphia, University of Pennsylvania Press [1897]. Vol. 1, No. 6, pp. 33-35.

Throughout the thirteenth and fourteenth centuries appointments were made by the Crown of officers known as custodes pacis (custodians or conservators of the peace), whose duties were primarily of an administrative rather than of a judicial nature. They were to receive presentments and to send those presented for trial before the Justices of Gaol Delivery.

(2) In 1327 statutory provision was made for the appointment of men to keep the peace within each county.

(3) To them was given in 1328 certain powers to punish offenders,

(4) and these powers of punishment were enlarged in 1330

(5). These officers were the forerunners of the Justices of the Peace, whose appointment dates from a statute of 1344

(6), whereby it was enacted that two or three of the best reputation in the counties shall be assigned keepers of the peace by this King's commission; and at what time the need shall be assigned by the King's commission to hear and determine felonies and trespasses done against the peace in the same counties, and to inflict punishment reasonably according to [law and reason, and] the manner of the deed.

Oaths of Fealty

Oaths of fealty are a delicate thing.

O throne.

We have a tradition in Ealdormere that originated in the Midrealm of using standard oaths in groups of various estates. These are not carved in stone, and can be changed at the whim of the Crown, and by the request of a specific estate. Often, Their Majesties will change the Crown's response to an Oath of Fealty to personalize it to their desire.

If someone wants to swear a private oath to the Crown, of their own devising, the Crown will not likely object. This sort of thing should be discussed personally with whomever sits the

THE POPULACE

Here is the default wording for the oath for the populace.

HERALD: Their Majesties now call upon those people of the Kingdom who wish to pledge their support and allegiance to the Crown of Ealdormere

<The Crown typically unsheathes the sword of state, and holds it before them, point down. The populace come forth and touch the hilt of the sword, or the shoulders of those who are closer.>

POPULACE: I here swear fealty,
To the Crown of the North
I shall serve the realm,
As best I can
I shall follow the banner,
And honour my King
I shall attend the throne,
And love my Queen
The laws I uphold,
The traditions I honour
I serve Ealdormere,
Thus swear I, N

CROWN: We hold you to your words
And return these words to you
We shall honour your deeds,
Reward fealty with love,
And service with honor,
As long as we hold Ealdormere's throne.

<The Crown will often thank the populace and sheathe the sword of state. There is not usually a Wassail called for, and the herald moves on to the next piece of business.>

Notes for the Herald

Traditionally, the populace are invited forth to swear fealty at each Coronation. However, if a member of the populace asks at another event to swear fealty, and the Crown agrees, it should be added to the court list.

When calling the populace, give them time to assemble in front of the Crown before starting the oath.

As you lead the populace in an oath of fealty, speak one line at a time in a clear voice just loud enough for the populace assembled with the Crown to hear you, and speak their response.

THE ORDER OF THE CHIVALRY

Knights are considered in fealty from the day they receive the accolade, but it is tradition that they reaffirm their oath each reign. Masters at Arms are not required to swear fealty, but may choose to on occasion — when the Order of the Chivalry is invited to come forth, each group of the Order should be included.

HERALD: As a knight swears fealty to the Crown when the honor is received, so is that fealty renewed for each reign. Therefore, let all Knights of the Realm come forth before the Throne together with those Masters-at-Arms who wish to swear fealty.

<The Crown typically unsheathes the sword of state, and holds it before them, point down. The members of the Chivalry come forth and touch the hilt of the sword, or the shoulders of those who are closer. Many choose to drape their chains over the sword of state or take them off during the oath.>

CHIVALRY: I here swear fealty and do homage,
To the Crown of Ealdormere
To ever be a good Knight and true,
Reverent and generous,
Shield of the weak,
Obedient to my liege-lord and lady,
Foremost in battle,
Courteous at all times,
Champion of the right and the good,
Thus swear I, N.

CROWN: We hold you to your words
And return these words to you
We shall honour your deeds,
Reward fealty with love,
And service with honor,
As long as we hold Ealdormere's throne.

<The Crown will often thank the members of the Chivalry and sheathe the sword of state. Often the Order will offer their chains to the Queen to place on their necks as a symbol they have renewed their fealty.>

Prompting Peerage Oaths

Traditionally, the members of the Order of Chivalry have memorized their oath of fealty, and do not require the herald to lead them line by line. Some of the other bestowed peerages have similarly memorized their oaths.

When the peers gather, it's perfectly reasonable to ask them quietly if they would like prompting, and quietly say each line so just they can hear you, and they in turn can speak loudly.

If a peerage stumbles in their memorized oath, be prepared to quietly help them if needed.

THE ORDER OF THE LAUREL

HERALD: Their Majesties also call those Teachers of the Order of the Laurel who would offer fealty to the Crown, join your fellows of the Peerage of Ealdormere in pledging to the Crown.

<The Crown typically unsheathes the sword of state, and holds it before them, point down. The members of the Laurel come forth and touch the hilt of the sword, or the shoulders of those who are closer.>

LAURELS: I here swear fealty,
To the Crown of the North
With oaths given and received
The labour of my hands,
I pledge to the kingdom
The beauty of the realm,
Is my safekeeping
I lend my hands and my heart,
And this solemn oath
As companions of your Order of the Laurel
Thus swear I, N

CROWN: We hold you to your words
And return these words to you
We shall honour your deeds,
Reward fealty with love,
And service with honor,
As long as we hold Ealdormere's throne.

<The Crown will often thank the members of the Order of the Laurel and sheathe the sword of state. The peers will then typically bow and excuse themselves from the royal presence.>

The Crown's Response

Listed in the ceremony is the default 'response' to fealties the Crown might say, but they are free to use whatever responses they feel are appropriate.

As an example, here is the response used by Trumbrand & Kaylah:

*We hear your words,
and return these words to you,
We shall honour your deeds
Reward fealty with love,
Service with honour,
And sing of your strength and
steadfastness
For as long as We hold
Ealdormere's throne.*

THE ORDER OF THE PELICAN

HERALD: Those members of the Order of the Pelican, whose Service is recognized as an example to all are invited to come forward and swear fealty to the Crown of Ealdormere.

<The Crown typically unsheathes the sword of state, and holds it before them, point down. The members of the Pelican come forth and touch the hilt of the sword, or the shoulders of those who are closer.>

PELICANS: I here swear fealty,
To the Crown of the North
With oaths given and received
I shall serve the realm,
Through word and deed
I shall speak true, And act truer.
I lend my hands and my heart,
And this solemn oath
As companions of your Order of the Pelican
Thus swear I, N

CROWN: We hold you to your words
And return these words to you
We shall honour your deeds,
Reward fealty with love,
And service with honor,
As long as we hold Ealdormere's throne

<The Crown will often thank the members of the Order of the Pelican and sheathe the sword of state. The peers will then typically bow and excuse themselves from the royal presence.>

We Say "Wassail" Here!

I was there when the Middle Kingdom's traditional call of "Hoobah!" Was invented but that's a story for another place and another time. We say "wassail" here — now.

Back when Ealdormere was part of the Middle Kingdom, the good Baron Aedan of Septentria was sitting in the back of royal court, attending the monarchs. He was tired and grumpy and felt like he'd been on call all day. As he listened to the monarchs distributing well-deserved honors to people who seldom got a royal visit, he found the cheer of "hoo-bah" irritating. He knew its origin in a rather dumb joke and wasn't impressed. So he started calling out a good, real, medieval cheer, "Wassail," Old English for "Good health!"

Many of the people at the court were rather new and had little experience of shouting "hoo-bah" (which seemed to be rather odd). But they knew Aedan's voice and were accustomed to following him. Soon enough, just about all the Ealdormereans were enthusiastically calling out "wassail!"

The Midrealm King and his courtiers were astonished. But they had no idea what to do about it.

Over the years when the Midrealm royalty showed up, they occasionally tried to insist that the people in court should use the "old" tradition — the herald and Prince and Princess were dutiful subjects and said "hoobah" of course, but Ealdormereans know their minds, and the halls shook with "Wassail!"

— Finnvarr de Taahe

THE ORDER OF DEFENSE

HERALD: Those members of the Order of Defense, who wish to swear fealty and pledge their blades to the Crown to come forth and present themselves before the thrones.

<The Crown typically unsheathes the sword of state, and holds it before them, point down. The members of the Order of Defense come forth and touch the hilt of the sword, or the shoulders of those who are closer.>

CANDIDATE: I here swear fealty,
To the Crown of Ealdormere
On my honour I vow
To keep a noble and kind heart
To uphold integrity and skill
Be ever generous in mercy and knowledge
Defending the honour of the Crown
And all we hold dear
I pledge my blade and heart,
Thus swear I, N

CROWN: We hold you to your words
And return these words to you
We shall honour your deeds,
Reward fealty with love,
And service with honor,
As long as we hold Ealdormere's throne.

<The Crown will often thank the members of the Order of Defense and sheathe the sword of state. The peers will then typically bow and excuse themselves from the royal presence.>

GREAT OFFICERS OF STATE

Greater Officers of the Kingdom are expected to swear fealty, although some may have religious or personal reasons to not wish to swear the oath below — in such cases, it is perfectly reasonable for the word 'fealty' to be replaced with 'service'.

HERALD: Let all the Greater Kingdom Officers of Ealdormere come before Their Majesties to swear fealty.

<The Crown typically unsheathes the sword of state, and holds it before them, point down. The members of the Privy Council come forth and touch the hilt of the sword, or the shoulders of those who are closer.>

OFFICERS: I here swear fealty (service),
To the Crown of the North
To sit your council, and offer my voice
I shall lend my service freely,
And offer you truth without fear
And hold my office,
For the good of the realm
Thus swear I, N

CROWN: We hold you to your words
And return these words to you
We shall honour your deeds,
Reward fealty with love,
And service with honor,
As long as we hold Ealdormere's throne.

<The Crown will often thank the members of the Privy Council and sheathe the sword of state. The Officers will then typically bow and excuse themselves from the royal presence.>

TERRITORIAL BARONS & BARONESSSES

Fealty by the territorial barons and baronesses is often given more pomp and circumstance than other noble estates. Sometimes they bring forth dirt from their baronies, or swear on their coronets rather than the sword of state. Alternatively, the King and Queen may take their fealties from each barony separately rather than together at their Coronations, to emphasize the role of the Baron and Baroness.

HERALD: Let those who hold lands of the Crown as Baron & Baroness come now to swear fealty.

<The Crown typically unsheathes the sword of state, and holds it before them, point down. The territorial barons and baronesses come forth and touch the hilt of the sword, or the shoulders of those who are closer.>

BARON/ESS: I here swear fealty and homage,
To the Crown of the North
With oaths given and received
To be your vassal, and hold your land
To have your people prosper,
And benefit the realm
To lead in honour,
And bestow honour as is due
Thus do I swear,
As the Barons and Baronesses of X

CROWN: We hold you to your words
And return these words to you
We shall honour your deeds,
Reward fealty with love,
And service with honor,
As long as we hold Ealdormere's throne.

<The Crown will often thank their barons and baronesses and sheathe the sword of state. The barons and baronesses will then typically bow and excuse themselves from the royal presence.>

THE ROYAL PEERAGE

HERALD: Their Majesties would now invite forth those Royal Peers wishing to swear fealty.

<The Crown typically unsheathes the sword of state, and holds it before them, point down. The royal peers come forth and touch the hilt of the sword, or the shoulders of those who are closer.>

ROYAL PEER: I here swear fealty,
To the Crown of the North
With oaths given and received
As I have been served,
So may I serve.
As I have held trust,
May I be trustworthy
As I hold great station,
May it be for good cause,
In service to the glory of Ealdormere
Thus swear I, N

CROWN: We hold you to your words
And return these words to you
We shall honour your deeds,
Reward fealty with love,
And service with honor,
As long as we hold Ealdormere's throne.

<The Crown will often thank the royal peers and sheathe the sword of state. The royal peers will then typically bow and excuse themselves from the royal presence.>

What Order?

Almost every Coronation, the question comes of what is the proper protocol of which order to summon the various estates – the real answer is there is no one right order, and it's up to the Crown.

Some Crowns believe the 'realm must be secured' and summon the territorial barons and baronesses first, and then the Chivalry, or some similar order. Other Crowns may follow the Order of Precedence. However, if the Crown is seeking advice, the order could be:

*The Order of Chivalry
The Order of the Laurel
The Order of the Pelican
The Order of Defense
The Territorial Baronage
The Greater Officers of State
The Royal Peers
The Populace*

Impromptu Awards & Proclamations

W

hen the mood strikes them, the King and Queen might want to recognize someone with noting them on the Scroll of Honour, or bestowing upon them the Award of the King's Favour or the Award of the Queen's Favour. If it is a spur of the moment decision, there may not be a scroll on hand, and the herald will need to come up with some sort of presentation to celebrate the occasion, even if the royalty have a token or ring to bestow in lieu of a scroll.

Below are some default wordings to help present such an award.

RECOGNITION OF A FULL STATUS GROUP

When the Kingdom Seneschal wishes to recognize an incipient chapter as a full status group, it is definitely a cause for celebration! Often the Crown will want to call forth the members of the group and have them acknowledged. Below is a sample wording that might be proclaimed by the herald in the King and Queen's court.

HERALD: Let all know that Their Majesties <KING> and <QUEEN> have received word from their Seneschal that <GROUP> has satisfied the requirements of custom and law within Ealdormere to become a recognized <CANTON/SHIRE/ETC>. The people of <GROUP> have toiled well these past few years, and as such the Crown recognizes their labours, and endorses this recommendation, making it proclamation this day!

Let the warrants of the officers be recognized, and let the exchequer of <GROUP> maintain separate coffers from this day forward, and raise the arms of the <CANTON/SHIRE/ETC> to fly in the Kingdom's Great Hall from this day forward!

For the people of <GROUP>, Wassail!

THE SCROLL OF HONOUR

The Scroll of Honour is a document kept by the Privy Seal that lists all those recognized with this award, and it is often displayed at event. Sometimes when someone is recognized there isn't a scroll to bestow, so this wording allows some formal recognition.

HERALD: Let it be set down by the heralds and scribes of the realm that <NAME> has pleased Their Majesties with deeds worth recording. Let it be know that upon this day that this good noble shall have their name set down upon the Scroll of Honour and displayed for reason of <DETAILS>.

<If there is a token to be presented, His Majesty will do so personally.>

HERALD: For <NAME>, Wassail!

THE AWARD OF THE KING'S FAVOUR

This award carries no precedence, but is usually very personal and important to the Crown to see those who have worked hard for them or the Kingdom receive their thanks. There may or may not be an actual token for the Crown to bestow. Here is sample wording to use if the Crown has not written something up for you already.

HERALD: Let all know, hear and witness that His Majesty, King <NAME> is well pleased with the deeds and service of one of his court. He has summoned forth this noble Lord/Lady, and now presents them with his Award of the King's Favour.

His Majesty commends <RECIPIENT>, and although this honour carries no precedence, rank or title, He would have it known that <RECIPIENT> has his respect and his thanks for <REASON FOR AWARD>.

<If there is a token to be presented, His Majesty will do so personally.>

HERALD: For <RECIPIENT>, Wassail!

THE AWARD OF THE QUEEN'S FAVOUR

This award carries no precedence as well, but is usually very personal and important to the Crown to see those who have worked hard for them or the Kingdom receive their thanks. There may or may not be an actual token for the Crown to bestow. Here is sample wording to use if the Crown has not written something up for you already.

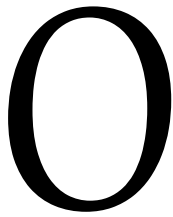
HERALD: The Queen of Ealdormere is right mindful of the high esteem in which <RECIPIENT> is held by their person, and would have the Realm of Ealdormere hold them in similar station.

Therefore, Her Majesty is pleased to bestow the Queen's Favour upon <RECIPIENT> this day. With this token comes the gratitude of the Queen. They are here in Our court commended before the assembled nobles of Ealdormere, and given Her Majesties' warmest thanks for <REASON FOR AWARD>. Know all that this is the will of your Queen this day.

<If there is a token to be presented, Her Majesty will do so personally.>

HERALD: For <RECIPIENT>, Wassail!

Creation of a Baron or Baroness of the Court



ne of the most significant honours the Crown can bestow is the rank of Baron or Baroness. Unlike a territorial baron or baroness, the title comes without land. It can be granted to those territorial barons and baronesses who step down after a successful term leading a barony, or it can be given to individuals or couples that have displayed leadership and are exemplars of our kingdom.

Ideally, this honour will come with a coronet that has been produced by the Crown or the recipients' friends, or a baronial coronet can be borrowed for the ceremony.

HERALD: Their Majesties call forth their loyal subject <NAME>

<The noble called forth comes forth and kneels.>

<The following can be replaced by the wording of a scroll, or the scroll may be read at the conclusion of this segment.>

HERALD: Let all know that <KING> and <QUEEN>, Rightful Monarchs of Ealdormere give greeting to their most beloved noble<NAME> who presents themselves here. Their Majesties give heed to all those peers, nobles, and gentles attending this court to listen to the just acts that here follow.

Know all that Their Most Puissant and Northern Majesties know well the worth of their loyal subject, and their good and faithful acts. Therefore it is for just and right reason that They do here and now create, advance, and prefer<NAME> to a rank befitting their deeds.

By The Grace of Their Majesties, they do hereby confer and bestow the Rank, Style, Title and Honour of a Baron or Baroness of the Realm, with all rights, privileges, insignia, and precedence appertaining thereto. Great is this gift, for it shall not come with land, oaths, or duties. Such is the love that The Crown shows today.

Their Majesties do hereby bestow a circlet of rank so all might know in all days of the honour and love that the Crown sees in their subject before them today in this Their Court. This is Their Majesties Word.

<The Crown then bestows a coronet of rank, and speaks as the mood takes them.>

HERALD: For His/Her Excellency, Baron/Baroness <NAME>, Wassail!

Creation of a Territorial Baron or Baroness

W

hen a Baron and/or Baroness of a Barony in Ealdormere step down and their successors step up, there are some observances to be made — the new Baron & Baroness must swear fealty and pledge to hold the land, and the Crown must be represented to take the land back and then bestow it.

Should it be the Crown's wish, the outgoing Baron and Baroness may receive the award of Court Baron and/or Baroness for a job well done. This is entirely optional, and at the discretion of the Crown.

HERALD: Their Majesties call forth <BARON> and <BARONESS>, and ask the Barony of <BARONY> to now stand and witness their acts.

<The Baron and Baroness come forth, and the barony stands in witness.>

CROWN: It is our understanding that you shall no longer hold the Barony of <BARONY> in fief from us. Is this true?

BARON/ESS: Yes.

CROWN: Then allow us to release you from your fealty. Return your symbols of estate and place your hands on our sword of state.

<The baronial coronets, cloaks and any other regalia is returned to the Crown.>

HERALD: Their Majesties shall now release you from your fealty held these years.

<The herald then prompts the royalty for the following words to release their vassals from fealty.>

CROWN: In remembrance of duties done,
The faith of the Crown kept,
Of being our vassals these years,
We release you from your oath.
With our love and thanks.

<The Crown then sheathes the sword of state, and the former baron and baroness rise.>

HERALD: Let it be proclaimed that <KING> and <QUEEN>, Sovereigns of the Northern Realm of Ealdormere hereby reclaim their Barony of <BARONY> as their own lands. For their faithful servants <BARON> and <BARONESS>, Wassail!

CROWN: Good cousins, counsel us once more — do you have nobles in your Barony who might assume your duties?

BARON/ESS: We do. We recommend <LORD> and <LADY>.

CROWN: This is fitting. You have our leave to depart. Herald, call these nobles forth.

<The retiring baron and baroness depart>

HERALD: Their Majesties summon into their court <LORD> and <LADY>.

<The incoming baron and baroness present themselves before the court, and kneel before the Crown.>

HERALD: Mark well that [this noble / these nobles] are well beloved by the Crown. It is only right and fitting that those held in high esteem by our subjects and ourselves should stand as foremost within Our Barony of <BARONY> as we might. Let it be known and witnessed from this day forward that <BARON> and <BARONESS> by their presence and free will grants and promises for the term of law to be retained and bound with Their Majesties as their Baron and Baroness of <BARONY> from this day forward.

Their Majesties accept the allegiance and fealty of <BARON> and <BARONESS>. They charge them to ever be ready at times and places within this realm of Ealdormere to attend upon Their Majesties, at times of peace and war, within all bounds of reason, as should be accorded with this station and coronet of rank.

In consideration of this fealty Their Majesties promise Their Excellencies, <BARON> and <BARONESS> to be their good and faithful liege, and to assist, comfort, and fortify them in all lawful and reasonable causes as a lord ought to do. And moreover Their Majesties grant by these words all rights attendant upon this rank, should it be in the matter of taxes, aids, or levies, or the reasonable actions required by the governance of this fief. They accept their homage, and will grant them the honour they are rightful to, upon their word and honour.

Their Majesties now accept their oaths of fealty, our sword of state, as is proper.

<The Crown presents the sword of state, and holds it before them, point down. The new baron and baroness touch the hilt of the sword.>

BARON/ESS: I here swear fealty and homage,
To the Crown of the North
With oaths given and received
To be your vassal, and hold your land
To have your people prosper,
And benefit the realm
To lead in honour,
And bestow honour as is due
Thus do I swear,
As the Barons and Baronesses of X

CROWN: We hold you to your words
And return these words to you
We shall honour your deeds,
Reward fealty with love,
And service with honor,
As long as we hold Ealdormere's throne.

<The Crown hands the sword of state to their retainer, and take the baronial coronets to place on the baron and baroness.>

CROWN: Let these symbols of your new estate be a symbol of fealty and trust.

<The coronets are placed on the baron and baroness' heads.>

HERALD: Let all witness this act of the Crown, and none gainsay it. This is the will of our King and Queen. For Their Excellencies, Baron <BARON> and Baroness <BARONESS>, Wassail!

It's Historical!

The herald's proclamation starting 'Mark well ...' is based on a contract, an indenture for service, taken from W. H. Dunham's Lord Hastings' Indentured Retainers, 1461-1483 (New Haven, 1955) as cited in Historical Problems: Studies and Documents, Nobles and the Noble Life, 1295-1500, by Joel T. Rosenthal, (New York: Harper & Row, 1976)).

Creation of a Knight

A knighting ceremony has many elements to it and involves multiple participants. It is important that everyone knows their part before the ceremony begins, and the symbols of the Order of Chivalry are prepared ahead of time — a gold chain and a white belt at the last, and possibly a set of spurs and a sword.

A

Sometimes a knighting may happen without a vigil, and even on the field of battle — it is important the Crown and herald discuss the flow of the ceremony beforehand for unusual circumstances or changes to the standard ceremony below.

THE VIGIL

HERALD: The Knights and Masters of Our Order of Chivalry are summoned before the Throne.

<The Order gathers.>

KNIGHT: Your Majesties, as we have met in council, we now do publicly ask a deed of you. *<This could also be done in the form of begging a boon.>*

KING: As you have advised the Crown on this matter, speak your will.

KNIGHT: It is our belief that <NAME> is a good knight and true, in all but fact. We ask you to correct this injustice.

KING: Call <NAME> before Us.

HERALD: The Crown calls <NAME> to present themselves.

< Candidate presents themselves in court.>

HERALD: <KING>, Sovereign King of Ealdormere, and <QUEEN>, our Singular and Inspirational Queen, with the Companions of the Ancient and Honourable Order of Chivalry do hereby make known by these presents that<NAME>, in consideration of his exceptional prowess and pursuit of those chivalric qualities we hold dear, is appointed that upon <DATE> he shall present himself before our court.

He shall be offered the accolade of knighthood. Should he accept, he shall be installed and shall receive his oath, and shall perform all other things, as by the requirements of this Order are required, and shall receive tokens of this honour.

We therefore declare by these presents that ye Knights and Masters of Arms then shall be present, and receive him into the honour of this most illustrious Order. And also We desire that all gentles and nobles and peers who hear these words, present yourselves at our appointed court with diligence, to witness such honours.

KING: Think well upon your vigil, for it is the will of this Order to make you a knight. Go, knowing We are pleased.

HERALD: For <NAME>, Wassail!

THE CEREMONY (KNIGHTING)

At the time the candidate is to be elevated, they are called forth — if there was no vigil, this ceremony can be used as a complete process without the preceding step of a vigil, using the highlighted optional yellow section.

HERALD: The good knight <ADVOCATE> is called before the throne.

ADVOCATE: Your majesties I beg a boon — I would ask that <CANDIDATE> be inducted into your Order of Chivalry as a knight.

CROWN: Summon Our Order.

HERALD: The Crown now calls forth all Companions of the Order of Chivalry here so present.

<This is the point where a member of the Order may re-beg the boon, if necessary.>

KING: Are we agreed that <NAME> should be offered the belt, chain and spurs of the Order?

ORDER: Aye.

CROWN: Call forth the candidate.

HERALD: The Crown now calls forth <NAME>.

<The candidate comes forth and kneels before the throne.>

CROWN: We would hear of this candidate's virtue.

HERALD: Is there a Companion of the Order of the Laurel to speak to this person's skills off the field?

<A laurel steps forth and speaks>

HERALD: Is there a Master/Mistress of the Order of the Pelican to speak to this person's service?

<A pelican steps forth and speaks>

HERALD: Is there a Master of the Order of Defense to speak to this person's honour?

<A master of defense steps forth and speaks>

HERALD: Is there a Royal Peer to speak to this person's courtesy?

<A royal peer steps forth and speaks>

HERALD: A laurel knows of skill in hands and mind. A Companion of the Pelican can speak to dedication and selflessness. A Master of Defense knows of honour and dignity. A royal peer has been our inspiration and received many times the words of peers. It must be fitting then if such noble persons would speak for <CANDIDATE> that they might well deserve the accolade of Chivalry.

KING: Then it is our will to create this day a Companion of the Order of Chivalry. <NAME>, will you accept this accolade?

CANDIDATE: Aye.

HERALD: Rightly, truly, and well-honoured <NAME>, We, <KING> and <QUEEN> greet you well. We do attest to your approved prowess and valour, as well as your other qualities of chivalry, your surpassing skill in all manner of things that makes a knight what he is.

Giving you to understand that in giving of your fealty of Us and Our Realm to be shown at all times, and for the honour and virtue in you, We, with our Order of Chivalry here assembled, have chosen you to be a Knight of our said Order as your merits do well deserve.

CROWN: Will you accept the honour and obligation of knighthood?

CANDIDATE: Aye.

<If the candidate wishes to be a Master at Arms, they must speak HERE — if this is the case pick up the ceremony from Master At Arms section below.>

CROWN: Then swear your oath upon the sword of state.

<The Crown presents the sword of state, and holds it before them, point down. The candidate touches the hilt of the sword.>

HERALD: Ye shall swear, that to your honour you shall keep, defend, and hold yourself in fealty to the Crown of Ealdormere. You shall swear to act as ever a good knight should, and keep true what words you may give. You shall swear to be reverent, and generous to those others of your kingdom and abroad. You shall swear to act as the shield of those who may have need of you. You shall swear to obey your liege lord. You shall swear to show valour, and be foremost in any battle. You shall swear to uphold the virtue of courtesy, and exemplify it at all times. You shall swear to champion all things that are right and good. This ye shall swear by this sword and by your honour.

CANDIDATE: Thus swear I, <NAME>.

HERALD: Then hear the words of your King and Queen:

<read scroll here>

CROWN: Take this belt as a sign of your prowess.

<Candidate's consort or the queen puts belt on candidate.>

CROWN: Take this chain as a sign of your oaths.

<Junior Knight gives chain to King to place on the candidate, and recites the lineage.>

CROWN: Take these spurs as a sign of your station.

<Sponsors put on spurs.>

<If a personal sword is being given as a gift, it would be bestowed at this time.>

QUEEN: Take this sword as a sign of our trust in you.

<King dubs knight thrice with Gwaelor on the head and shoulders.>

<Should the decision be made that there be a "buffeting" it should be done INSTEAD of the dubbing — they shouldn't both be done as they are in actuality the same thing.>

KING: Let this be your charge. Go forth Sir <NAME>, and be thou a good knight evermore.

HERALD: For Sir <KNIGHT>, Wassail!

For The Order of Chivalry, Wassail!
For the Crown, Wassail!

Creation of a Master of Arms

<Should the candidate wish to decline the accolade of a knight and swear fealty, use the following.>

HERALD: Ye shall give a promise before all peers, nobles and gentles here present, that you shall act ever as a peer of the realm should, to be generous and respectful of all those greater or lesser than you. Ye shall promise to defend those who require your aid, and to show your respect to the Crown. Ye shall promise to be valorous, courteous, and a champion of all things chivalrous. Will you promise these things before your King, Queen, and Kingdom?

CANDIDATE: I will.

HERALD: Then hear the words of your King and Queen: *<Read scroll here.>*

KING: Take this baldric as a sign of your prowess. Take these spurs as a sign of your station.

HERALD: For Master <CANDIDATE>, Wassail!
For The Order of Chivalry, Wassail!
For the Crown, Wassail!

Creation of a Companion of the Laurel

The Order of the Laurel is hard to find historical organizations to compare — few Master Cobblers or Bowyers were brought into a peerage of similar stature to the Order of the Garter. Therefore, this default ceremony is based on elements (appropriately) from a poem from the 13th century called "L'Ordene de Chavalerie", from William Durand's Pontifical (c.1295), and from the 15th century book Tirant lo Blanc by Sir Joanot Martorel, built around a similar knighting ceremony structure from the 14th century. This information was gathered originally for Sir Talbot MacTaggart's knighting in the Midrealm.

There are many ways to perform a peerage ceremony, and this is only a simple 'default' template that we have used in Ealdormere since we have become a Kingdom. A peerage ceremony should be special, and often should be customized to meet the persona and desires of the candidate.

THE VIGIL

If there is time between announcing the intent of the Order of the Laurel and the Crown, and the actual ceremony, the candidate can be put on vigil — that is, can be told to contemplate the qualities of a peer and present themselves at a later date.

HERALD: The good Master/Mistress <ADVOCATE> is called before the throne.

ADVOCATE: Your majesties, I beg a boon — I would ask that <CANDIDATE> be inducted into your Order of the Laurel.

CROWN: Summon Our Order.

HERALD: The good and noble Order of the Laurel is invited before the throne.

<The Order of the Laurel comes forth and kneels around the throne, leaving space for the candidate to be called shortly.>

HERALD: Their Majesties seek the counsel of this august Order. The Crown would know if it is your solemn belief that <CANDIDATE> has shown themselves to be worthy of the accolade of a peer of the realm, and should be invited to join your Order of the Laurel, to serve faithfully as they have til now?

LAURELS: AYE.

CROWN: Summon <CANDIDATE> before us.

HERALD: <CANDIDATE> is summoned before the Throne of Ealdormere.

<The candidate comes forth and kneels before the Crown, surrounded by the Order of the Laurel.>

CROWN: (The Crown says something congratulatory and personal to the Candidate)

HERALD: <CANDIDATE>, know that the Order of the Laurel has advised the Crown, and they have determined that it would be a just thing to see you called a Master/Mistress of the Laurel. The Crown charges you to dwell on the virtues of this Order, and present yourself at a selected time and place to come before the Crown and give your answer.

CROWN: Go now with the Order, and know we are pleased.

HERALD: For <CANDIDATE>, Wassail!

<The crowd cheers in approval.>

THE CEREMONY

At the time the candidate is to be elevated, they are called forth — if there was no vigil, this ceremony can be used as a complete process without the preceding step of a vigil, using the highlighted optional yellow section.

HERALD: The good Master <ADVOCATE> is called before the throne.

ADVOCATE: Your majesties I beg a boon — I would ask that <CANDIDATE> be inducted into your Order of the Laurel.

CROWN: Summon Our Order.

HERALD: Their Majesties of Ealdormere charge their Order of the Laurel to present themselves.

<The Order of the Laurel comes forth and kneels around the throne, leaving space for the candidate to be called shortly.>

CROWN: What is your will?

<Either a member of The Order of the Laurel re-begs the boon, or they speak of the vigil of the candidate being successfully completed.>

CROWN: Summon the Candidate

HERALD: <CANDIDATE> is summoned before the Throne.

<The candidate comes forth and kneels before the Crown, surrounded by the Order of the Laurel.>

CROWN: We would hear of this person's virtue.

HERALD: Is there a Knight of the Order of Chivalry to speak to this person's chivalry?

<A knight steps forth and speaks>

HERALD: Is there a Master/Mistress of the Order of the Pelican to speak to this person's service?

<A pelican steps forth and speaks>

HERALD: Is there a Master of the Order of Defense to speak to this person's honour?

<A master of defense steps forth and speaks>

HERALD: Is there a Royal Peer to speak to this person's courtesy?

<A royal peer steps forth and speaks>

HERALD: A knight is charged to speak true when they see brave acts. A Companion of the Pelican can speak to dedication and selflessness. A Master of Defense knows of honour and dignity. A royal peer has been our inspiration and received many times the words of peers. It must be fitting then if such noble persons would speak for <CANDIDATE> that

The Four Peer Ceremony

There is a very strong tradition of having three peers speak for a candidate about to be elevated, and now with the creation of the Order of Defense it is now four — these are the other Orders showing support. The origin of the three and four peer ceremony comes from the requirements of Corpora, that state a peer must be well rounded — a knight, for example, should have some practice in the arts, have performed service, and display courteous behaviour.

In Ealdormere, a companion of the Order of the Rose has evolved into a royal peer speaking, and sometimes a variant of additional 'worthies' such as a landed baron and/or baroness, or representative of the populace has been called on to speak.

The important thing about this segment is to show this is not just an award of the Crown, but the candidate is considered a pillar of the community, regardless of which peerage they are joining.

they might well deserve the mantle of the Order of the Laurel.

CROWN: Have you heard your peers? And will you accept the burden before you?

CANDIDATE: Aye.

HERALD: Their Majesties accept the bond of the good noble before them, and would have all know that the <KING> and <QUEEN> observe from Their majesty that those who exhibit continuous faithful service to them, and we are minded to elevate those to special honours with great solemnity.

It is the case of <CANDIDATE> this day to be inducted into The Ancient and Honourable Order of the Laurel to honour your skills and knowledge, to be evermore held as an example to the realm for your achievements past and yet to come.

Shall you give your solemn word to all gathered here, to serve the gentles of Ealdormere in your art, to continue to seek to improve yourself, to benefit and increase our realm and its people as they might enjoy, to ever speak true as a peer of our court, and to give wise counsel where we and others may need councilors. Will you promise to ever strive to the virtues of your order?

CANDIDATE: I will.

CROWN: Are there tokens of the Order?

<Traditionally, the newest laurel comes forth and presents the gold ring of the Order, passed from one laurel to another at their elevation. They present the ring to the Crown, and the Crown places it on the Candidate's finger>

<Another Laurel will present a medallion to the Crown, who will place it on the Candidate's neck.>

<If there is a cloak or mantle, another Laurel will step forth and place it on the Candidate's shoulders, possibly assisted by the Crown.>

CROWN: Take these symbols as a sign of Our trust in you.

<If the candidate has been consulted in advance, and wishes to swear fealty, the following highlighted section should be included.>

CROWN: Will you swear fealty?

CANDIDATE: Aye.

<The sword of state is drawn, and put before the candidate — a herald may be needed to prompt the candidate through the oath of fealty.>

CANDIDATE: I here swear fealty,
To the Crown of the North
With oaths given and received
The labour of my hands,
I pledge to the kingdom
The beauty of the realm,
Is my safekeeping
I lend my hands and my heart,
And this solemn oath
As companions of your Order of the Laurel
Thus swear I, N

CROWN: We hold you to your words

The Laurel Ring

When we became a kingdom, a gold ring inscribed with a laurel wreath was made, and it has been passed to each member of the Order of the Laurel since.

And return these words to you
We shall honour your deeds,
Reward fealty with love,
And service with honor,
As long as we hold Ealdormere's throne.

CROWN: Rise, and greet your Order.

<While the new peer is greeting their Order.>

HERALD: Hear now the writ of Their Majesties!

<Read scroll here.>

HERALD: For Master/Mistress <CANDIDATE>, Wassail!
For the Order of the Laurel, Wassail!
For the Crown, Wassail!

Creation of a Companion of the Pelican

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The Order of the Pelican can use ceremonies based on late-period knighting or the swearing in of parliamentary lords, or other similar civil servants. This default ceremony in particular is also based on Sir Talbot MacTaggart's knighting. It in turn is based on the traditions established in the 13th century poem *L'Ordene de Chevalerie*, William Durand's *Pontifical* (c. 1295), the knighting of Henry IV's 1399 Coronation, the early 15th century book *Tirant lo Blanc* by Sir Joanot Martorel and basic information used in late fourteenth century English knighting ceremonies.

THE VIGIL

HERALD: The good and noble Order of the Pelican is invited before the throne.

PELICAN: Your Majesties, Our Order would fulfill our oaths and lend you advice on this day.

CROWN: What is your word?

PELICAN: It is our solemn belief that <CANDIDATE> has shown himself to be worthy of the accolade of a peer of the realm, and should be invited to join your Order of the Pelican, to serve you faithfully as they have til now.

CROWN: Summon <CANDIDATE> before us.

HERALD: <CANDIDATE> is summoned before the Throne of Ealdormere.

CROWN: Our Order has advised us that it would be a just thing to see you called a Master/Mistress of the Pelican. We charge you to dwell on the virtues of this Order, and present yourself at <EVENT> to come before us. Go, knowing we are pleased.

HERALD: For <CANDIDATE>, Wassail!

THE CEREMONY

HERALD: Their Majesties of Ealdormere charge their Order of the Pelican to present themselves, with <CANDIDATE> before the throne.

CROWN: <CANDIDATE>, have you thought upon the obligation you are about to undertake?

CANDIDATE: Aye.

CROWN: Then hear the words of your Order.

PELICAN #1: The pelican signifies our Order in that it would bleed to feed its young. It would give of itself to see that others may benefit. That is what the Order of the Pelican should ever strive to do. The medallion you will receive is a token of that obligation.

The Pelican Medallion

Our kingdom had a medallion constructed for our kingdom's first Companion of the Order of the Pelican, and it was made by Mistress Eleanor of Cadfan. There was a small accident during construction, and she bled on the medallion — mirroring the symbolism of the Order!

<A pelican medallion is given to Their Majesties who place it around the candidate's neck.>

PELICAN #2: The cloak of our order is a burden, for it shows all the realm what station our Order holds, wherever our Masters and Mistresses may be, and it is our duty to commit no evil that might disgrace our order. A virtuous Master/Mistress of the Pelican should be seen to be sought out when needed. Your cloak you receive is a token of your responsibility.

<A cloak, mantle or similar garment is brought forth and placed around the candidate's shoulders, assisted by Their Majesties>

PELICAN #3: There are no other tokens of this Order, for humility is a virtue that should be held by this Order, for regardless of what station you may hold now or evermore, to be a Master/Mistress of the Pelican is to serve, and be a good servant to your Crown and Kingdom.

CROWN: We would hear of this candidate's virtue from those outside the Order.

HERALD: Is there a Knight of the Order of Chivalry to speak to this person's skills off the field?

<A laurel steps forth and speaks>

HERALD: Is there a Master/Mistress of the Order of the Laurel to speak to this person's service?

<A laurel steps forth and speaks>

HERALD: Is there a Master of the Order of Defense to speak to this person's honour?

<A master of defense steps forth and speaks>

HERALD: Is there a Royal Peer to speak to this person's courtesy?

<A royal peer steps forth and speaks>

HERALD: A knight is charged to speak true when they see brave acts. A laurel knows of skill in hands and mind. A Master of Defense knows of honour and dignity. A royal peer has been our inspiration and received many times the words of peers. It must be fitting then if such noble persons would speak for <CANDIDATE> that they might well deserve the mantle of the Order of the Pelican.

CROWN: Do you still wish the honour and burden of peerage?

CANDIDATE: Aye

HERALD: Master/Mistress <CANDIDATE>, know that the Crown observes from Their majesty that those who exhibit continuous faithful service to Them, and They are minded to elevate those to special honours with great solemnity. It is the case of your person this day to be inducted into the Ancient and Honourable Order of the Pelican to honour your deeds done and services yet to be rendered.

Shall you give your solemn word to serve the realm of Ealdormere in whatever manner you can, to benefit and increase our realm and its people as they might enjoy, to ever speak true as a peer of our court, and to give wise counsel where we and others may need councilors. Will you promise to ever strive to the virtues of your order?

CANDIDATE: I will.

<If the candidate has been consulted in advance, and wishes to swear fealty, the following highlighted section should be included.>

CROWN: Will you swear fealty?

CANDIDATE: Aye.

<The sword of state is drawn, and put before the candidate — a herald may be needed to prompt the candidate through the oath of fealty.>

CANDIDATE: I here swear fealty,
To the Crown of the North
With oaths given and received
I shall serve the realm,
Through word and deed
I shall speak true, And act truer.
I lend my hands and my heart,
And this solemn oath
As companions of your Order of the Pelican
Thus swear I, N

CROWN: We hold you to your words
And return these words to you
We shall honour your deeds,
Reward fealty with love,
And service with honor,
As long as we hold Ealdormere's throne

HERALD: Now hear the writ of Their Majesties:

<Read scroll here.>

HERALD: For Master/Mistress <CANDIDATE>, Wassail! For the Order of the Pelican, Wassail! For the Crown, Wassail!

Creation of a Companion of the Order of Defence

The Order of Defense and its representative culture spreads across many countries and more than one century -- this ceremony is based on language and terminology from Hans Talhoffer's Fechtbuch from 1459, a poem from the 13th century called "L'Ordene de Chavalerie", from William Durand's Pontifical (c.1295), and from the 15th century book Tirant lo Blanc by Sir Joanot Martorel, built around a similar knighting ceremony structure from the 14th century. .

There are many ways to perform a peerage ceremony, and this is only a simple 'default' template that we have used in Ealdormere since we have become a Kingdom. A peerage ceremony should be special, and often should be customized to meet the persona and desires of the candidate.

The Vigil

If there is time between announcing the intent of the Order of Defense and the Crown, and the actual ceremony, the candidate can be put on vigil -- that is, can be told to contemplate the qualities of a peer and present themselves at a later date. The default ceremony is set beside a list field, but may require processing from court to the list, depending on the venue.

HERALD: The good Master/Mistress <ADVOCATE> is called before the throne.

ADVOCATE: Your majesties I beg a boon --- I would ask that <CANDIDATE> be inducted into your Order of Defense.

CROWN: Summon Our Order.

HERALD: The good and noble Order of Defense is invited before the throne.

<The Order of Defense comes forth and kneels around the throne, leaving space for the candidate to be called shortly>

HERALD: Their Majesties seek the counsel of members present of this esteemed Order. The Crown would know if it is your solemn belief that <CANDIDATE> has shown themselves to have skill and honour, and they are a wellspring of your art of the sword, and are worthy of the accolade of a peer of the realm. Should they be invited to join your Order of the Defense, to carry themselves as they must have until this day?

MASTERS: Aye.

CROWN: Summon <CANDIDATE> before us.

HERALD: <CANDIDATE> is summoned before the Throne of Ealdormere.

<The candidate comes forth and kneels before the Crown>

CROWN: (The Crown says something congratulatory and personal to the Candidate)

HERALD: <CANDIDATE>, know that the Order of Defense has advised the Crown, and they have determined by sundry hands in converging ways that it would be a just thing to see you acknowledged a Master/Mistress of the art of the sword and join this Order. The Crown charges you to dwell on the virtues of this Order, and present yourself at a selected time and place to come again before the throne and give your answer.

CROWN: Go now with the Order, and present yourself upon a special place at the list field with <REFEREE> to contemplate the virtues of your Order, and go knowing we are pleased.

HERALD: For <CANDIDATE>, Wassail!

<The crowd cheers in approval>

The candidate, Order, and witnesses gather at a tent is set beside the list field.

HERALD: All pay heed to <NAME>, the Griesvart and judge of this list field. <CANDIDATE> has been called to this place to receive wisdom in the forms of advice and adversaries until such time as he/she is called before the throne to give his/her answer to the accolade of the Order of Defense. Before such time, he/she must be girded with the raiment of their art.

REFEREE: Come forward and learn of the virtues of your Order. Seven nobles come to speak with you and present symbols for you to dwell on in your vigil, to be carried with you today and days to come.

The candidate steps forward.

<PERSON 1>: Receive from my hands this arming coat. This coat shall defend you against harm, as you shall defend all folk high and low to keep their honour and persons intact.

The candidate has the coat placed upon him.

<PERSON 2>: Receive from my hands this gorget. It sits upon you like a shield, and symbolizes your heart that should shine brightly and stand undiminished in times of peace and war as a beacon to yourself and others.

The candidate has the gorget placed upon him.

<PERSON 3>: Receive from my hands this scarf. It is white and represents honour, to be worn without fear, even though like this scarf honour can be a fragile thing, and might become worn and be undergo hardship by the trials before you.

The candidate has the scarf tied to his arm.

<PERSON 4>: Receive from my hands these gloves. You receive not one but two, a matched set -- one to be kept in remembrance of this day, and another to pass on to the one who comes after you, a symbol of your Order and your lineage, your fraternity and bond to those who will stand in your Order with you.

The candidate has the gloves placed on his hands.

<PERSON 5>: Receive from my hands this helm. The helm is shown upon armory and achievements as a symbol of nobility, and whether it is worn or kept for times of combat, it should remind you to carry yourself with nobility, and treat others as a good noble ought.

The candidate has the helm placed upon him.

<PERSON 6>: Receive from my hands this sword. It is your sword, well used and has seen much combat. It represents skill, the skill you have displayed till now, and the path before you to ever improve and refine your talents on the field and off.

The candidate receives his sword, ready to do combat.

<PERSON 7>: Receive from the rest of us here gathered our words. It is we, your witnesses, who support you in the endeavour you may undertake with an oath to the Crown and the symbols of peerage. We shall speak to you on this, and remember our faces and voices this day, the first day on your new path.

All gathered here, do you bear witness to <CANDIDATE>?

The crowd says 'aye'!

REFEREE: <CANDIDATE>, you are now prepared for combat upon the list, or you might take your rest in this spot set for you, to receive the wisdom of your friends and peers. Are you prepared to undertake this trial?

CANDIDATE: Aye.

REFEREE: Then let the vigil commence. Take your place in your spot of contemplation, and I shall array your witnesses and guests to come to you.

The candidate retreats to his tent, and the Griesvart arranges for visitors to either offer advice or take to the field. Traditionally, the Crown shall be the first to visit the vigilant, followed by the Prince and Princess, and then all others.

THE CEREMONY

At the time the candidate is to be elevated, they are called forth -- if there was no vigil, this ceremony can be used as a complete process without the preceding step of a vigil, using the highlighted optional yellow section.

HERALD: The good Master <ADVOCATE> is called before the throne.

ADVOCATE: Your majesties I beg a boon --- I would ask that <CANDIDATE> be inducted into your Order of Defense.

CROWN: Summon Our Order.

HERALD: Their Majesties of Ealdormere charge their Order of Defense to present themselves.

<The Order of Defense comes forth and kneels around the throne, leaving space for the candidate to be called shortly>

CROWN: What is your will?

<Either a member of The Order of Defense re-begs the boon, or they speak of the vigil of the candidate being successfully completed >

CROWN: Summon the Candidate

HERALD: <CANDIDATE> is summoned before the Throne.

<The candidate comes forth and kneels before the Crown, surrounded by the Order of Defense>

CROWN: Who will speak to this man/woman's virtues?

<a chosen knight shall speak>

<a chosen Laurel shall speak>

<a chosen Pelican shall speak>

<a chosen royal peer shall speak>

HERALD: A knight is charged to speak true what he sees. A Companion of the Pelican is charged to know of what they speak. A Companion of the Laurel knows much of skill and dedication. A royal lady has been our inspiration and received many times the words of peers. A noble lady who has given this man her favour to bear knows well his worth and has spoken of it. It must be fitting then if such noble persons would speak for <CANDIDATE> that he might well deserve the mantle of the Order of Defense.

CROWN: Have you heard your peers? And will you accept the burden before you?

CANDIDATE: Aye.

HERALD: Their Majesties accept the bond of the good noble before them, and would have all know that <KING> and <QUEEN> observe from Their majesty that those who exhibit continuous faithful service to them, and we are minded to elevate those to special honours with great solemnity.

It is the case of <CANDIDATE> this day to be inducted into The Noble Order of Defense to honour your skills and knowledge, to be evermore held as an example to the realm for your achievements past and yet to come.

Shall you give your solemn word to all gathered here, to uphold the deals of the Kingdom of Ealdormere, to act with nobility and offer every courtesy possible, to share your skill and knowledge on and off the field with students or armigers, to bring iron-point to bear when needed, and defend the honour of the Crown by blade and word? Will you promise to ever be strong and set yourself aright?

CANDIDATE: I will.

CROWN: Are there symbols of the Order?

<Three Masters of Defense step forward >

<MASTER 1>: There are, your majesty -- the first is a sword, to take up so you might fight earnestly, and know your lineage, as this blade will be passed on.

<Master passes the sword to the Crown, who gird it on the Candidate >

<MASTER 2>: Our Order is not just about swordplay. You will take this knotted cord, as it represents strength and an ever-winding path that brings you here, and carries you forward. It represents your obligations, and your binding of yourself to your craft and the ideals we hold dear.

<Master passes the knotted cord to the Crown, who put it on the Candidate's belt>

<MASTER 3>: Lastly, there is the collar of our Order, and garters, so you will be known to speak for truth and bravery, and be bound to your duty from this day forward.

<Master passes the collar to the Crown, who place it around the Candidate's neck>

CROWN: Take these symbols as a sign of Our trust in you.

<If the candidate has been consulted in advance, and wishes to swear fealty, the following highlighted section should be included>

CROWN: Will you swear fealty?

CANDIDATE: Aye.

<The sword of state is drawn, and put before the candidate -- a herald may be needed to prompt the candidate through the oath of fealty>

CANDIDATE: I here swear fealty,
To the Crown of Ealdormere
On my honour I vow
To keep a noble and kind heart
To uphold integrity and skill
Be ever generous in mercy and knowledge
Defending the honour of the Crown
And all we hold dear
I pledge my blade and heart,
Thus swear I, N

CROWN: We hold you to your words
And return these words to you
We shall honour your deeds,
Reward fealty with love,
And service with honor,
As long as we hold Ealdormere's throne.

CROWN: Rise, and greet your Order.

<While the new peer is greeting their Order>

HERALD: Hear now the writ of Their Majesties!

<read scroll here>

HERALD: For Master/Mistress <CANDIDATE>, Wassail!
For the Order of Defense, Wassail!
For the Crown, Wassail!

<the crowd cheers, and the new peer and the Order retreat>

Creation of a Lady of the Rose

The Order of the Rose is an often overlooked peerage Order. Like the other Orders in many kingdoms, it is a polling order, however in Ealdormere it has been decided that all former consorts completing their reign successfully will be included in the Order of the Rose, and as a result membership in the Order does not carry precedence of itself, although all its members are Countesses or Duchesses.

Given the small number of gentlemen who serve as consort, all terms in this ceremony are in the female gender. This can be changed for any Lord of the Rose that might exist in future.

Please note that this ceremony traditionally follows immediately after acknowledging the former royal couple as a Count and Countess.

HERALD: Her Majesty invites those members of the Order of the Rose to present themselves in her court

<The Order of the Rose approach the thrones and stand to one side from the royal presence.>

HERALD: Her Majesty now invites Countess N (or Count N) into her presence.

<The newly made Count/ess approaches. >

HERALD: From all Kingdoms of the Knowne World, those that have been Royal Consort in our Society, have stood together within the Rose's Order. Having reigned as Queen (or Royal Consort) of Ealdormere, Count/ess <NAME>, has been the Inspiration of both Our People and Her (His) Champion. She(He) has shown herself (himself) not only to be a figure of inspiration, but she (he) has undergone trials and responsibilities that few will ever know.

Therefore, it is the desire of Her Majesty to have all here witness Our welcoming Count/ess <NAME> into the Most Noble Order of the Rose. She (he) shall have the most solemn duty of being the guardian of chivalrous and courteous behaviour within the realm from this day forth.

QUEEN: Be as you have been. Leading by example, and the image of Grace and Beauty. (or that title which the consort has chosen to use during their reign)

<Personal comments added by Her Majesty. Any token of the Order may be bestowed now. There is not usually a scroll for the Order, as the recipient has likely received a County scroll just now.>

HERALD: For Count/ess <NAME>, Lady/Lord of the Rose, Wassail!

Acknowledgement of a Count or Countess

Counts and Countesses are not created, they are acknowledged. Upon the completion of a successful reign, a former King or Queen becomes a Count or Countess by default, ceremony or no. However, a ceremony to acknowledge their new station as a member of the royal peerage is a good thing. This ceremony can be done on Coronation day or any day thereafter, as convenient to the Crown and the former royalty.

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In Ealdormere, patents are given to all royal peerage automatically, and all Countesses become a Lady of the Rose. The patent is included in this ceremony, and the Rose ceremony should follow in the same court.

The text within {brackets} is for a joint ceremony involving a Count and Countess. Otherwise, simply omit the joint text for a single acknowledgement.

HERALD: Their Majesties of Ealdormere invite COUNT N {and COUNTESS N} to attend their thrones in this court.

<COUNT N and COUNTESS N present themselves.>

Their Majesties greet their Nobles, Peers, Lords, Ladies, Officers by Letters Warrant, Gentlefolk, Vassals, and other faithful subjects to whom these words are received, greetings!

Know that we observe from our majesty those who have exhibited faithful service to Us and Our realm, especially in matters which touch on Our prerogative, We proceed to elevate to special honours with great liberality. And this is especially the case with those of noble memory and virtue as demonstrated by clear evidence in the recent past, as well as with their intrinsic merit. We now act in order that virtue be strengthened and many people be led to upright acts.

Therefore, considering our most dear cousin{s} COUNT {and COUNTESS}, and the service which {he/she/they} have faithfully rendered Ealdormere, and the way in which they have devoted their person to our realm in these times, and that they should continue to act thus in future, We act so that Our lofty prerogative shines to honour {him/her/them}.

By Our grace in our present court COUNT {and COUNTESS}, our {kinsman/kinfolk/cousins}, shall be acknowledged and assigned the name and title of Count {and Countess}, and {he/she/they} shall be invested with the coronet of gold embattled with their rank, and they shall have a place in our court and council and other gatherings over all other nobles of the realm.

We give and concede by Us and Our heirs, as is in Our power, to the aforesaid COUNT {and COUNTESS} their tokens of rank and position, to be received from us this day forward. They are to have to hold this estate in perpetuity. Let this act be witnessed by our councilors the Seneschals of Law, and declared by our Herald this day.

<Coronets and Regalia are bestowed, hopefully by the Crown allowing the Count to once again bestow a circlet on his lady.>

HERALD: For {His/Her/Their} Excellencies, COUNT N {and COUNTESS N}, Wassail!

(Based on "Reports from the Lords Committees Touching the Dignity of a Peer of the Realm", London: 1829, Volume V: 235 as cited in Nobles and the Noble Life by Joel T. Rosenthal)

Acknowledgement of a Duke or Duchess

s Counts and Countesses are recognized, so are Dukes or Duchesses after completion of a second successful reign. This ceremony acknowledges their highest station, typically on Coronation day, or any day thereafter as is convenient to the new Crown and former royalty.

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HERALD: Their Majesties of Ealdormere invite DUKE N {and DUCHESS N} to attend their thrones in this court.

<DUKE N and DUCHESS N present themselves.>

HERALD: Their Majesties greet their most noble Cousin{s} DUKE N {and DUCHESS N} on this Coronation Day, and offer their most heartfelt greetings!

Know that Their Majesties hold <DUKE> and <DUCHESS> in the highest regard, for twice has a man been inspired to show feats of valour above all others, twice has that valour prevailed, and twice have you both known the burden of the Crown and the duty of the throne.

It is only fitting that DUKE and DUCHESS are acknowledged in this court today for such acts as a Duke {and Duchess} of Ealdormere. You shall know no higher title. You shall receive no greater coronet of rank than this golden one of strawberry leaves. You shall have your place in our realm assured from this day on. We shall await your counsel as Royal Peers of the realm. We shall uphold you to be pillars of example upon whom this kingdom rests.

CROWN: We do this, because it is right and fitting and just, and we know your worth. Let all Our realm know this worth for all days

<Read scroll here.>

<Coronets and Regalia are bestowed, hopefully by the Crown allowing the Duke to once again bestow a circlet on his lady.>

HERALD: For {His/Her/Their} Graces, DUKE N {and DUCHESS N}, Wassail!

Invocation of the Crown Lists

t Crown Tournaments, there are a number of small ceremonies to be observed. At the beginning of the day a court is opened and left open, because the tournament is an official piece of business, so everything that happens in the tournament is during 'a court'.

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Because it is a solemn and serious day, there are a number of traditional observances to be made — the Processional, the Invocation of the Lists, the declaration of the winning combatant and consort, and the investiture of the new Prince and Princess.

THE PROCESSIONAL

At the beginning of Crown Tournament, the combatants and consorts are traditionally lined up order of Precedence (by the highest ranking member of the couple), and presented to the Crown. Often the Crown will let each couple speak, often the combatant advising everyone present of the inspiration their consort bestows upon them, or bestows best wishes the other couples and the Crown for their momentous day. Typically, this works best with two heralds, one running court and the other standing with the procession to announce couples.

HERALD 1: Herein opens the court of Their Lupine Majesties, <KING> and <QUEEN> and begins the solemn occasion of the Crown tournament to decide their heirs and secure the line of the north!

CROWN: <says something congratulatory to all assembled>

HERALD 1: Let the combatants and consorts arrayed here today present themselves to the Crown and make their intentions known.

<The processional line is announced once couple at a time.>

HERALD 2: Your Majesties, may I please present to you <COMBATTANT> and <CONSORT>

<Each consort comes forth and kneels before the Crown — private words are often exchanged, and the combatant usually is given permission to address the populace, extol the virtues of their consort, and then step aside. Each couple presents one at a time.>

<When everyone has presented the invocation of the list may begin.>

INVOCATION OF THE ROYAL LIST

HERALD 1: Your Majesties, these are the combattants and consorts in your Crown Tournament. Shall you give the word to the Earl Marshall and Kingdom Seneschal to make their requirements known?

CROWN: <Says something affirmative>

HERALD 1: Their Majesties call forth all participants of this tournament to heed the words of the Seneschal and Marshall.

Titles and Honorifics

Titles can take many forms, but there is a way to announce folks without 'title stacking'. Calling forth "Duke Sir Master Master Finnvarr and Countess Mistress Mistress Ragni" does not sound as formal as "His Grace, Sir Finnvarr de Taahe, Duke of the Midrealm, Master of the Laurel, Master of the Pelican fighting for the Honour of Her Excellency Ragni Dzintara, Countess of Ealdormere, Mistress of the Laurel, Mistress of the Pelican". There are many ways to do this, but Honourific Name, award, award works well.

<All participants kneel before the Crown again as a group. The Kingdom Seneschal steps forth and speaks.>

SENESCHAL: Good nobles, do each of you give your word to the Crown that both you and your consort satisfy all the requirements set forth by the Law to participate in this list?

<The participants answer affirmatively.>

MARSHALL: Combatants, have you all read and do you understand the Rules of the Lists and the conventions of chivalric combat for the realm? Will you swear to conduct yourself with chivalry and honour as befits your consort?

<The participants answer affirmatively.>

HERALD 1: Good nobles, you have observed the rites of the Law and the List. Know that your consort shall watch over you this day, and they shall inspire you as they represent Honour, Truth, and Love. The Crown knows that you will conduct yourselves nobly as befits this solemn tourney to determine the Crown's Heirs and Future, not just today for the realm, but always and in all things as your consort deserves.

By your valour, you will advance the favour you bear. By victory you shall declare the name of your Consort for all to know, and you shall serve the Kingdom by bearing the weight of the Crown. Through inspiration one noble here shall earn for another the Honour of the Kingdom of Ealdormere. Do you swear to the Crown to act with honour this day?

<The participants answer affirmatively.>

KING: *<Says something inspirational about fighting with honour, or something similar.>*

QUEEN: *<Says something inspirational about bearing favours of their consorts.>*

KING: Let the tourney commence! Go prepare yourselves.

HERALD 1: For the combatants and consorts of this Crown List! Wassail!

<The crowd Wassails.>

Creation of the Crown Prince & Princess

After the final bouts of Crown Tournament have been fought and there is a clear winner, the tournament immediately segues into the creation of the Crown Prince and Princess. Often the combatant and consort know to present themselves before the thrones and kneel, and the whole affair doesn't need a heavily scripted event, but here is a ceremony guideline just in case someone wants or needs it.

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HERALD: Your Majesties, your victors this day are <COMBATANT> and <CONSORT>. Would you have words with them?

CROWN: <Says something commanding to the herald.>

HERALD: <COMBATANT> and <CONSORT>, present yourselves to the Crown, the Marshall and the Seneschal of the Realm.

<The couple kneels before the Crown and the Seneschal and Marshall approach and stand to one side.>

HERALD: Marshall, what say you?

MARSHALL: Your Majesties, I have witnessed your tournament and can state in good faith that <CONSORT> did inspire <COMBATANT> to achieve victory in the Royal List.

HERALD: Seneschal, what say you?

SENECHAL: I can swear that these nobles are the victors in your tournament and have met the requirements of Law to serve as your Heirs if you would make it so.

CROWN: <Thanks the Marshall and Seneschal for their service today and gives them leave to depart.>

HERALD: Know all assembled here today that you stand witness to a Tournament fought in the name of the Line of the North, and the victors of this tournament shall now be offered the burden of serving as Heirs.

KING: <Takes the Heirs Coronet and places it on the head of the combatant, saying something congratulatory such as you "Your have won Our tournament today, take this coronet as a sign of your prowess and chivalry".>

QUEEN: <Takes the Heirs Coronet and gives it to the victor to place upon his consort's head, saying something congratulatory such as "As you have borne this lady's favour well today, may your bestow this Coronet in return, so all know the inspiration she brings you".>

<The combatant stands and places the coronet on their consort, saying something inspirational.>

CROWN: As you will now serve the realm, swear fealty as our Crown Prince and Princess.

<The Crown typically unsheathes the sword of state, and holds it before them, point down. The victors kneeling before them touch the hilt of the sword.>

HEIRS: I here swear fealty

To serve the Crown of the North
To attend your court,
To heed your wisdom,
And learn what it is
To bear the weight of the Crown
And serve the realm.
Thus swear I, N.

CROWN: Your homage we accept,
So let it be repaid in kind.
We shall honour your deeds
And heed your words
Rewarding fealty with love
Service with honour
And truth with justice.

<The Heirs rise and stand beside the Crown or take their thrones sitting beside the King and Queen's..>

CROWN: *<Potentially says something about the tournament or their heirs>*

HERALD: Let it be told by all here present, word be carried to all corners of the kingdom, and written down in the Histories of Ealdormere that the Heirs to <KING> and <QUEEN> were by law and right of arms and inspiration <HEIR> and <CONSORT> this day!

There being no further business, this court is prorogued. All rise!

For the Prince and Princess of Ealdormere, <VICTOR> and <CONSORT>, Wassail!
For the Crown of Ealdormere, Wassail!
For the Line of the North, Wassail!

Evening Court

Traditionally, Crown Tournament usually has a morning or early afternoon court, which is the invocation of the list and the creation of the Crown Prince and Princess. Usually, after the heirs have had time to dress, and be brought up to speed with any meetings of the day, an evening court is held either before or after feast, where awards are given and other standard business is held. This can of course change at the wishes of the Crown.

Coronation Ceremony

Most Coronation ceremonies are custom written for the incoming royalty, but on occasion, the default ceremony below can be used — it maintains the minimum requirements for a coronation, being the passing of the crowns, confirmation of the right to rule by Great Officers of the Privy Council, and the swearing of fealties of the various estates of the kingdom.

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— this person could also serve as the “prompter” during the Oaths of Fealty.

It is well advised that a number of heralds be available for the Coronation Ceremony. The herald is required to do the lion's share of the lines within the ceremony so it may be advisable to split the ceremony between two or even three heralds. As well, it would be well advised to have a herald or assistant to help direct “traffic” at the back of the hall, for the procession of the Crown Prince and Princess and one at the “front” of Court to assist in directing “traffic” before the thrones

Their Majesties' Final Court proceeds as normal through the dismissal of their Champions and retinue. It is at this point that the Herald begins the Coronation Ceremony:

HERALD: On the ____ day of _____ Anno Societatis ____ the Kingdom of Ealdormere did hold a Crown Tournament in _____ to determine who would succeed to the Crowns and Thrones of Ealdormere.

_____ was the victor on the field that day, and he is in court today to press his claim.

KING: Let him approach.

HERALD: Their Majesties would invite <CROWN PRINCE> into Their Court.

<The Crown Prince enters with his attendants, and stands before the thrones.>

KING: Why have you come into Our court?

CROWN PRINCE: To claim what is mine, by right of arms and the laws and customs of this land.

QUEEN: Do you make this claim only for yourself?

CROWN PRINCE: I claim it also for my lady, <CROWN PRINCESS>.

KING: Then let her join you here.

HERALD: Their Majesties would invite <CROWN PRINCESS> into Their Court.

<The Crown Princess enters with her attendants.>

KING: We have heard your claims.

HERALD: Does anyone here stand to support these claims?

<Earl Marshal (or Marshal-in-Charge of Crown Tourney) approaches.>

MARSHAL: Yes I do, my liege. I have witnessed your tourney, and can state in good faith that <CROWN PRINCESS> inspired <CROWN PRINCE> to achieve victory in the List.

The Kingdom Seneschal approaches

SENESCHAL: Your Majesty, the good Prince is within his right, and today has been confirmed as his Coronation Day.

As an additional bit of theatre a Knight of the Realm or the combatant from the finals of Crown Tourney may approach and support the claim thusly:

KNIGHT (or other combatant): I, _____, declare the justice of <CROWN PRINCE>'s claim.

Throwing a gauntlet to the floor he continues:

KNIGHT (or other combatant): Does anyone here challenge his right to ascend the Throne of Ealdormere?

<pause for effect>

HERALD: Your Majesty, <CROWN PRINCE> has been confirmed as Your rightful heir and this is the day that has been confirmed as his Coronation Day.

CROWN: We acknowledge your claim. Step forward.

HERALD: Do you, <CROWN PRINCE>, before your King and Queen, and witnessed by The Peers and Nobility of Ealdormere, relinquish your title as Crown Prince of the realm, and accept the burden of the Crown?

HEIR: Aye.

HERALD: Then know what you accept. You shall not be an all-powerful lord. You have a duty to govern this realm. You must bear the burdens of the people, and strike the mightiest blows, ever foremost on and off the field, and never can you admit defeat or retreat from the foe. You shall not have the common joys of living, and no freedom to indulge in personal affairs — you must set those aside until your Heirs succeed you. You shall rule Ealdormere, protecting it and serving it and loving it. You shall represent every man woman and child that lives within your lands.

CROWN: Do you still accept the burden of the Crown?

HEIR: Aye.

CROWN: Take this crown as a symbol of your rule over the realm. Take this sword as a symbol of justice and your honour in this Kingdom.

HERALD: People of Ealdormere, behold your new King!

<The nobles of the court Wassail!>

HERALD: (addressing the Crown Princess): <CROWN PRINCESS>, will you, before The Peers and Nobility of Ealdormere, relinquish your title as Crown Princess of the realm, and accept the burden of the Crown?

HEIRESS: Aye.

HERALD: Then know what you accept. You shall not be an all-powerful lady. You have a duty to govern the realm and share the burden of your King. You are the host of the realm, and must make all feel welcome who come to your halls. You shall not have the common joys of living, and no freedom to indulge in personal affairs — you must set those aside until your Heirs succeed you. You shall rule Ealdormere, protecting it and serving it and loving it. You shall represent every man woman and child that lives within your lands.

QUEEN: Do you still accept this burden?

HEIRESS: Aye.

QUEEN: Then take this crown as a symbol of your rule over the realm. Take this scepter as a symbol of justice and your honour in this Kingdom.

HERALD: People of Ealdormere, behold your queen!

NEW KING AND QUEEN: Our thanks to you <OLD KING AND OLD QUEEN> for keeping the realm so well. You have our leave to depart.

HERALD: People of Ealdormere, be upstanding for <OLD KING & QUEEN>!

For < KING & QUEEN >! Wassail!
For <OLD KING & QUEEN >! Wassail!
For Ealdormere! Wassail!

<pause for cheers and applause>

NOTE: The following order for the fealties is based upon the following "order" — first — Protect the Kingdom by having the Knights swear; second — Secure the land by having the landed Barons and Baroness swear; third — Secure the "administration" of the Kingdom by having the members of the Privy Council swear — beyond that, those swearing fealty are done in order of precedence (beginning with the Royal Peers). This order, like this ceremony, is simply a "suggested" order and the incoming Crown are free to follow whatever order they wish — although the Knights, the Landed Barons and Baronesses and the Privy Council MUST be called to swear fealty.

HERALD: As a knight swears fealty to the Crown when the honor is received, so is that fealty renewed for each reign. Therefore, let all Knights of the Realm come forth before the Throne together with those Masters-at-Arms who wish to swear fealty.

<The Crown typically unsheathes the sword of state, and holds it before them, point down. The members of the Chivalry come forth and touch the hilt of the sword, or the shoulders of those who are closer. Many choose to drape their chains over the sword of state or take them off during the oath.>

CHIVALRY: I here swear fealty and do homage,
To the Crown of Ealdormere
To ever be a good Knight and true,
Reverent and generous,
Shield of the weak,
Obedient to my liege-lord and lady,
Foremost in battle,
Courteous at all times,
Champion of the right and the good,
Thus swear I, N.

CROWN: We hold you to your words
And return these words to you
We shall honour your deeds,
Reward fealty with love,
And service with honor,
As long as we hold Ealdormere's throne.

<The Crown will often thank the members of the Chivalry and sheathe the sword of state. Often the Order will offer their chains to the Queen to place on their necks as a symbol they have renewed their fealty.>

HERALD: Let those who hold lands of the Crown as Baron & Baroness come now to swear fealty.

<The Crown typically unsheathes the sword of state, and holds it before them, point down. The territorial barons and baronesses come forth and touch the hilt of the sword, or the shoulders of those who are closer.>

BARON/ESS: I here swear fealty and homage,
To the Crown of the North
With oaths given and received
To be your vassal, and hold your land
To have your people prosper,
And benefit the realm
To lead in honour,
And bestow honour as is due
Thus do I swear,
As the Barons and Baronesses of X

CROWN: We hold you to your words
And return these words to you
We shall honour your deeds,
Reward fealty with love,
And service with honor,
As long as we hold Ealdormere's throne.

<The Crown will often thank their barons and baronesses and sheathe the sword of state. The barons and baronesses will then typically bow and excuse themselves from the royal presence.>

HERALD: Let all the Greater Kingdom Officers of Ealdormere come before Their Majesties to swear fealty.

<The Crown typically unsheathes the sword of state, and holds it before them, point down. The members of the Privy Council come forth and touch the hilt of the sword, or the shoulders of those who are closer.>

OFFICERS: I here swear fealty (service),
To the Crown of the North
To sit your council, and offer my voice
I shall lend my service freely,
And offer you truth without fear
And hold my office,
For the good of the realm
Thus swear I, N

CROWN: We hold you to your words
And return these words to you
We shall honour your deeds,
Reward fealty with love,
And service with honor,
As long as we hold Ealdormere's throne.

<The Crown will often thank the members of the Privy Council and sheathe the sword of state. The Officers will then typically bow and excuse themselves from the royal presence.>

HERALD: Their Majesties would now invite forth those Royal Peers wishing to swear fealty.

<The Crown typically unsheathes the sword of state, and holds it before them, point down. The royal peers come forth and touch the hilt of the sword, or the shoulders of those who are closer.>

ROYAL PEER: I here swear fealty,
To the Crown of the North
With oaths given and received
As I have been served,
So may I serve.

As I have held trust,
May I be trustworthy
As I hold great station,
May it be for good cause,
In service to the glory of Ealdormere
Thus swear I, N

CROWN: We hold you to your words
And return these words to you
We shall honour your deeds,
Reward fealty with love,
And service with honor,
As long as we hold Ealdormere's throne.

<The Crown will often thank the royal peers and sheathe the sword of state. The royal peers will then typically bow and excuse themselves from the royal presence.>

HERALD: Those members of the Order of the Pelican, whose Service is recognized as an example to all are invited to come forward and swear fealty to the Crown of Ealdormere.

<The Crown typically unsheathes the sword of state, and holds it before them, point down. The members of the Pelican come forth and touch the hilt of the sword, or the shoulders of those who are closer.>

PELICANS: I here swear fealty,
To the Crown of the North
With oaths given and received
I shall serve the realm,
Through word and deed
I shall speak true, And act truer.
I lend my hands and my heart,
And this solemn oath
As companions of your Order of the Pelican
Thus swear I, N

CROWN: We hold you to your words
And return these words to you
We shall honour your deeds,
Reward fealty with love,
And service with honor,
As long as we hold Ealdormere's throne

<The Crown will often thank the members of the Order of the Pelican and sheathe the sword of state. The peers will then typically bow and excuse themselves from the royal presence.>

HERALD: Their Majesties also call those Teachers of the Order of the Laurel who would offer fealty to the Crown, join your fellows of the Peerage of Ealdormere in pledging to the Crown.

<The Crown typically unsheathes the sword of state, and holds it before them, point down. The members of the Laurel come forth and touch the hilt of the sword, or the shoulders of those who are closer.>

LAURELS: I here swear fealty,
To the Crown of the North
With oaths given and received
The labour of my hands,
I pledge to the kingdom
The beauty of the realm,

Is my safekeeping
I lend my hands and my heart,
And this solemn oath
As companions of your Order of the Laurel
Thus swear I, N

CROWN: We hold you to your words
And return these words to you
We shall honour your deeds,
Reward fealty with love,
And service with honor,
As long as we hold Ealdormere's throne.

<The Crown will often thank the members of the Order of the Laurel and sheathe the sword of state. The peers will then typically bow and excuse themselves from the royal presence.>

HERALD: Those members of the Order of Defense, who wish to swear fealty and pledge their blades to the Crown to come forth and present themselves before the thrones.

<The Crown typically unsheathes the sword of state, and holds it before them, point down. The members of the Order of Defense come forth and touch the hilt of the sword, or the shoulders of those who are closer.>

CANDIDATE: I here swear fealty,
To the Crown of Ealdormere
On my honour I vow
To keep a noble and kind heart
To uphold integrity and skill
Be ever generous in mercy and knowledge
Defending the honour of the Crown
And all we hold dear
I pledge my blade and heart,
Thus swear I, N

CROWN: We hold you to your words
And return these words to you
We shall honour your deeds,
Reward fealty with love,
And service with honor,
As long as we hold Ealdormere's throne.

<The Crown will often thank the members of the Order of Defense and sheathe the sword of state. The peers will then typically bow and excuse themselves from the royal presence.>

HERALD: Their Majesties now call upon those people of the Kingdom who wish to pledge their support and allegiance to the Crown of Ealdormere

<The Crown typically unsheathes the sword of state, and holds it before them, point down. The populace come forth and touch the hilt of the sword, or the shoulders of those who are closer.>

POPULACE: I here swear fealty,
To the Crown of the North
I shall serve the realm,
As best I can
I shall follow the banner,

Notes for the Herald

Traditionally the populace are invited forth to swear fealty at each Coronation. However, if a member of the populace asks at another event to swear fealty, and the Crown agrees, it should be added to the court list.

When calling the populace, give them time to assemble in front of the Crown before starting the oath.

As you lead the populace in an oath of fealty, speak one line at a time in a clear voice just loud enough for the populace assembled with the Crown to hear you, and speak their response.

And honour my King
I shall attend the throne,
And love my Queen
The laws I uphold,
The traditions I honour
I serve Ealdormere,
Thus swear I, N

CROWN: We hold you to your words
And return these words to you
We shall honour your deeds,
Reward fealty with love,
And service with honor,
As long as we hold Ealdormere's throne.

<The Crown will often thank the populace and sheathe the sword of state. There is not usually a Wassail called for, and the herald moves on to the next piece of business.>

<The newly invested royalty now conduct any other business they have, or invest champions as needed. When their court is complete court is closed as normal.>

APPENDIX I — HISTORICAL TEXTS

Hastings & Montfort Indenture for Service, 1469

This indenture, made the 22nd day of November, the 9th year of the reign of King Edward IV, between William, Lord Hastings, on the one part, and his entirely beloved cousin, Sir Simon Montfort, knight, on the other part, witnesses that the said Sir Simon of his mere motion and free will grants and by these presents faithfully promises for term of his life to be retained and bound with the said lord as his servant; and his full part and quarrel to take against all others during the said term, the allegiance of the said Sir Simon only excepted and reserved; and over that the said Sir Simon grants and promises to be ready at all times and places within this realm of England to attend upon the said lord, or wherever as he shall by the said lord be appointed by his writing or commandment, as well in time of peace as war, upon reasonable warning accompanied with such people as thereto shall be required and as accords to the duties that the said Sir Simon is of, or shall be called unto.

And in consideration of the premises the said lord accepts and takes the said Sir Simon according to his desire and promises him to be his good and faithful lord and to aid, assist, comfort, and fortify him in all lawful and reasonable causes as a lord ought to do. And moreover the said lord grants by these presents to pay and satisfy the reasonable expenses of the said Sir Simon and company so labouring with him in time of war or otherwise, coming to the said lord by his commandment or writing. And the same Sir Simon promises again to the said lord upon his faith and honour of station to perform the premises and do the same and every part of them, never in his life to attempt the contrary.

In witness whereof to the one part of these indentures remaining with the said lord the said Sir Simon has set his seal and sign manual, and the said lord to the other part of these indentures remaining with the said Sir Simon has set his seal and sign manual thereto, the 22nd day of November, the said 9th year of the reign of our said sovereign lord, King Edward IV.

This contract, an indenture for service, is taken from W. H. Dunham's Lord Hastings' Indentured Retainers, 1461-1483 (New Haven, 1955) as cited in Historical Problems: Studies and Documents, Nobles and the Noble Life, 1295-1500, by Joel T. Rosenthal, (New York: Harper & Row, 1976), ISBN: 0 04 942139 5

Creation of a Viscount (1440)

from Reports from the Lords Committees Touching the Dignity of a Peer of the Realm (London, 1829) Volume V: 235 as cited in Nobles and the Noble Life by Joel T. Rosenthal

The king to the archbishops, bishops, abbots, priors, dukes, earls, barons, justices, sheriffs, reeves, bailiffs and his other faithful to whom this comes, etc. Greetings.

Know that we observe from our majesty that those who exhibit continuous faithful service to us, especially in those matters which touch on our prerogative we proceed to elevate to special honours with great liberality. And this is especially the case with those whose progenitors were of noble memory and whose virtues were demonstrated by clear evidence in the past, as well as with their intrinsic merit. We now act in order that virtue be strengthened and many people be led to upright acts.

Therefore, considering the noble progenitors of our most dear cousin John, lord of Beaumont, and the service which his parents faithfully rendered to our ancestors, and the way in which he has laudably and faithfully devoted himself to our service in these times, and that he should continue to act thus in the future, we act so that our lofty prerogative shines to honour him.

By our grace in our present parliament the aforesaid John, lord of Beaumont, our kinsman, and his male heirs begotten of his body, shall be assigned the name of Viscount Beaumont, and he shall be invested with the rank of Viscount Beaumont, and he shall have a place in our parliament and councils and other gatherings over all barons of the realm. And we assign this in as much as it will especially adorn him when he stands in the aforesaid status of viscount, according to our accustomed liberality.

We give and concede by us and our heirs, as is in our power, to the aforesaid John and his heirs with his name, rank, and position: 20 marks, to be received annually by him and his heirs begotten of his body, from the profits of the farm of the county of Lincoln, paid by the hand of the sheriff of that county, whoever he shall be, by equal portions at the terms of Easter and St. Michael. He is to have to hold, for him and his heirs in perpetuity, the aforesaid name, insignia, position, and 20 marks, notwithstanding other gifts or concessions made to the same John by us in a previous time, according to the form of this edict, made and enrolled in this present form and all others notwithstanding.

In which thing, etc.

*Witnessed by the king at Reading,
12th day of February.
By writ of privy seal.*