

West Kingdom Royalty Handbook

Originally Edited by Duke John of Skye
and Duchess Gabriel of Greenwood

Currently Edited by Mistress Norinna O'Shaughnessy, OP

DEAR CROWN PRINCE AND CROWN PRINCESS:

PLEASE READ THE SECTION ENTITLED AFTER WINNING THE CROWN
TOURNAMENT, BEFORE YOU LEAVE THE SITE ON PAGE 7.

A note from the editors:

Many thanks to those who commented on the draft of this book and to those still yet to contribute. If you would like to contribute, don't be shy, add your point of view. Contact details are in the Introduction.

You'll notice some empty spaces. While some sections have been assigned, others are waiting for someone to take on the challenge. Let us know if you feel up to it.

This book will always be in a state of revision. Please contribute to its evolution!

John & Gabriel & Norinna

Ninth Edition, March 2003

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JOB DESCRIPTION FOR THE KING AND QUEEN OF THE WEST

Be everything that each one of your subjects expects a King and Queen to be.

This is an impossible mission, but it's something to think about.

CONSEQUENTIA

Oh, look to kings for counsel, look to queens to guide
Who otherwise are no different, but 'neath a crown abide.
By chivalry decided, a Coronet I hold
Thrice promised I by honor, this realm all to uphold.

Uncertain of bright outcome - thoughts girded for the fray
Far more than ceremony is asked of Crowns this day.
Figurehead or focus: as sovereign, made indeed
The people choose to follow, & I must needs then lead.

A sword quicksilver tempered: the people's trust & will
That to the Crown is offer'd, stern hope all to fulfill -
That blade beneath my fingers would turn & pierce my heart
If I forswear my speaking, or e'er from honor part.

An oath not lightly given; thus bound by word & hand
In fealty and in service to all within this land -
Though bitter strife and sorrow may etch my path in pain
I will not have it happen that I should fail to reign.

Wander Riordan, Princess of the Mists, 2/23/94

Written in the midst of the BOD crisis

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INTRODUCTION

THE WEST KINGDOM ROYALTY HANDBOOK is a collection of information, quotes and essays intended to inform and advise the new Crown Prince and Crown Princess who will, in due course, become King and Queen of the West. We also hope that those aspiring to the Crown will also take a peek to gain insight into the job.

This book isn't intended to scare you – oh, well, maybe just a little bit. Now that you've gotten yourself into this mess, we want to make you fully aware of the pitfalls and opportunities. You, your friends and new friends you will meet in your upcoming voyage will work *very* hard, perform a great service for your kingdom and with good planning and an even better attitude, have a great time. We have little hope that it will deter you in any way from running headlong into the post when your day has come, but we do hope that you will be just a little less like a deer caught in headlights.

The Handbook isn't intended to be *the* guide to running the Kingdom. In that sense, there are as many ways of being King and Queen as there have been Kings and Queens. However, there is some common information that is very useful and can be drawn upon in any reign.

If you would like to add your comments to the Handbook, the editors would be ecstatic to receive them. Even if your words oppose what is written, they will demonstrate the diversity of opinion in the Kingdom. If you are a royal peer, you will remember begging for recommendation letters, consider this a similar plea.

The editor is so eager to receive your comments, she will accept them in almost any legible format. Her current address is Lori Bush, 885 Branham Lane, Apt. 2, San Jose, CA 95136. Home phone number is (408) 978-2987. Email address is dragonflyvert@yahoo.com.

THE HISTORY OF THE WEST KINGDOM ROYALTY HANDBOOK

When Duke John of Skye and Duchess Gabriel of Greenwood reigned in Lochac, they found the information in *The Lochac Royalty Book* invaluable. When they reigned as King and Queen they missed having a similar reference. Their Graces thought that it would be useful to have something similar at the Kingdom level. After asking around, enough people agreed with them, and the project became the reality you are reading now. There used to be one a long time ago, but it appears to have disappeared into the dim mists of antiquity.

Their Graces based the format of this guide on *The Lochac Royalty Book*, but replaced the content with Kingdom appropriate information. For a copy of *The Lochac Royalty Book* write to Sir Haos Windchaser in Lochac.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Primary thanks go to Sir Haos Windchaser for providing an electronic copy of *The Lochac Royalty Book*. Their Graces were able to start working on content without having to develop the Word template. Many thanks go to the editors of that book, Master Geraint Scholar and Sir Haos Windchaser and to the originator, Master Thorfinn Hrolfsson.

Duke John and Ducehss Gabriel would also like to thank all those who have contributed to the Handbook thus far. They are, in alphabetical order by first name,

Master Aaron of Buckminster (Rusty), OP
 Ban-Iarla Aeron Endellion O'Maoilbhreanainn, OP
 Mistress Alys Graye, OP
 Duke Andrew of Riga, KSCA, OP
 Master Arenvald von Hagenburg, OL

Countess Aricia Jehane Deveraux, OL, OP
 Master Brocc of Alderden, OP
 Mistress Ceridwen MacAoudhegain (Keegan), OP, OL
 Lady Chiara Genevieve d'Anjou
 Master Balin the Hunter, OP
 Master Duncan Vitriarius, OP
 Master Geoffrey Mathias, OL, KSCA
 Mistress Eireannach Nic Ghiolla Chainnigh, OP
 Viscountess Eliza O'Donegan, OP
 Countess Etaine die Verboten
 Master Hal Ravn, OP, OL
 Master Hirsch von Henford, OL, OP
 Countess Iseult Nic Elam, OP
 Duchess Juana Isabella de Montoya y Ramirez, OL, OP
 Viscountess Kirianna Michaelson
 Lady Leah Raedaelf of Pegham
 Countess Linda of the Lakelands, OP
 Lady Linnet Saunpite
 Baron Martin Gray of Griff's Hill, OP
 HL Martin Whistler
 Baroness Moira Ramsay
 Mistress Norinna O'Shaughnessy, OP
 Earl Phillip Harlech of Exeter, KSCA
 Mistress Siobhan Medhbh O'Roarke, OP, OL
 HL Stanislaw Jan Ossolinski
 Jarl Valgard Stonecleaver, KSCA
 Count Veniamin Nafavovich Medvednikogotev, KSCA
 Viscountess Wander Riordan, OL
 Master Wulfric of Creigull, OL

If anyone has been forgotten, we sincerely apologize. Please send us a note to include you in the list.

If you notice that your geopolitical area is not represented in the above list - contribute! If you feel you have experience that would be valuable to share - contribute! This ain't an invitation only thang.

I: CHRONOLOGICAL CHECKLISTS

This section of the Handbook is presented as a series of checklists, an idea that first came from Viscountess Rowan Perigrinne. Each checklist is designed to cover some specific time as you move through your tenure as Royalty. Please note that the checklists merely list the actions you need to take; for further information, refer to the background material in Section II.

By their very nature, this kind of checklist cannot possibly be complete. Don't assume that because you've done everything on the checklist that you've done everything you need to do at some particular point in time. Add and delete from the lists to tailor them to your needs. The editors would gratefully accept any suggested additions to the checklists.

AFTER WINNING THE CROWN TOURNAMENT, BEFORE YOU LEAVE THE SITE

Give your names, addresses and telephone numbers to the King and Queen, the Kingdom Seneschal and the Kingdom Chronicler. If there is other contact information for you, such as, email addresses, cell phone numbers, etc. give them that, too. If not before you leave the site, give these people a call as soon as you can afterwards.

BACKGROUND PREPARATION

Look at some maps of the world to get a feel for how big an area you will be responsible for. Do you know how far north Fairbanks, Alaska is? Do you know the difference between the Barony of Allyshia and Wuduholt be Secg? Where exactly is the central West's southern border and which group guards it? How far east does the Kingdom go? How far West does the Kingdom go? How many countries and continents does the Kingdom span?

Just reacquaint yourself with this whole SCA thing – and be sure to remember what brought you in to the SCA, it will be very important later when you start wondering why you're doing this to yourself and your friends.

WHILE YOU'RE CROWN PRINCE AND CROWN PRINCESS

- Get organized. [See page 19]
- Read *Corpora*, Kingdom Laws and the Principalities' Laws.
- Plan your event itinerary. Remember to plan some non-SCA time. [See page 19]
- Choose Your Head of Court. [See page 19]
- Choose Your Court. [See page 22.]
- Choose Your Queen's Guard, design favors, have them made. [See page 28.]
- Will the King have Huskarls? If yes, choose members, make tokens if any. [See page 30]
- Choose whether you will have a Queen's Champion tournament or appoint a Champion [See page 30]
- If you choose a Queen's Champion tournament, contact the Kingdom Lists Officer, Earl Marshal, Greencloak Herald, and autocrat of the event at which you will hold the tournament as soon as possible so they can get organized. Ask the Crown's permission to use Their list field for this purpose if you are still Crown Princess. [See page 30]
- Read the Queen's Book if the Queen is able to pass it along at Crown. [See page 31]
- Write your first Words from the Crown for *The Page*. [See page 34]
- Decide on any major plans for your reign. They often need preparatory work, and they should be announced to the populace at your Coronation if not in *The Page* for your Coronation month. This includes special requirements for Crown Lists, etc. [See page 34]
- Contact the Regalia Minister to find out what is available in regalia and to let him/her know about any needs you may have for less used regalia. Also find out whether or not you will need to find someone to haul the regalia trailer for you. Determine what this minister and yourselves are responsible for regarding the regalia.
- Start organizing any plans for activities on Sunday at Coronation and Crown.
- Contact the Bard of the West with any bardic requests or requirements for Coronation and the reign. [See page 69]
- Read the coronation ceremony both to become familiar with the requirements and staging and to decide if you want to make any variations. [See page 74]
- Plan your coronation ceremony, organize any special clothing, decide on a theme, if any.
- Distribute and discuss any proposed changes to the Coronation ceremony with heralds, outgoing royalty, court members, etc. [See page 74]
- Buy stamps. 50 domestic, 10 overseas. (Japan, Guam, Korea – call 1-800-ASK-USPS for rates)
- Commission coronets for your county or duchy ceremony. [See Shopping Guide, page 87]
- Commission or budget time to make Queen's Ciphers and any personal tokens you want to give out during your reign (arm rings, pins, etc.) [See page 31]
- Commission court gifts or budget money and time for buying them. [See page 25]
- If you are not already comfortable with signing your SCA name in a period style, contact the College of Scribes to gain some assistance. This is very important since you will sign your name a great many times.
- Arrange for personalized awards promisories if you don't want to use the standard ones.
- If you want to give actual scrolls at the time you give awards (like AoAs) contact the College of Scribes immediately. There are lots of things to consider like preprints, availability of scribes, which awards get scrolls, how to find out what style of scroll a recipient would like, etc.
- Commission personalized stationery or buy enough neutral stationery for the reign (i.e. thank you note cards).
- Commission banners for Coronation ceremony if you don't have them already. They're usually part of the ceremony.
- Hold Court meetings. [See page 25]
- Invite other royalty to attend your coronation, if desired.

- ❑ Organize gifts to give at Coronation. [See page 44]
- ❑ Find a tax preparer or familiarize yourself with the tax laws as an officer in a non-profit organization.
- ❑ Contact the Moneyers Guild for coins. [See page 32]
- ❑ Attend the Kingdom Officer's meeting. [See page 32]
- ❑ But remember, you are **not** King and Queen yet. [See page 32]

A FEW DAYS BEFORE YOUR CORONATION

- ❑ Learn the ceremonies (Coronation as well as any peerages or awards.) If you aren't good at public speaking, rehearse with the herald who will be doing the ceremony. Giving the impression of being the court herald's ventriloquist's dummy is not a good way to start a reign. Review key phrases and learn how to pronounce the names.
- ❑ Practice projecting (especially important for the Crown Princess – higher voices don't project as clearly.)
- ❑ Finish your favors, tokens, etc.
- ❑ Let the Regalia Minister and the outgoing royalty know how many awards tokens and guard baldrics you will need. (You probably won't have access to the awards box until the event.)
- ❑ If possible, meet with your court herald to plan your first court.
- ❑ Talk to outgoing royalty about splitting up business between courts.
- ❑ Finalize your schedule with your Court members. Remember to make time for all the meetings. [See page 45]
- ❑ Let the Clerks of the peerage orders know if you will be holding peerage meetings and in what order. Really. It isn't automatic and they can't read your mind.
- ❑ And everything else. Remember to do all the other things listed in "Before Every Event".

AT YOUR CORONATION EVENT

- ❑ Wake up early both mornings (for Beltane and Purgatorio. Just Saturday for Twelfth Night).
- ❑ Try on the crowns sometime before your ceremony – make any necessary adjustments. Adjustments are usually made between your predecessor's final court and your coronation court even if you have tried them on earlier. It's OK to do this now, you're the rightful heirs.
- ❑ Finalize split of business between your courts and outgoing royalty's. [See page 71]
- ❑ Forget the armor unless it's part of your ceremony – you won't have time to fight. [See page 48]
- ❑ Be prepared for the meetings on Sunday. Lots of coffee/stimulants. [See page 45]
- ❑ Sign the Court Herald's Awards and Appointments list for publication in *The Page*.
- ❑ Sign your predecessor's county/duchy scrolls if there is one.
- ❑ Remember, don't pick your nose and don't look bored.
- ❑ And everything else. Remember to do all the other things listed in the "At Every Event" list.

IMMEDIATELY AFTER YOUR CORONATION EVENT

- ❑ Thank *everyone*. Don't forget your Court members and other support personnel. Be sincere, they deserve it.
- ❑ Review the Kingdom files.
- ❑ Review the contents of the awards box. Let the Regalia Minister know of any needs and how urgent they are.
- ❑ Ensure that the Seneschal will schedule the Kingdom Officers meeting between Crown and Coronation.

- ❑ And everything else. Do all the other things listed in the “After Every Event” list.

BEFORE EVERY EVENT

- ❑ Decide whether you’ll hold court.
- ❑ If yes, learn the ceremonies (any awards, fealties, etc.)
- ❑ Decide whether to hold a Grand March (recommended for small events only). These haven’t really been done in the last ten years or so since they can be unwieldy and boring. [See page 75]
- ❑ Decide if it is appropriate to bring gifts. [See page 44]
- ❑ Prepare your awards (including promisories). Your Royal Scribe should fill out the promisories for you. All you need to do is sign them. However, give your scribe enough time to do a pretty job – a week or so. If you want an original scroll done, the lead time is much greater. If you give out a scroll, acknowledge the creator(s). This is often the only acknowledgment they get.
- ❑ *Contact the event autocrat to let them know you’re coming and to advise them of any special requirements (diet, attendants, court time, schedule, etc.)
- ❑ *Contact the group seneschal for award recommendations especially if traveling to a smaller group. If the group is a Barony, also check with the Baron and Baroness.
- ❑ *Contact the local herald if you will need heraldic services. A royal visit to a small outlying group is a great place for inexperienced court heralds to gain experience. Give the local heralds the opportunity if you can.
- ❑ *Make sure you have attendants (from your Court or from the local group).

*Some things can be delegated to your Court members. These are some suggestions of things that others can do for you. Your delegation tastes may vary.

AT EVERY EVENT

- ❑ Be on time. Royalty with the reputation of being late become something of a joke and it’s discourteous to the populace. In particular, try to start court when you say you will.
- ❑ Greet people [See page 47].
- ❑ Be on public display. Remember, all the time that you are outside of your closed, personal pavilion you are on display. Strive to be your personal image of a good and noble King/Queen. No screaming arguments. No getting falling down drunk. No malicious gossiping. [See page 47] And stay yourself. If you try to **be** someone else, it will show.
- ❑ Pay attention to the entertainment.
- ❑ Try not to “lose” your attendants.
- ❑ If you give out awards, sign the Court Herald’s Awards List for publication in *The Page*.
- ❑ If you receive gifts, ask a court member or attendant to write down the giver’s address for a thank you note.
- ❑ Toast the appropriate people [See page 47].
- ❑ Write down everything you promise to do. Better yet, ask the people who ask you to do something to send you a reminder (put it in writing).
- ❑ Watch for exemplary behavior, reward as appropriate.
- ❑ Thank people.

AFTER EVERY EVENT

- ❑ Thank everyone: send thank you notes for gifts, accommodation, autocrating, hospitality, etc.

- ❑ Update the award recommendation file.
- ❑ Communicate any “issues” to the relevant Kingdom Officer.

BEFORE CROWN

- ❑ Complete your entry in the Queens’ Book to give to your successor at evening court.
- ❑ Learn the ceremonies (any peerages, awards, fealties, etc.)
- ❑ Arrange roses (or alternative) for the tournament of roses. You will need 200-300 roses.
- ❑ Confirm that someone is making the wreaths. Rosewitha Wolfsdottir is the current contact.
- ❑ Ask current bearers of the Muckin’ Great Clubbe and the Battered Helm to bring them if they have not been passed in the last 12 months. They are typically passed on at each Crown.
- ❑ Review any law changes with the Kingdom Seneschal and relevant kingdom officers if necessary.
- ❑ Discuss court business with your herald.
- ❑ Review costume requirements.
- ❑ Hold a court meeting. [See page 25]
- ❑ Prepare for the peerage meetings. [See page 39]
- ❑ Prepare for any special activities such as royal feasts, Queen's Teas, etc.
- ❑ Prepare for the Royal Basket exchange (gifts to the princes, princesses and heirs). [See page 44]
- ❑ Let the Clerks of the peerage orders know if you will be holding peerage meetings and in what order. Really. It isn’t automatic. Nor is it always necessary to hold all the meetings at every Crown and Coronation. Just let people know which way it will be ahead of time.
- ❑ Try to create a schedule that includes all your commitments such as handfastings, squirings, tea parties, vigils, judging, courts, meetings, discussions of issues, etc. Assign someone to maintain it during the event. Do not overbook yourself. Everything takes longer than planned and you will need to fit eating, sleeping and going to the bathroom in there somewhere.
- ❑ Decide if one of you will be in the royal pavilion to accept salutes or if saluting the “royal presence” is preferred. Adjust your other commitments accordingly.
- ❑ Plan on being exhausted after the event.
- ❑ And everything else. Remember to do everything else in the Before Every Event list.

AT CROWN

- ❑ Review court business with heralds prior to Court (avoid surprises).
- ❑ Forget the armor - you won’t have time to fight. [See page 49]
- ❑ As much as possible, pay attention to **your** tournament that is deciding **your** successor. That’s one of the primary reasons you’re there.
- ❑ Be prepared for the meetings on Sunday.
- ❑ Sign the Court Herald’s Awards and Appointments list for publication in *The Page*.
- ❑ Meet all the commitments you have made.
- ❑ And everything else. Remember to do all the other things listed in the At Every Event list.

AS YOUR REIGN DRAWS TO A CLOSE

- ❑ **ADVISE YOUR SUCCESSORS.** Arrange a time when you can get together with your successors and discuss the job and any outstanding issues that they're likely to encounter.
- ❑ **QUEENS' BOOK:** If you have not already done so, add your advice to the Queens' Book to pass along to your successor.
- ❑ **RE-STOCK THE AWARDS BOX.** Your successors will probably want to give out some shortly after ascending the throne, but may find it difficult if award tokens are not available. Let the Regalia Minister know if the Awards Box is getting low on anything.
- ❑ **FINALIZE AND/OR PREPARE QUEEN'S CIPHERS AND/OR KING'S TOKENS.** During your reign, you'll have been helped in personal ways by all sorts of people. Think carefully, because if you forget to thank a significant helper, you may well put noses out of joint. But don't be *too* liberal with your awards, or they'll mean little to the people who receive them.
- ❑ **WRITE A PERSONAL THANK YOU NOTE** to each Court member and significant helper.
- ❑ **OTHER GIFTS.** There may be people who have helped during the reign, but may or may not receive a Queen's Cipher. Be creative. Not all efforts require an award for recognition. Past kings and queens have given shields, games, scrolls, poems, songs and all other manner of gift as a thank you for special service. Tailor the gift to the effort made.

BEFORE YOUR HEIR'S CORONATION EVENT

- ❑ Review court business with your court herald and your successors. Plan your court to be as concise as possible, it's now your successor's turn to shine.
- ❑ Pack *all* regalia and hold transfer meeting with Regalia Minister before Coronation if possible.
- ❑ Learn the ceremonies (Countal/Ducal, peerages, if any, etc.)
- ❑ Collect coronets and ciphers (unless other arrangements made).
- ❑ Finish your stepping down clothes (or give up and decide what you're going to wear instead).
- ❑ Arrange a place at the event to shower and change.
- ❑ Go through the award recommendations one last time, and make sure you've given awards to everyone you wanted to.
- ❑ Remember certain awards. The Queen's Order of Grace is often given at the end of the reign.
- ❑ And everything else. And remember to do all the other things listed in the Before Every Event list.

AT YOUR HEIR'S CORONATION EVENT

- ❑ Re-check court business with heralds – let them know if you wish to address the populace.
- ❑ Make sure heralds and heirs know if you have additional Words to the populace.

IMMEDIATELY AFTER THE END OF YOUR REIGN

- ❑ Write letters of thanks (but not on kingdom letterhead).
- ❑ And everything else. Remember to do all the other things listed in the After Every Event list.

II: BACKGROUND INFORMATION

The checklists presented in Section I of the Handbook are intended to serve merely as guides to the timing of your actions as Crown Prince and Crown Princess and as King and Queen. For the explanation of *why* things are done the way they are refer to the background material presented in this section.

THE CROWNS – THE HEAVY SILVER ONES

We put this at the beginning of this section to lend it weight though we're sure you've heard the stories already.

TREAT THE CROWNS WITH GREAT RESPECT. Think of the crowns as spiritual and sacred objects and you'll come close to understanding what they mean to many Westerners. So, don't let your uncle try it on; don't leave it hanging jauntily off the side of the throne; don't let stuffed animals sit within it; don't toss it and play with it idly during conversations or meetings; don't leave it unattended; don't leave it in the car when you go into a restaurant; and don't hang it from your hat rack when you get home. When you go to the privy, ask a court member to hold it respectfully, parallel to the ground.

One of the quickest ways to give the impression that you don't take this King and Queen thing seriously is to show disrespect to the crowns.

THE SAFETY OF THE CROWNS IS PARAMOUNT. If the plane you're on goes down over water, the crowns get the flotation cushions. Do not let anything happen to the crowns or risk the greatest censure you will have ever felt in the SCA. There, have we emphasized that enough?

THE CROWNS ARE HEAVY. Carry your preferred headache remedy with you at all times. Take it at the beginning of the event, you'll need it. There have been several attempts to generate interest in designing a lighter pair of crowns for every day use, but these have met with stiff resistance. The crowns carry a great deal of sentiment with them, they embody the spirit of the West and their weight has come to symbolize the burden of the Crown.

HISTORY. The current crowns of the West were made by Duke Henrik of Havn in AS X and presented at Beltane AS XI to end the first ten years of the Kingdom and begin the next. They each contain a sliver from the Ancient Crowns. Paul and Carol were the first King and Queen to wear them. They were completely stripped, cleaned and reassembled during Veniamin & Aeron's and Stephen and Elina's reigns in AS XXXI.

Henrik created the oak leaves on the King's crown using lost wax casting. He picked the leaves from an oak tree in San Anselmo, Marin County (Caldarium), overlooking and in direct view of the San Francisco Theological Seminary, where several of the early crown tournaments were held. He used real acorns as well. He crafted the roses for the Queen's crown individually from wax.

BEING KING AND QUEEN

THE CROWN: BASIC RESPONSIBILITIES

[The editors would like to know what you think these are. Here are the comments we have received so far.]

From T. H. White's *The Once and Future King*:

"A king is the head of his people, and he must stand as an example to them, and do as they wish. You will find, that when the kings are bullies who believe in force, the people are bullies, too. If I don't stand for law, I won't have law among my people." - Arthur talking to Guenivere.

The populace and the kingdom come first. There is no excuse not to do the “right thing.” Everything you do should go through those two statements as filters. Your primary role is to lead, serve and protect your kingdom and populace. Be certain to do, and not be afraid to do, what you truly believe is best. There is no one above you to answer to (except the mundane BoD and law); this is a great amount of power bringing with it a great amount of responsibility. You have a very real and direct affect on the enjoyment of up to thousands of people. ***Be none other than a “more-real” version of yourself.*** Don’t change, it comes off as phony and the Crown should never be phony. Merely adjust your actions and behaviors to better befit the Crown. Party with your populace, but don’t become a capering monkey or a falling down drunk. Be animated and enthusiastic in your courts but don’t get so excited that you’re bouncing around and the crown falls off your head. Be heartfelt in your actions and speeches, but don’t become an emotional wreck.

Be one Crown. The King and Queen should be unified on all issues and in all things... as far as the populace sees. Do all of your contention, disagreeing and arguing away from events. Make your decisions before you get there. Support each other when one of you is forced to act in a unilateral manner. Avoid such circumstances, but if you can’t, trust each other and discuss it later. Communicate completely with each other. If you separate and you do anything, let the other know at the soonest opportunity. Having your partner “left in the dark” is both rude and potentially detrimental to the kingdom. If you’re unified, your ability to deal with problems is more than doubled and your ability to get into trouble is more than halved. This is one of those nice areas where looking out for yourselves *is* looking out for the Kingdom. And that is as it should be... as the cliché goes: the Crowns and the Kingdom are one.

Attend to the concerns of your Kingdom. Really listen to any issues or difficulties brought before you and, after due thought, act upon them. Don’t let anything slide. This does not mean that you can’t refer to a more appropriate person, such as your Coronets, your offices or mundane authority. Enforce the grievance procedure. You will feel the need to resolve problems that should not be before you – yet. It is a service to your populace to encourage them to follow those guidelines.

Be there for every one of your people. There is no rank afforded by the SCA that makes anyone “better” or “more deserving” than any other. If anything, those who have already attained certain ranks and positions have proven to be more capable of handling themselves; therefore, more of your attention and concern should rest on your “general” populace.

Answer for your mistakes. Everyone would like to perform flawlessly but we’re all human. This means we have the capacity to apologize for and correct those errors. Further, it is incumbent on royalty (and future royal peers) to lead the populace in fixing mistakes and not hiding from or ignoring them. It’s understood that mistakes happen. Face them. (The standard “rule” is that you’re “allowed” one big and two little ones before anyone begins to think poorly of the reign.)

Lead by example. Smile! EXPECT EXCELLENCE! People really will live up to the standard you set for yourselves and them. If we’re not being noble and we’re not having fun, something is wrong. They follow your lead, good or bad, so make it good.

Be Western. Do your best to follow the customs and traditions of the Kingdom. You’re not here to play whatever game you want, you’re here to be the royalty of *The West*. This doesn’t mean slaving yourself to the letter of any law or ceremony. It means living by the spirit of those laws and keeping the heart of the ceremonies. Embellish all you want; enrich the Kingdom, its laws and rituals with your ideas and personal flair but don’t fundamentally change them. Ask advice from and listen to those who have come before you. We have the benefit of being able to converse and consult with people who have been here from the *first day*. In our context, it’s not just a little like talking to Benjamin Franklin. If you’re not sure about the basis of a particular law or ceremony, you can probably find and talk to the person(s) who created it.

Finally, LEAD. You are the Royalty of the Kingdom of the West. You are the premier Crowns of the Known World. Live up to that. Never strive for less than your best and your Kingdom will flourish. This may sound corny, but we and others have seen it happen, from the thrones and as the populace.

PUTTING THE KINGDOM FIRST

There are many ways to reign. Some people believe that their personal values are what is best for the Kingdom, some believe that their personal viewpoint doesn't have a place in Crown decision making. It's all perspective, really, because the important thing is that you are deciding what is best for the Kingdom as a whole.

But this section isn't just about decision making. Attitude is also very important. Even if you've just had the roughest day imaginable, your populace wants to see you enjoy yourself. Borrowing a line from the Midrealm's ceremony book: the Crown must laugh the heartiest and have the greatest cheer at the lightest board in the Kingdom. We mention it throughout the book, but a happy King and Queen makes for a happy populace.

You are servants are the populace.

THE LIMITS OF YOUR POWER

The Crown's word is law. That doesn't leave much room for limitations. However, there are practical limits to the Crown's power:

- You have sworn an oath to uphold the laws of the kingdom and serve the populace
- You are bound by *Corpora* and By-Laws of the Society, and by formal decisions of the Board of Directors.
- You are bound by the laws that exist outside the Society.

Other than that, as King and Queen you can do anything you want.

Yes, that's right, anything you want. If you want to decree that all feasts for the next four months will consist of nothing but bread and cheese, or that there shall be no dancing allowed whatsoever, or that everyone must attend Court while standing on one leg, you can. But how much fun is that?

For all actions there are consequences, and before you act you should consider them. Power brings responsibility. Remember,

- The populace can walk away.
- At a certain point, it isn't fun anymore.
- You rule because they believe. (It is said that the crowns of CAID are inscribed with these words.)
- Passive resistance is alive and well.
- Your reign will end.
- You have to live with these people when you step down.
- Real respect is earned.
- The next Crown's word is law, too.

TRADITION

The West is steeped in tradition. Very little sympathy will be given the King and Queen who break tradition without consulting many people beforehand. Even then, you will hear from those who didn't like the change. Most royal peers (AKA the Royal Estate) can tell you of the time when they made *the* faux pas, so you'll be in good company if you make a mistake. Just try to be aware of the toes you will be stepping on before you tread.

PERCEPTION AND REALITY

Reality is 9/10ths perception and 1/10th fact. If you bear this in mind throughout your reign, you will understand a lot more about why things happen the way they do.

COMMUNICATION

You'll see a lot about communication in this book because it is very important.

Communicate with your reign partner, your sweetie, your Court, your officers, with all the people important to you in regular life. Even if it's just "I need a hug." or "I need some space right now." or "Thank you for the pencil." or "Remember, the meeting starts at 10." Don't *assume* people know about an issue, remember what you told them or have read the handout or *Page copy*. Also, no matter how close, your court members are not telepaths.

Occasionally, you might have to talk to someone about something they forgot to do or did wrong. Expressing disappointment is far more effective than disapproval.

Let's start practicing your mantra: Communicate, never assume; communicate, never assume...

DELEGATION OF DUTIES

The sun never sets in the West Kingdom. It includes most of the Asian-Pacific Rim, Alaska, Northern California and much of Nevada. You cannot be everywhere at once. You may therefore delegate some decisions and signature authority to territorial princes and princesses within the Kingdom. [*Corpora IV.E.3*].

MEMBERSHIP

You must maintain your membership in the Society throughout your time as Crown Prince and Crown Princess and King and Queen.

IF YOUR SOCIETY MEMBERSHIP LAPSES, THEN SO DOES YOUR REIGN. NO EXCEPTIONS, NO EXCUSES.

If you have any doubts, double-check your membership status with the Registrar in Milpitas, California.

OATHS OF FEALTY

WHAT IS FEALTY?

It is an oath sworn between two parties creating a contract with various degrees of obligation. The obligation flows both ways – to the Crown and *from* the Crown. Definitions and attitudes towards fealty vary greatly throughout the SCA. We urge you to read the article by Duke Frederick of Holland and Mistress Eilis O'Bourne, "Fealty, Loyalty and Obedience", which starts on page 79.

FEALTY TO THE CROWN

The Laws require Great Officers of State and Coronets of Principalities to pledge fealty to the current Crown of the West. [*WK IX:1,2*] If the Crown changes during a Coronet's reign, the Coronet needs to pledge fealty to the new Crown as well.

Territorial Barons and Baronesses are also required to pledge fealty but may do so through their Prince and Princess (if their barony is in a principality, of course.) [*WK IX:3*] It can be very difficult to track this, though.

All Peers of the West have the right to offer fealty to the Crown. [*WK IX:4*]

WHAT IF THEY DON'T PLEDGE?

Some Kings and Queens may be quite relaxed about the failure for a Principality to confirm the Oath, but others may take it more seriously. On one occasion in Lochac's past, an oath scroll failed to arrive, and the Crown suspended the Coronet's right to hold court or grant awards. Even when the scroll arrived, the Crown did not grant the Coronet the right to award Leaves of Achievement for the rest of the reign. Theoretically, the Crown could impose whatever sanctions it felt appropriate, because without the Oath there is no contract, and the Principality is without a valid Coronet.

Territorial Barons and Baronesses also trace their authority to rule to the Crown. While the Crown has fewer privileges to take away from a Territorial Baron and/or Baroness, It can express displeasure in a variety of ways including removing the Baron and Baroness.

It is the Crown's decision how and at what level discipline is meted out: humorously, privately, publicly, etc.

FURTHER NOTES ON FEALTY

During your Coronation, a whole range of people will swear fealty to you, each for different reasons. Look through the Coronation ceremony once more to remind yourself of the different oaths of fealty and think about what they mean.

The ordering of the oaths within the ceremony is important, and based on tradition, but the order has varied from time to time. Duchess Juana's preference is for Princes/ess (Mists, Cynagua, Oertha), territorial barons, Kingdom officers, Royal Peers, Knights, Laurels then Pelicans. She feels that the vassals who hold lands for the Crown should go first since they have, in a sense, more tangible responsibilities.

It is tradition in the West that the knights swear only to the King (or Queen by right of arms). However, in recent years some queens have accepted the knights' fealty as is common practice in other kingdoms. You should first discuss this between yourselves before considering any departure from tradition. It is up to the individual Crown to decide which way They wish to go, but be aware of the tradition when making your decision and discuss *any* change to the traditional fealty ceremonies with a variety of people.

From Corpora: ...To become a Knight, the candidate must swear fealty to the Crown of his or her kingdom during the knighting ceremony.... [VIII.A.4.a]

WHILE YOU'RE CROWN PRINCE AND CROWN PRINCESS

GET ORGANIZED

Running any large group requires a great deal of organization. Here is some advice from a variety of sources that might make your reign a little more fun:

- develop a budget for the reign. [See page 42]
- clean your home, you may be too busy later on and starting with everything organized will help.
- get all your mundane needs in order – make appointments with dentists, doctors and tax consultants in advance, you may forget this sort of maintenance item during the heat of the reign.
- check your vehicle. Fix any outstanding problems. Change the oil, rotate the tires, tune the engine. Unless you're a mechanic, it is doubtful you will have time during the reign and getting stuck in Outer Woop-woop isn't always fun.
- talk with your family to make sure they don't schedule anything crucial during the three events you *must* attend during your reign.
- check your work schedule for the same.
- read the following sections and get as much of it started as you can in the first week after winning Crown.
- think clearly, consult often and above all have fun!

READ CORPORA, KINGDOM LAW, PRINCIPALITY LAW

If you do not have your own copies yet, you can get them from the Kingdom Seneschal or the Kingdom and Society websites. The PDF version of Corpora on the Society website has a nice table of contents and search feature that can be easier to use than a hardcopy. Kingdom Law is in HTML on the Kingdom website and is searchable using your web browser.

Gain a familiarity with the laws you will swear to uphold. There is a lot of interesting information in there. There are also a lot of stories behind most of them. If you want to change one, you may want to find out why it was put there in the first place before you decide.

PLAN YOUR ITINERARY

As soon as you become Crown Prince and Crown Princess, start planning the event itinerary for your reign. It is traditional for the King and Queen to attend major Mists and Cynaguan events such as Coronets and Investitures unless there is a very good reason to be elsewhere such as a major event in Oertha or the Far West.

While there isn't a strict rule about how many events the King and Queen should attend, a good rule of thumb is to plan to attend events *at least* three weekends per month – more if you have the energy. But remember to plan at least one weekend in the reign where you can relax and do non-SCA things. You don't need to attend every event together. If there are two events on one weekend, you can always split up to attend both. Use your best judgment to prioritize. Of course, you are *required* to attend three events to successfully complete your reign: your Coronation, Crown for your successors and your successor's Coronation (your stepping down).

If there is an outlying group you would really like to visit, but they don't have an event on the calendar, feel free to write or call the group's Seneschal (or Baron and Baroness if appropriate) and ask whether they can schedule an event for a specific weekend. Most of these groups will also be happy to plan events around your travel schedule. Bear in mind that the event calendar is usually very full already.

While it has not been common in the West, it has been common in other kingdoms to publish the groups and/or events you plan to visit/attend in a particular month in that month's kingdom newsletter. This might be something you want to consider, but be very careful. People can get very disappointed if they thought the royalty would be at a particular event and something came up that prevented it. Given that you need to get things to the *Page* a month ahead of time, this could be risky. Similarly, you may want to ask your court to keep your itinerary confidential.

EVENT ATTENDANCE AS CROWN PRINCE AND CROWN PRINCESS

Some kingdoms require their Crown Prince and Crown Princess to attend a significant numbers of events while they are Heirs. This allows for a royal presence over a much larger area. It also means that the royalty is on stage for about a year.

Heirs are not required to perform this service in the West, in part because of the shorter reigns. Heirs are expected to attend the Kingdom Officer's meeting, become familiar with the issues and contribute to decisions on matters that will affect their reign. The Crown may ask their heirs to participate in other activities if the situation warrants.

Typically, the victors of March Crown have five weeks to prepare for Beltane. June Crown victors have about eight weeks until Purgatorio, and October Crown victors have roughly twelve weeks to prepare for Twelfth Night. You may attend as many or as few events between Crown and Coronation as you feel capable or interested in attending.

DIVISION OF DUTIES

Before going much further, you will want to discuss between yourselves how you want to divvy up the work. For example, the King may handle all the issues relating to the marshallate and the Queen may have responsibility for diplomatic relations, correspondence, recommendation letters, awards tokens, arts and sciences, Page School, pageantry and planning. This is a standing joke, by the way, that the Queen does all the work. Most couples do manage to distribute the work a little more evenly. The Crown consists of two parts. One cannot rule without the other. Reflect on this throughout the reign.

However you divide the workload, make sure you discuss decisions either before they are made or as soon as possible after in accordance with whatever agreement you have with each other. This communication will ensure that you are both on the same page. If you decide that you will talk to each other before any and every decision do it or apologize profusely if you don't. Breaking promises really irks a reign partner.

Discuss how you will run meetings, communicate, make decisions, etc. Get all of your expectations out on the table if you haven't already. Repeat the communication mantra here.

ROYAL CHILDREN

Skip this section if you don't have children who still look to you for food, comfort and clothing.

The reign *will* impact your family life. Your children will greatly impact your Court. You know what will work best for your child so this is just a list of suggestions and a reminder to make arrangements early.

The populace is very welcoming to royal children and may want to give them extra hospitality by inviting them into their camp to eat, play or listen to a story. The people may know your children, but your children may not know them or feel comfortable with them. In a world where we instill stranger caution into our children with every other breath, this can be a frightening experience. Discuss ways of handling this with your kids and their companions.

Depending on the child, you might give them a role to perform like royal page, attendant, or flower bearer, but your Head of Court is probably not the best person to take responsibility for the children. Have someone else designated for that. Let your kids know before an event who they should go to or where they can find food and/or drink.

If you're looking for more ideas or pitfalls to avoid, there are a number of royal peers who have been through this.

ROYAL PREGNANCY

Dear Crown Princess, if you are pregnant or become so during the reign, you're in for an interesting ride. Being pregnant while on the throne can be a lot of fun – the Kingdom loves a pregnant Queen. Buy extra thank you cards and have someone handy to get addresses for the baby gifts you will likely receive on the fly.

If you've been through pregnancy before, you'll remember how it affected you mentally and physically and can warn your Court accordingly. If this is your first pregnancy, we recommend getting a copy of *The Girlfriend's Guide to Pregnancy* by Vicki Iovine. Copy the chapter on pregnancy insanity and give it to your Court, Guard and Partner. This may help them understand to some degree why you may not be quite yourself (in other words, why aliens occasionally take over their friend.) It will be very important for you to build a strong support network of understanding and informed people. Try to make amends to anyone you might inadvertently snarl at.

COURT – THE SUPPORT CREW

Reigns don't happen by themselves. The King and Queen rely a great deal on Court members. One of the first things you will want to do as Crown Prince and Crown Princess is assemble your Court. Your Court is a group of people who you choose to help with all sorts of things before and during the reign.

Some kingdoms just have three to five core people helping the Crown and draw all their other support from the local groups they visit. This can be done to a certain extent in the West, though the geography of the kingdom makes a larger, more comprehensive group possible. If you are from an area that does not have a tradition of using Courts (AKA retinue, royal household), please read the following section thoroughly, then approach some of the royal peers or seasoned court people to help you find a balance that works for you.

CHOOSE YOUR HEAD OF COURT

It is not required to have a Head of Court, just recommended. It will make your life easier if you get a good one.

Your Head of Court should be reliable and knowledgeable about West Kingdom traditions, preferably having served on several Western courts in the past. It is essential that they are good communicators and get along with the rest of the Court. To this end, you may want to choose your Head of Court first and have the Head help choose Court members. It can also be helpful to have a Head of Court that lives fairly close to you. It makes spontaneous meetings and last minute arrangements that much easier.

You can also have more than one Head of Court. One may be in charge of everything that happens at events and the other in charge of infrastructure items like coordination, clothing and correspondence. If you are planning this, make

a list of what each person is responsible for, so you can avoid duplication of effort and make sure nothing falls through the cracks. It also keeps everyone on the same page – hand these lists out to your Court, too.

Some royalty have even listed their Head of Court's contact details in *The Page* with instructions on the type of thing to contact them for, like your favorite foods, whether you drink wine or what your personal heraldic colors are. But be aware that there is a limit to the amount of information that can fit legibly into *The Page*. Also, giving the impression that all information is filtered through someone, that the populace does not have direct access to the Crown, is not Western.

CHOOSE YOUR COURT

The Court has official members including attendants, lords and ladies-in-waiting, pages, scribes, costumers, cooks, embroiders, advisors, secretaries and other staff you might care to choose. This is different than making a royal appointment for, say, a Royal Astrologer. Court members are the ones behind the scenes making it all happen and making it look effortless to the average populace member. There will be other people who help, but they aren't actually members of Court unless you ask them to join.

HIS AND HER COURTS

In some cases, the King and Queen will want separate courts. One to attend to his needs and one to attend to hers. The same guidelines apply to single or double courts, but you may want a coordinator or super-head to ensure free flowing communication and make sure that efforts between the two courts are well aligned.

WHO SHOULD BE ON COURT?

You'll want a good mix of people on your Court to compliment your own strengths and fill in your weaknesses. You may be a champion costumer, but you will find yourself running out of time to spend at the sewing machine. Good skills to have on Court are costuming, calligraphy, illumination, organization, politics, feast preparation, ceremony/stage craft, embroidery, driving, and the ability to make you laugh. Plus any other skill that will be useful in helping you. You can ask skilled artisans to do a project for you without putting them on Court. Just remember to thank them and compensate them depending on your arrangements.

It is a good idea to have some friends on Court, but not everyone needs to be especially if they have the skills you need. You might find it useful to invite the consorts of up and coming fighters to join Court to give them a good idea of what to expect when/if their turn comes (but you'll be short on attendants at Crown if consorts make up the majority of your court.)

It is a good idea to include a couple of royal peers to act as attendants or advisors. They have been there before and know the job, and will be a lot less stressed (and therefore clear-headed) than you are. They know what you will most likely need when, and are a great help when things get rough. They make excellent attendants.

It is always helpful to invite a couple of people who are very experienced whether you know them or not. Your Head of Court should be able to make recommendations.

You should never feel obliged to invite people from your local group simply because they are from the local group. Likewise, if you do not put a particular friend on Court, you may want to let them know why (i.e. you're my release valve; you need to make sure I see a movie once a month; I need someone who won't be exhausted after the reign; you're over committed and I won't add to the stress.) Remember the communication mantra.

Your Court members should also be discreet. They may hear sensitive information and must be relied upon to maintain silence. In the case of newer court members, you or your Head of Court may want to explain what is meant by sensitive information. Everyone views things differently.

Court members are also an excellent source for finding out what the latest rumors are and can help you with rumor control. It is amazing the stories that people dream up and pass on as fact. Remember to keep a sense of humor. So, you might want a few people who always seem to be up-to-date on the latest "news" (as long as they are also capable of holding their tongue.)

A geographic sampling is particularly useful if you intend to travel a lot. That way, even if you are tired from the Friday night drive across the kingdom, your attendants, who live just down the street, are awake, fresh and helpful. A “political” distribution can be useful too. An entire court out of one household or one faction does not present the impression that you are open to different points of view.

The composition should reflect your personality and your needs and should be able to co-exist as friendly people. There are lots of Court horror stories out there - don't be one of them.

ROYAL APPOINTMENTS

You can make royal appointments as well, that only last for the duration of your reign. Examples include Royal Astrologer, Royal Cheesemaker, Royal Gamesmaster, feel free to highlight different activities this way. The Royal Lacemaker even has a token that goes with the job.

WHAT CAN COURT MEMBERS DO?

There are a great many ways to organize your court. The Queen's Book provides excellent advice as will any royal peer or seasoned court veteran. The important thing is that you have help.

Here are some things Court members can do.

- sew garb
- organize royal feasts
- write thank you notes
- support you during court
- run messages
- travel with you
- attend you during events
- make sure you eat and drink during events
- create scrolls
- help make favors
- prepare/string awards
- make sure you take one night off a week to be yourself (pet the cat, re-aquaint yourself with your sweetie, read a novel)
- come up with cunning plans for the populace to have fun
- make sure you have done everything on the checklists at the beginning of this book
- keep track of the things you promise to do/read/think about during the event so that you actually do it
- baby-sit (don't overuse them)
- make sure the awards box is well stocked
- make sure you hear things you ought to: from engagements to rumors
- rumor control
- draw up packing lists
- make sure your special tea is at the event
- track down people you need to talk to
- keep private meetings private
- run interference
- help pack after events
- make you laugh
- remind you to smile
- remind you to submit your Words to *The Page* on time
- take photographs and/or videos
- make sure you get from Point A to Point B in a timely manner (i.e. privy trips in less than 30 minutes)

Basically, it's whatever help you need so that you can attend to the job of King and Queen. There will be plenty of work left for you to do.

Read the article on how to be a lord or lady in waiting on page 83 for more information. Feel free to distribute it to your Court.

DELEGATE, DELEGATE, DELEGATE

Or die. You will have your hands full managing the affairs of the kingdom, so try to delegate as much support work as possible. Here are some ideas of what you can delegate:

- Thank you notes and basic correspondence (acknowledging receipt of letters, etc.)
- Garb and favor making.
- Contacting the event autocrat to let them know you're going to be there and to advise them of any special requirements (diet, attendants, court time, schedule, etc.)
- Contacting the group seneschal well ahead of the event for award recommendations especially if traveling to a smaller group, and accommodation recommendations.
- Contacting the local herald and seneschal if you will need heraldic services.
- Making sure you have attendants (from your Court or from the local group).
- Arranging for food at camping events.
- Gift buying, presentation basket arranging. (Make sure they have a budget and get reimbursed quickly.)
- Court preparations: awards tokens, baskets, furniture arranging, water, flowers.
- Roses (or alternates) for the tournament of roses.
- Creating and managing the Court e-group.

Work with your court members to develop a list that works for all of you.

COURT COMMUNICATION

One of the most stressful things that can happen during a reign is inner-court conflict or worse, disintegration. Communication is often the key. Your inexperienced members will appreciate the comfort of regular communication and your more experienced members will often wait to be contacted with their job assignments rather than ask what they should be doing (even though they know better.) It is imperative that the Head of Court, or a delegated member of Court have superb organizational and communication ability to keep everyone informed, active and interested without burning them out.

If you are touchy about your stuff, or your personal space, get over it. You will need to send your court people to riffle through your tent and get stuff for you. You will need them to tactfully pull you out of one group of people because you need to meet with another.

THE INTERNET – E-GROUPS

Some courts are finding it useful to create an e-group through Yahoo Groups or other online providers. The software is fairly powerful and allows you to develop an online schedule, create email lists, and take polls. The group owner can be anyone on your Court. Evite is also a useful service allowing you to invite your court members to an after-reign party – just as an example. :-)

PLANNING

Your court can do just about anything for you, and probably will. However, they will be much happier and do a much better job for you if you give them enough time. Your court seamstress will be much happier if you decide you need new garb for your Crown event six weeks ahead of time rather than six days. This is true for almost everything you ask your court to do.

THANK YOUR COURT OFTEN

Your court will do a lot of work for you. Thank them sincerely and often. Thank them for agreeing to be on Court. Thank them when they perform a task or service for you. Thank them at the end of an event. Thank them after a project day. They will feel much more appreciated.

COURT MEETINGS

Plan on holding a number of court meetings before and during your reign, and definitely a party afterwards. Duchess Juana took her court to Tahoe for the weekend. Others have held parties at their homes or taken individuals out to dinner.

If you have a widely dispersed court, you may want to hold duplicate meetings in different locations. You can make use of the Internet to “conference” your meetings if your members have relatively fast connections to the Internet. Check out PlaceWare.com and similar sites.

Your Head of Court will be of great help in organizing the agenda for these meetings, but here are some typical topics of discussion.

Court Meeting #1 – usually a week or two after you win Crown

- Introductions and how court will be organized and run.
- Your expectations for court member behavior and dress.
- Their expectations for being on court: time commitment, communication, travel, duties, etc. You may have covered some of this when you asked them to be on Court, but managing their expectations and letting them contribute to plans, often makes a better team.
- Have the court members write down their experience and what they are good and bad at.
- List likes and dislikes, yours and theirs (so they receive appropriate assignments).
- Event itinerary.
- Costume requirements/theme for the reign.
- Tasks for Coronation.
- Assign duties and responsibilities for the reign.
- Identify who will be paying for what.
- Make a list of all the court members contact details (addresses, home and work phone numbers, email addresses) and distribute to the court. Include your own information as well.
- Thank them.

Court Meeting #2 – just before Coronation

- Detailed schedule for Coronation weekend (remember to arrange food for Friday night if it’s a camping event or a distant 12th Night.)
- Review everyone’s tasks.
- Practice your procession and ceremony (invite your court herald if possible).
- Organize a full length mirror and a place at Coronation to change and shower.
- Review packing list.
- Thank them.

Court Meeting #3 – before Crown. Same as for Coronation without the ceremony practice.

Court Meeting #4 – before stepping down. Same as for Coronation, especially if you have something special planned for your title ceremony.

Other Meetings – you may want to hold an additional meeting between your first and second court meetings with your Head of Court and Guard Captain to go over the division of labor, especially for things like attendance duty and standing court. Setting this out ahead of time can avoid problems later. Feel free to invite your Guard to court meetings if the information will be relevant. At the very least, it will familiarize the Guard and Court with each other.

COURT GIFTS

Your Court will put in a lot of effort to help make you look good. Court gifts are an opportunity to provide them with a token of your thanks. Some royalty give the same gift to all Court members such as a box or custom made knife, some

give different gifts tailored to the individual. Include a personalized thank you note in with your gift – it will be appreciated.

ADVISORS

The kingdom is large and diverse. There's no way to be everywhere at once, even if you're a minor deity on the tourney field. Advisors can be your eyes and ears; they can give you perspectives you might not have thought of on your own. Asking them to be proactive with their advice not only reinforces that you see them as valuable advisors, but they may just save your biscuits.

Two bits of advice up front: don't reinvent the wheel and don't underestimate this job.

ROYAL PEERS: Believe it or not, there have been people on the throne before you, and they have probably encountered problems similar to the ones you will encounter. We haven't met a single royal peer who wasn't willing to give advice.

PEERS: The peers have a depth and often a different perspective than the royal peers and have been around the block a few times.

LANDED BARONS AND BARONESSES: The landed B&Bs are very close to their populace and can provide a unique perspective on most issues, especially how a given decision will be seen in their barony.

YOUR COURT: You can give your Court the right to let you know when they think you did something wrong (or right) or how you can change your plans to make them more fun for everyone.

POPULACE: The "populace" forms the majority of the Society. As much as you need to consider political ramifications of your actions, you need to consider how your actions will affect your main audience. Before you make changes to ceremonies or laws, talk to a wide range of people who are *not* peers.

DIVERSITY: Make sure that you seek advice from people across political boundaries as well as from different geographical locations. Don't forget the Far West and Oertha. Email will make this easier and cheaper, but you will get even more out of the dialogue if you use the phone.

APPOINTED ADVISORS: You may even wish to make a few formal advisory appointments. Formal appointments make very public statements of who you will be listening to. Alternatively, you may appoint a cadre of advisors privately. You could even create a special, private advisor email list to discuss issues.

You don't need to make a formal appointment to use people as advisors, just call them or talk to them at an event or ask a few of them to call you or email you on a regular basis. Remember to thank them – even if the advice hurts.

QUEEN'S GUARD

WHAT IS THE QUEEN'S GUARD?

The Queen's Guard is a unit of fighters chosen to serve the Queen personally.

The opportunity to serve as Queen's Guard is offered only to unbelted fighters [*i.e.* fighters who aren't Knights or Masters-At-Arms]. You could however, also place archers, dancers, siege weapon experts, etc. on your Guard if you so wish.

Members of the Queen's Guard wear baldrics of red leather with the Queen's Arms tooled into them, and are given the personal favor of the Queen in whose Guard they serve. More on favors later. [See page 29]

The Queen's Guard is usually charged with setting up and taking down the Royal Pavilion, setting up the thrones and banners and so on. This is not set in stone. You may prefer to assign the Pavilion duties to your Court while giving the Guard other tasks and duties. Some feel that the Pavilion duties have made the post of Guard a burden

rather than an honor. This is something you will need to decide early on so that you can make the necessary arrangements.

The Queen may assign tasks as she sees fit. Past duties have included: staging a Pas d'Arms in Her Majesty's honor; forming a war unit (especially if the Queen will fight in a war); attending her at events; standing court; reading a period book and writing a book report; creating something and presenting it to Her Majesty; and undertaking a quest set by Her Majesty. The duties are limited only by the Queen's imagination and the work she can reasonably expect from someone in a part-time hobby organization. Some Queens have utilized their guards to supplement/act as part of their court. It is a good idea to communicate the intended direction early to court members to avoid conflict.

If you choose Guard members in Oertha and/or the Far West, have something for them to do. Suggestions include learning and teaching a dance, performing a particular song, holding a particular type of tournament in your name (i.e. rose tournament, pas d' arms), write to you once a month, complete a quest; having something worthwhile to do will enhance their experience as a member of your Guard.

Remember to send your final list of Guard members to the Chamberlain so that they can be listed in the *Page*. Have them listed in the *Pegasus* as well, if appropriate.

WHO CHOOSES THE QUEEN'S GUARD?

The Crown Princess/Queen decides who will be on Queen's Guard. Choosing the Queen's Guard is *not* the prerogative of the Crown Prince or Knight Counselor. It is solely the Crown Princess' decision. However, she may ask for recommendations from anyone she chooses including but not limited to the Chivalry, landed Barons and Baronesses, Princes and Princesses, the Crown Prince, previous Queens or her own Court.

The Queen has the right to add to the Guard throughout the reign.

SQUIRES IN THE QUEEN'S GUARD

If you choose a squire to serve on Queen's Guard, you should seek permission from the squire's knight first. The knight and squire are bound in fealty, and the knight has first claim on the service of the squire and may have certain requirements or restrictions. This is reflected in the ceremony for inducting the Queen's Guard. The knight can also prepare the Crown Princess for possible rejection if the knight knows of other commitments.

If you are not sure whether a fighter is squired do some checking first. Never assume.

CONSORTS TO GUARDSMEN

If your Guard member has a significant other, remember that the time your Guard spends with you is time that s/he is not spending with their sweetie (and possibly family.) To this end, some Crown Princesses have made a point of asking the consort for permission before asking the candidate. In addition, some have also asked the consort to be on Court. At least that way they can be on duty together – though they may not get a hot meal between them...

WHO SHOULD BE ON THE QUEEN'S GUARD?

In the past, the Queen chose the very best unbelted heavy fighters and expected to lose one or two to the Chivalry during her reign. Now, the reasons for choosing someone for the Guard are as varied as the Queens. They range from having a certain attitude towards fighting to having served the Queen in battle in the past. They can even be chosen because they are well-dressed excellent fighters. The theme of your Guard is up to you, but having a theme can help select from the many worthy unbelted fighters in the Kingdom.

You may want to select your Guard from a wide geographical base including Oertha, the Far West and the Marches. A distributed Guard offers the additional advantage of having someone nearby wherever you go in the kingdom. A few people in the Kingdom will count Guard members and where they come from. Yours may be labeled as a Misty Guard or a Cynaguan Guard if heavily weighted in one principality. Another thing to watch for is repeats. Some Guards are so popular that they are asked to serve reign after reign. It's always a good idea to give these people a break and let someone else have the chance to serve. Something else to consider is how the Guard members will interact. You want to pick people who play well together.

It is the Crown Princess' prerogative to ask a member of one of the Princesses' Escorts to be on Guard. If this is your intention, it is very important to speak with the Princess *before* asking the fighter and/or his/her knight. This will avoid misunderstanding and hurt feelings not to mention demonstrating that you are a kind and caring Queen.

THE ETERNAL GUARDSMAN

In the reign of Veniamin and Aeron, Gregory of Lochswan was elevated to knighthood. However, he was also a guardsman in the truest sense and the Queen could not bear to take his baldric from him. She granted him the ability to continue to serve as a guardsman regardless of his new station. Upon Lochac's ascension to Kingdom, Queen Megan released Her guardsmen from their bonds – all save one. Sir Gregory has of his own volition sworn to continue to protect the Western Queens save only his fealty to the Crown of Lochac. He is the Eternal Guardsman – please include him in missives to your guard and send him your favor. He can always be reached through the Crown of Lochac if you do not have his address.

ASKING SOMEONE TO BE ON YOUR GUARD

It is a great honor to be asked to serve on the Queen's Guard. The way you make your offer should reflect that honor and the personal service that they will do for you. Most commonly, the Crown Princess will use the telephone, often getting the phone number from the person's knight, if applicable, or a close friend. How the offer is verbalized depends on your comfort level and how much you know about the person you're talking to. Be prepared to discuss your expectations before asking for an answer. Follow up the conversation with a letter or email that spells out all your requirements.

Some Crown Princesses send an invitational scroll as their way of asking, still others will travel and as much as possible make the offer in person. The method is really up to you, but in the grand scheme of things making the offer on the phone yourself is, in our opinion, preferable to someone else making the offer in person, only because the service is so personal to you.

OTHER IMPORTANT POINTS

Have ongoing communication with your Guard and Counselor and be sure to thank them sincerely and often for their service. You may want to thank their consorts for letting you borrow their sweetie.

The candidate must accept the appointment to the Guard before it is made official. Being a Guard is more like an office than an award because there are duties to be performed, so it must be accepted just like an office.

Be sure to explain *all* the requirements and expectations in detail before you ask for an answer. As much of an honor as it is to be asked, the candidate may have other obligations to attend to.

If the candidate accepts the position, follow up the conversation with a letter or email that describes your expectations *in detail*. Even if it is "known" that Guards are responsible for an art project, for example, they may not know that it is a *requirement*.

Provide your Captain and Knight Counselor with a list of all the Guard's addresses and contact details.

It is well within reason to ask the Princess in Oertha and the Baroness in the Far West to watch over your Guard, to pass on your favor and even to induct the fighter into your Guard. Be sure to give the Princess or Baroness plenty of warning if you intend to ask her to perform any of these services. Moreover, be sure to communicate any special requirements you have so that she can tell the populace during the ceremony.

At the end of the reign, the Guard members that can, assemble to be released from the Guard and to return their baldrics and favors. It is traditional for the Queen to ask the Guard members to keep her favor as a token of their service to Her. Remember to thank them. You might also consider giving them a gift or flower for their consort and thank the consorts for their sacrifice. Some Queens have done this during the induction ceremony as well.

KNIGHT COUNSELOR

Radnor of Guildemar established the post of Knight Counselor in his reign with Grun der Spitzenkloppler.

The Queen traditionally appoints a Knight Counselor to her Guard. In the ceremony, the King and Queen discuss the choice, but it has been made in advance. Some have even chosen to appoint two Knight Counselors to cover a greater area.

The Counselor's job is defined by discussion between the Queen and Counselor, but often involves providing guidance to the Guard, giving them ideas for what they can do as a group and arranging activities to discuss chivalry and related issues. The Knight Counselor can also help the Queen choose Guard members who fulfill the ideal she has for the Guard.

CAPTAIN OF THE GUARD

It is also traditional for the Queen to appoint a captain to her guard during the induction ceremony. You should ask well ahead of time if the individual is willing to accept this responsibility and discuss your mutual expectations thoroughly. Some of the more traditional roles of the captain include organizing activities for the Guard and making sure that the Guard does in fact fulfil your requirements. It can be a difficult job, especially with a Guard that typically spans the Pacific.

LIEUTENANT OF THE GUARD

Some Queens have chosen to select lieutenants to the guard in Oertha to act in much the same capacity as the Captain does in the central part of the kingdom.

FAVORS

One of the most visible symbols of the Queen is Her favor to Her Guard, Counselor and Champion. Unless you have your heart absolutely set on one particular favor design, you may find it useful to speak to some fighters who have been on so many guards that they'd look like Christmas trees if they wore all their favors at once. These fighters (who may be members of the Chivalry now) will have excellent insight into what makes a good favor since they are the ones who are most aware of what wearing the Queen's favor means. In addition, many unbelted still wear favors from past Queen's Guard duty – see how well they've held up.

In the mean time, here are some things to consider.

- ❑ **VISIBILITY.** You want to be able to see your favor from at least five feet away and your Guard will want everyone to see it. If you're going to be on the war field with the Guard as a unit, you will want something even more visible.
- ❑ **DURABILITY.** The Guard will be fighting a lot while wearing your favor. It is better to make a favor durable than provide your Guard with a potential for much angst as the favor disintegrates around them. If you intend to attach something to the favor like tassels or beads think about how easily they might come off or get broken. You can either provide spares in advance or offer a maintenance service. On the other hand, you could avoid attaching anything that might fall off or break.
- ❑ **REPAIRS.** The design should be such that repairs can be made easily and quickly by someone who does not have the same level of skill as the person who made the favor.
- ❑ **CLEANING.** The favor should be constructed of materials that clean well and don't stain easily. Think dirt, grass stains, duct tape marks from swords, etc. and you'll have a good idea of what your favor might encounter.
- ❑ **AESTHETICS.** The favor should look great.
- ❑ **PERSONALITY.** The favor should also reflect some part of your personal taste or interests. This doesn't always have to be from your personal heraldry, but Queens will often draw upon their heraldry for inspiration.

Past favors include helmet mantles, hoods, belt favors, leather garters, armor, armbands and sleeves. We were also told that someone gave out towels once.

KING'S HUSCARLS

WHAT ARE THE KING'S HUSCARLS?

The King's Huscarls are the personal bodyguard of the King in times of war. Although the title was used from time to time before, the institution of the King's Huscarls dates from King James in AS XVI (1982). Since then, various kings have chosen Huscarls, using widely varying criteria.

WHO CHOOSES THE HUSCARLS?

The King/Crown Prince chooses the King's Huscarls, with advice, if requested.

WHO MAY BE CHOSEN AS A HUSCARL?

There are no restrictions as to who may be chosen as Huscarls. Some kings have chosen only unbelted fighters, some only belted fighters, and some a mix. It would even be possible to put light fighters or non-fighters on the Huscarls. If squires are chosen as Huscarls, the King should use the same guidelines as those for the members of the Queen's Guard. Remember to send the final list to the Chamberlain for inclusion in the *Page* and *Pegasus*.

TOKENS

The Huscarls wear a yellow cloth baldric with the badge of the Huscarls upon it (A green voided crown over a red sword). There should be some of these in regalia (though there are seldom enough). The King does not present a separate token or favor to the Huscarls as the Queen does to the Guard, but may do so if he wishes.

QUEEN'S CHAMPION

The Queen's Champion is selected by the Queen by whatever method she chooses. The Champion wears a wide leather baldric bearing the Queen's device.

TOURNAMENT OR APPOINTMENT?

The big question. Should you hold a tournament to choose your champion or appoint someone? Both have their advantages and disadvantages.

If you're stepping up at 12th Night, you may have difficulty finding the time and place to hold a tournament. Sometimes the Queen at October Crown will have set aside time and resources in case the Crown Princess wishes to hold a tournament. Other Crown Princesses have tucked the tournament into an event scheduled after Crown.

If you choose to hold a tournament, notify the Kingdom Lists Officer, Earl Marshal, Greencloak Herald and the event autocrat so that they can start planning and recruiting resources. Also, ask the Crown if you may use Their list field if the tournament is not held during your reign. It is especially important to contact people very early on if you plan to hold something other than a standard double elimination tournament.

If you have your heart set on a tournament, but you want some way to avoid a particular outcome, choose a Pas d'Arms or have a poetry contest or something in addition to the fighting. That way, if Lord Doofus wins the tourney and Lord Stunningly Wonderful comes in second, you can decide that Lord Stunningly Wonderful's poem was better so he gets the honor of being Champion. Be careful, however, not to play favorites. If you wanted Lord Stunningly Wonderful with you all along, you should simply have appointed him. Another alternative is to let everyone know in advance that the Champion will be picked from the entrants in the tournament, not necessarily the winner of the tournament. If this is your choice, you should be ready with a token or gift for the winner, especially if that fighter is not who you have chosen as your Champion.

TOURNAMENT STYLES

The Queen can choose any style of tournament to select her Champion. Examples include Pas d'Arms, Snowball Melee Tournament (AKA Alliance By Conquest), Meat-grinder, War Weapons, Unbelted Fighters Only, etc.

If you choose an unusual or less common format, you may wish to consult with the Kingdom Consulting Tourneymaster, listed in *The Page* under the Seneschal. The Tourneymaster can help you avoid any pitfalls and can work with the Lists Officer as well.

QUEEN'S CHAMPION'S JOB DESCRIPTION

There isn't a solid job description for the Queen's Champion. It is largely a ceremonial position of great honor. The actual duties should be discussed between the Champion and the Queen, but here are some thoughts from previous Champions and Queens.

- stands near the Queen in court.
- protects the Queen's name from slander
- provides moral support and amusement to the Queen.
- bears the Queen's favor therefore all the Champion's public actions reflect on the Queen's honor
- takes on challenges and/or quests as directed by the Queen
- seeks out and reports on "champions" within the Kingdom and their contribution (fighting or non-fighting)
- fights with the Queen in wars, if the Queen fights
- works with the Queen's Guard either for training, wars or developing an amusement for the Queen
- fights challenges in the Queen's name
- leads or sets quests for chivalry|unbelted fighters|whomever
- protects her Royal honor and her physical safety and well-being: assists in being sure that HRM really *is* taking care of herself (i.e. helping make sure there is an umbrella, drink, etc.); escorts her during evening tours of Pennsic, Estrella, West – An Tir and/or organizes watches of the Royal Encampment
- and, in some kingdoms, it is a place to put the fighter husband of a Queen who's King isn't her significant other

QUEEN'S BOOK

Started by Duchess Elina of Beckenham, this book provides a place to pass on hard-earned lessons and experience from many queens. Sovereigns don't get to write in it, only consorts. The advice in this book is both useful and comforting. Be sure to read it as soon as possible once you receive it. When it is your turn to pass it on, try to do so at Crown so that your successor can make use of all the advice on preparing for the reign. If you simply cannot enter your advice by Crown, make a photocopy and pass that on at Crown.

QUEEN'S CYPHERS & OTHER TOKENS

QUEEN'S CIPHERS

Queen Lorna established the Queen's Cipher in AS IX. It is given to whomever the Queen finds worthy. The first recipients were Duke Paul of Bellatrix, Duchess Carol of Bellatrix, Mark von dem Falkensfenn, Duke Siegfried Hoflichskait and Trude Lacklandia. The first ciphers were designed around the first letter of the Queen's first name and the letter "R" worked together.

Traditionally, Ciphers are given at the end of the reign, but they can be given at any time, especially if you are in a remote location and wish to bestow the honor in person. The ceremony specifies that the award is a pendant bearing the initial of the Queen. However, this is not such a hard and fast tradition that people would be upset if you were to

give a brooch, pin, ring or other item. It should, however bear your initial or symbol such as the major charge from your device.

Be sure to make the design sturdy. People will not wear it if they think it might break or fall apart.

PERSONAL TOKENS

You may want to make up other tokens for use throughout your reign to say thank you to autocrats, entertainers or other people who please you. These don't have to be expensive. Past tokens have included armbands, rings, necklaces and brooches. The token is made even more special if you take it from your person when you give it to them. Even if you put the rings on right before court, the fact that it comes from the King's own hand or from around the Queen's neck makes it very special indeed.

This also goes for awards. If you are personally entitled to wear a particular award token, taking yours off and bestowing it adds to the recipient's pleasure and to the emotional impact of court. All the Queen's Order of Graces' that Duchess Juana gave out in her second reign she wore into court.

ROYAL COINS

The Moneyers Guild has traditionally given 100 coins to each set of Crowns. This number can be increased by commissioning a moneyer or making a donation to the Guild. The guildmaster can tell you how much.

Contact the guild as soon as possible to see if they are still performing this service and if they are, to work out a design. The moneyers may not get to your coins until quite some time after your reign is over, so don't count on them until they are in hand.

KINGDOM OFFICER'S MEETING

The Kingdom Officers meeting is held by law, between Crown and Coronation so that the Royal Heirs can become familiar with the administration of the kingdom and meet the officers that keep it running.

Officers prepare a report and either present it in person or have someone else present it for them. Attendance is not mandatory for the majority of officers. Other things that may occur during a Kingdom Officers meeting include a Council of the Exchequer meeting, discussions of the Royal Heirs' plans for their reign, discussion of upcoming events, requests for funding, changes to current processes, etc.

The Kingdom Seneschal typically runs the meeting while the King and Queen facilitate the discussion. However, if you would prefer to run the meeting yourself, let the Seneschal know. You might even want to talk to the Seneschal in advance to work out a strategy.

Remember the mantra? Communicate, never assume... Go into the meeting with an open mind. Don't assume you know how an office *must* be run even if you held the office in the past – things do change. You want these people to help you during your reign, so stepping on toes early probably isn't the best strategy. If you really think the job should be done differently, take up the discussion outside the meeting.

BUT YOU ARE NOT KING AND QUEEN

Remember that though you are ranked in Precedence just below the King and Queen, power is not yet yours to wield. The Crown Prince and Crown Princess are titular positions of respect only. Give the current Crown the honor and respect you yourself would like to receive in the same situation, the honor and respect the position inherently deserves — even if you disagree with the Crown's policies. Be patient. You can always change things when you wear the Crowns yourselves. Support them in public; work out differences in private.

COMMUNICATION

Here it is again. This section provides tips for common communication methods.

WRITTEN COMMUNICATION

It's a great idea to appoint a Royal Secretary, even if you're good at writing letters yourself. Preprinted postcards to acknowledge receipt of a letter are very much appreciated. A member of court could perform this task easily and the populace will be very happy to know the letter arrived.

Some of the correspondence a secretary could handle includes writing thank you notes, sending out the preprinted postcards, drafting text for scrolls to other kingdoms, scanning the various email mailing lists for pertinent messages and posting messages you write. Of course, letters should always bear your own signature(s).

On the other hand, some letters only you should write, such as those concerning controversial issues and those that will enter the kingdom files as ancestral memory. Yes, you can write letters to future Crowns and place them in the file so they will know what you were thinking when you did or did not act on an issue.

Make sure that every letter includes your mundane name, return address, telephone number, *and the date*.

Remember to keep a file copy of official correspondence (as opposed to thank you notes). It will be important to future Crowns.

USING THE TELEPHONE

We're all more likely to make a phone call than write a hardcopy letter. It's easier. Here are some tips to keep your bill from becoming astronomical. It will reach outer orbit without any help from you.

- Sign up for a special rate with your long distance provider to Alaska and the countries and territories included in the Far West.
- Call during your long distance provider's discount hours.
- Make notes before picking up the phone to avoid forgetting an item, necessitating a call back.
- If you get an answering machine or voice mail system, leave a clear message including your name, telephone number and the date and time you called/rang.
- Be aware of the various time zones in the Kingdom. Depending on the season, Alaska is an hour behind California. Guam, Korea and Japan are also in different time zones.
- Take notes. Especially if you do not live in the same house as your co-ruler, you will want detailed notes to refresh your memory when you talk. A logbook with dates, times and names will help keep all the information in one place.

While telephone conversations provide invaluable communication, their main disadvantage is the lack of records. If an important decision has been reached that affects the kingdom, following the conversation up with a written communiqué will both provide a document for the files and make sure everyone is on the same page.

EMAIL

The West has a special email account set up for the royalty. When email is sent to this address, it is automatically forwarded to the email address(es) of your choice. This service is provided and maintained by the Kingdom Web Minister so that a consistent email address is available for contacting the royalty. Before your Coronation the Kingdom Web Minister will need to know what email address(es) you will want email to be delivered to. The work necessary to make this change happens as soon as possible after your Coronation to ensure that those messages always go to the Crown. If neither of you will have an email account during the reign, you might consider asking someone close to you, such as a housemate or court member if they would be willing to accept the email on your behalf. Contact the Kingdom Web Minister for more information.

Email is fast becoming the communication method of choice. It is quick, relatively inexpensive, unlike phone calls it provides a printable record, and it allows you to edit your message before you send it. You can also write email at any hour regardless of the time zone of your recipient.

However, email has its own disadvantages. People tend to take less care writing their email messages than they would a letter. In addition, email does not allow for inflection. Your reader cannot hear your voice or see your expression. You must be very careful in email to write your thoughts clearly, especially when dealing with members of your populace from different cultures or places who do not know you personally. Avoid slang, colloquialisms and abbreviations.

Be sure to keep a copy of every email message you send, just as you keep copies of paper correspondence. If your mail client does not do this automatically, add yourself as a "cc" recipient to each note.

Print out a copy of critical decision email and put it in the files. You may want to consider keeping a diskette with the [cleaned up] correspondence for your reign in the files as well.

Email can escape to the public. Unless your situation is very controlled, do not pass along someone's email messages to anyone without the sender's explicit permission. Similarly, your own email messages can be forwarded very easily and taken out of context. Make sure your messages can stand up on their own even if you are "having a conversation." Email can spread trouble faster than any other medium except the telepathic network among the heralds. :-)(= joke.)

If you are not familiar with email, talk to someone who is, or seek the council of the Kingdom Web Minister. Be very leery of posting to mailing lists while you are on the throne unless you know what you are doing.

MAJOR PLANS FOR THE REIGN

A few kings and queens go into the job thinking that all they want to achieve during the reign is to survive to the end. However, the majority of kings and queens go into the reign wanting to accomplish something. It could be as basic as "Early period can too look stunning." to a major overhaul of the marshallate.

Create a list of all the big things you would like to accomplish during your reign. Cross out everything except the top five. Concentrate on the first two, and only think about the other three when the first two are accomplished. If you have a very controversial thing on your list, it should be a list with only that one item. Of course, you may inherit an issue that eclipses your own.

If you are planning something extra with regards to entering a Crown list (i.e. entering an arts competition), make sure you have coordinated your plans with the appropriate kingdom officers prior to your announcement. No one likes that kind of surprise and they will need to make their own preparations like extra judges and table space.

THE PAGE

The Page is the official newsletter for the West Kingdom. You should ensure that official announcements you make at any courts, requirements for Crown or anything else you want to reach the populace at large are printed in *The Page*.

THE DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSION TO *THE PAGE* IS THE 1ST OF THE MONTH PRIOR TO THE MONTH OF PUBLICATION.

WHAT TO PUT IN *THE PAGE*

Your Words are another method of communicating with a large part of your populace. It's the place you can state any requirements for Crown Lists or any other requirements you have. You can reflect on your reign's theme, make a call to arms for an upcoming war, welcome a new Prince and Princess, tell the populace which groups you'll be

visiting that month or request recommendation letters. In your first newsletter appearance, you should thank your predecessors for their work, and thank the autocrats and anyone else for their work at your Coronation.

The Chronicler and your readers will appreciate a short snappy statement that comes to the point quickly and actually says something interesting.

If your words do not make it to the Chronicler by the deadline, your words may not get published. Showing concern for the extra work you are causing and offering a bribe of some sort will usually work if the layout has not been completed. If you let your Chronicler know in advance that your words will be late, s/he can tell you when they plan on doing the layout – you may have an extra day or two to work with. Don't overuse the privilege, it can result in a very crispy Chronicler.

DEADLINES

Remember that the deadline for *The Page* is the first of the month *prior* to publication. Thus, if you are writing about something happening in September, you will want your copy in the September issue — which needs to be with the Chronicler by August 1st. Look ahead to see what you need to write about.

The Chronicler will probably be prepared to accommodate you in many ways. If you have something important, and it is *just* past the deadline, call him or her anyway. There may be a little space left, perfect for your use or the Chronicler may be willing to shuffle things to fit. Please don't abuse this power, or the Chronicler will become a frustrated individual. Bribes and sweet words work wonders. Find out what your Chronicler's weakness is early on, you may need to exploit it shamelessly later.

It is perfectly acceptable to send copies of your proclamations to the newsletters in advance as a statement of intention, so that they appear as soon as possible *after* the actual announcement in Court. However, you do not want to send proclamations as the *Crown* until after Coronation. Thank you's, intentions and whims are OK, but law changes and proclamations that limit or govern people's activities are not. For example, you might want to make an important law change at your coronation; you could write in the Page, "it is Our intention to enact the following law change at Beltane..." then publish it officially in the next Page.

Remember to give the US Postal Service up to a week to deliver domestic mail. If something is *really* urgent, send it by fax or email, followed by hard copy in the mail.

AWARDS

YOU MUST PUBLISH YOUR AWARDS!

Before we discuss awards any further, you must appreciate a very important fact:

EVERY AWARD YOU GRANT, AND EVERY COURT APPOINTMENT YOU MAKE, MUST BE PUBLISHED IN *THE PAGE* BEFORE IT IS REALLY REAL.

Even though you have announced an award in Court and handed a token to the recipient, to make your awards "stick" you must publish them.

To make this easier on the Royalty, Veniamin and Aeron established the office of Royal Chamberlain. [WK III:10.1] The Royal Chamberlain is responsible for obtaining lists of all awards given at each event from both the Court Herald and the royalty; checking those lists against each other; checking the spelling of names against the SCA Ordinary; and providing a corrected list of awards to the Chronicler and the Golem Pursuivant.

Here is how the process works in practice:

- You decide to give an award.
- You tell the herald.
- The herald calls forth the recipient and you give that person their award in court.

- ❑ After court, (preferably before) the herald writes all the awards and recipients down, usually on a special form provided by the Kingdom Court Herald. This is why it is useful to warn the local herald that you will hold court. Better yet, keep some in your court supplies.
- ❑ You must approve and sign this document. Keep a copy for your own files.
- ❑ The herald sends the list to the Royal Chamberlain who checks the spelling of names, etc.
- ❑ The Chamberlain then forwards the list to *The Page* for publication and to the keeper of the OP (Golem Pursuivant) for inclusion in the database.

As much as this process is meant to ease the administrative burden from the royalty, *it is ultimately your responsibility to remember to ask the herald for the list to sign and make sure the Chamberlain receives it.* If the herald is completely new to the process, you might want to check with the Chamberlain to ensure the list arrived.

AWARD RECOMMENDATIONS

You will receive from the populace many recommendations for awards, although probably not as many as you would like. You should read these recommendations carefully. If they are for work you feel could be better recognized at the Principality level, by all means send the letter to the Prince and Princess. Any recommendations for peerages can be sent to the Clerk of the order to include in the agenda for the next meeting (this way you won't have to remember to bring it with you.)

If you don't know the person being recommended for an award, feel free to consult with the Peers, Officers, Landed Barons and Baronesses, or someone in the populace you think appropriate to see whether the person is truly deserving. However, you should be very discreet when doing so. People can be very hurt by hearing that they were being considered for an award, but were not given it. Even if you receive a large number of recommendations, if the person is unknown to you, you should check with someone who does know the person.

You do not *need* recommendation letters for someone before you give them an award. Similarly, you can pass over someone although you have recommendation letters from everyone in the Kingdom. Remember that recommendations are just that: recommendations — advice on who you should consider giving awards to.

You should also be inquisitive about potential award recipients in every group. Ask who is doing the work, who is producing things, and so on. It's very easy for the people in the group to overlook someone because they're too close to the situation or may assume the person already has that award.

THE RECOMMENDATIONS FILE

Your predecessors may or may not hand you a file of recommendation letters that they did or did not act on. If they do hand you a file, review it with them.

You will want to keep your own file and make notes of any research you have done on a candidate. Especially if you decide against an award, it will be helpful for your successors to know why since they may receive a letter for the same person. At this time, the Kingdom has no mechanism for an award recommendation "database." This file is the only thing connecting recommendations from reign to reign.

In recent times it has become a courtesy for the Crown to hand the original files to Their successors and keep a copy for *their* successors. This allows for any mishaps that may occur during your successors' reign, since these files tend to be the most traveled.

GRANTING AWARDS

Giving awards is very satisfying for the Royalty: it's a lot of fun to see the happy, surprised or confused expressions on the recipients' faces. But giving awards too liberally downgrades their status, and in the eye of the populace it downgrades the Royalty granting them. You might even hear such comments as "But that was from King X and Queen Y, and you know how they treated them like confetti."

You should think very carefully before giving an award to a friend or Court member. It can look bad if the majority of your awards go to your buddies, or seem to.

Do your best to check that the intended recipient doesn't already have that award. Check with the Order of Precedence that you received at the Crown you won and with *The Pages* in between. If you are not sure if your predecessors granted the award, call the Chamberlain. If you have web access, the awards list is on the Kingdom Web Site.

Make a note in the Recommendations file of the awards you give, especially if a letter contains several recommendations.

There's an old saying in the SCA that while an award can never really be "too late", you *can* make awards "too early". This is true and not true. After a certain point, an award loses meaning if it is too late. Similarly, an award does not have enough meaning if granted too early. Hard call and it is all yours to make.

THE "AWARDS BOX"

The King and Queen have a box containing all the bits and pieces they need to make awards — award tokens, ribbon, and promissory notes. This is often called the "awards box" and sometimes "the bits box". It is the responsibility of the Crown to make sure it is kept stocked by letting the Kingdom Regalia Minister know when stocks are low (less than six tokens per award.) Promisories can be obtained from the College of Scribes. Try to leave sufficient bits in the bits box for your successors to start their reign.

For awards with a "dangly bit" (a token hanging from a ribbon), you obviously need a ribbon. Kingdom awards, unless otherwise noted, are given with either a single green or gold ribbon or one of each color. Queen Juana wove her own award ribbons. As a courtesy to your successors, stock up the ribbon supply before stepping down.

AWARD PRECEDENCE

In all systems of heraldry, the various awards are graded into different ranks of precedence. However, the SCA's system of precedence differs substantially from the mundane system. In mundane systems of heraldry, heraldic Arms may be awarded, or "granted", or "Granted by Letters Patent", but they still all rank equally. What really determines the recipient's rank is the *Order* to which they are admitted. In the SCA, however, *Corpora* defines four main precedence levels: "Patents", "Grants" and "Awards" of Arms, as well as non-armigerous awards.

WHAT AWARDS CAN YOU GRANT?

As King and Queen of the West you have the right to bestow all awards except Principality and Baronial awards.

It is traditional (though neither compulsory nor automatic) for the Crown to grant to the Princes and Princesses the right to award Leaves of Achievement, the Order of the Leaf of Merit and the Rose Leaf, on a reign-by-reign basis. Communicate your decision on this to the Principality Royalty. Be prepared for questions if you decide not to grant the right.

LIST OF AWARD RECIPIENTS

This document is an alphabetical record of everyone who has received an award in the West Kingdom and those who have awards from other kingdoms, but are living in the West. Master Hirsch von Henford maintains the list and tries to get copies to each set of Kingdom and Principality Royalty. There is a notebook for these that should be passed along with the Kingdom files as well. Hirsch can be contacted at any time for a current listing. You may consider requesting one after your reign just to make sure that all the awards you gave were recorded. The list is also available on the West Kingdom Web Site.

LIST OF AWARDS [SEE PAGE 89]

DELEGATING DELIVERY

At times, the Crown may wish to grant an award to a person in an outlying area such as the Far West or Oertha. The Crown may announce the award in Their own court, but ask the Prince and Princess or local Baron and Baroness to bestow the token or notify the recipient in a local court.

Some awards can be granted by the Crown's representative without announcing them in the Crown's court. Consult with the Vesper Herald and the Kingdom Seneschal if you have any questions.

CREATING NEW AWARDS

Think carefully before creating new awards. Do you *really* need a new award? Are you *absolutely sure* what you want to do isn't already covered by another award? Are you sure people can qualify for the award? If the answer is definitely "yes", read on.

To create a new award, work with the Kingdom Seneschal and Vesper Herald on the exact wording for the new award as it will appear in Kingdom law. Work with Vesper to develop a suitable symbol or to research the symbol you have in mind, register the award and develop a ceremony to bestow the new award. Announce the law change in Court, publish the change in *The Page*, and presto, you have created an award.

The letter of the law does require that award names and titles be registered [[Corpora VII.B.2](#)].

PEERAGES

Orders of Peerage are Society-wide. Therefore, the Crown can not create a new Order of Peerage separate from the ones that already exist. This type of change must be done on a Society-wide basis.

PEERAGE COUNCIL

The Peerage Councils, or "peerage meetings", discuss and recommend to the Crown any members of the populace who may have reached the standards set to become a Peer. They also discuss any other matters which you as King and Queen, or they as Peers, might wish to raise. The Royalty can run the meetings any way they want. Decide beforehand and coordinate with the Clerk to help your meetings run smoothly. Individuals are discussed in detail, and you may be surprised at how frank the discussions sometimes become.

Peerage Councils usually take place on Sunday morning at Crowns and Coronations except for 12th Night. Peerage meetings are only held at 12th Night by direct request of the Crown, usually to discuss a major issue or to remind the peers of which new peers are being created that day, in what order and who has which parts in the ceremony. There will usually be two Council meetings during your reign. You can call more or less meetings if you wish, but you should give plenty of notice either way.

If you are traveling to Oertha or the Far West, it is very likely that the peerage orders will want to hold a Council while you are there.

You will also be expected to attend the meetings on the Sunday after you win Crown. Probably well before you have had a chance to read this far in this book. Try to pay attention even though you may have celebrated far into the wee hours. Sometimes a peerage will be decided, but there is the possibility that it will be bestowed during your reign, you need to be happy with doing this and willing to say "no" if you are not happy. You are not bound by your predecessors' decisions, but you need to let them know as soon as possible if you do not agree with a decision so that they can ensure that the peerage is granted in their reign.

CONFIDENTIALITY

Everything that passes within the Council about candidates and people is confidential and most topic discussions are as well. Some topic discussions like standards are not. Feel free to censure anyone who breaks confidentiality. Be prepared to feel censured if you break confidentiality. This includes after you step down.

WHY IS THIS SO IMPORTANT? An amazing amount of damage can be done if someone hears that they are being discussed and who is saying what about them. There is a difference between counseling an individual and guiding them along the line the Council would like to see them develop, and telling them to shape up because so and so does not approve of them.

While confidentiality is considered very important in the West, Jarl Valgard Stonecleaver reports that there are some kingdoms (Atlantia for one) that publish peerage-meeting proceedings for some orders. This is not a Western philosophy.

CROWN PRINCES AND PRINCESSES: Occasionally a Crown Prince or Crown Princess will be under discussion when they win Crown. *Traditionally*, the Clerk of the Order is asked to figure out how to keep this knowledge from the candidate, usually done by not handing out extra lists (I'm sorry Your Highness, I only have one copy) or creating multiple lists omitting likely candidates.

PREPARATION

You can prepare for peerage meetings by discussing the meeting format and candidate list with the Clerk sometime prior to the event. If there is a candidate that you feel is particularly ready, but isn't on the list, the Clerk can often give you an indication why if you are not a member of that particular Order and already aware of the discussion on the candidate. If you wish to discuss a particular topic, asking the Clerk to spread the word will make for a more productive discussion and will (hopefully) ensure that all the peers interested in the topic will arrange to attend the meeting.

DECIDING TO OFFER A PEERAGE

Use your best judgment, but consult as many people as possible if you have any questions at all about the candidate. It is also considered tradition if not plain common courtesy to consult the candidate's knight, laurel or pelican, if the candidate has one, before making your final decision. Traditionally, if a candidate's peer does not think the candidate is ready, you do not give the peerage, but let the rest of the Council try to change their mind.

Be very specific about decisions to offer peerages. There have been instances where council members thought that the Crown had decided to offer a peerage, and told the candidate, but the Crown had not decided. Feelings can get seriously hurt by this. In addition, while the Crown is the decision-maker in these matters, decisions should be made in the meetings rather than after. It is the easiest way to inform the order of the Crown's decision – they're sitting there in front of you. However, circumstances may not allow this, so use your best judgement and communicate your decision.

OFFERING PEERAGES

As the Crown, you have first dibs on offering any peerage you decide to give. The important thing is to make the moment as special as possible for the candidate. You may wish to witness the offer, but have the candidate's peer actually make the offer. Or you may delegate this honor to another member of the peerage (this is typically only done when the peerage is in Oertha or the Far West; you may prefer to delegate the offer to the reigning royalty or baron.)

There is a very important reason why you may wish to make it clear that you will make or witness every offer feasible and to emphasize confidentiality. There was one case where a well-meaning member of the order told a person that they were going to be offered membership. This person went to several events in a row expecting to be approached. As it turns out, the person was not even on the discussion list; someone got something horribly wrong. The person was so hurt by the whole thing that they dropped out of the SCA.

It is also a good idea to try to have the candidate's significant other present, too. While only one is being given the peerage, it is usually a team effort. It is your choice how to do it, but this is a very special occasion for the candidate and an effort should be made to make it memorable in a good way.

SURPRISE PEERAGES

The candidate may want a surprise if ever offered a peerage. Back in "the old days" peerages were all surprises and some people prefer it this way. This is another reason for talking to a candidate's knight, laurel or pelican before offering a peerage. Alternatively, if the candidate is not a squire, apprentice or protege, one of the members of the order may know or could surreptitiously find out. Just remind them to keep it quiet.

One of the advantages of a planned ceremony is that the candidate can arrange a procession and all the pomp and circumstance they desire. But there are ways to make surprise peerages very special and tailored to the individual. The candidate's friends in council (and typically the significant other) should take a major role in this and not allow the future costuming laurel to appear in her cooking apron.

PEERAGE CHAINS

The current understanding in the West is that Pelicans and Laurels may, if they wish, wear an adorned chain to denote their fealty to the Crown. The chain reserved for the knights, on the other hand, is typically defined as large, unadorned, and open linked (i.e. lamp chain).

This topic has *history* and is fondly referred to by some as an issue not unlike the Bog of Eternal Stench. Touch this issue only if you have very, very strong convictions about it.

ROYAL PEERAGES (AKA THE ROYAL ESTATE)

WHAT ARE THE ROYAL PEERAGES?

Dukes, Duchesses, Counts, Countesses, Viscounts and Viscountesses and all the variants (i.e. Ban-Iarla, Earl, Jarl) are titles for royal peers. The only way to get a royal peerage is to successfully complete a reign.

All Royal Peerages in the West Kingdom are accompanied by a Patent of Arms [\[WK IV:2\]](#) This is not the case in all kingdoms.

WHO GRANTS THE ROYAL PEERAGES?

The successor grants the accolade to the predecessor, but as mentioned in the awards section, the title is automatic as soon as the person steps down.

HOW DO YOU GRANT A ROYAL PEERAGE?

To grant a royal peerage, you follow the appropriate ceremony just as you would with an award. These will appear on the herald's award list and subsequently in *The Page*.

NOT AWARDING A ROYAL PEERAGE

The only time that a royal peerage may not be granted is if the King and/or Queen failed to complete the reign as described in various parts of Corpora. If you feel that your predecessors may not have successfully completed their reign, you must approach the Board of Directors for a ruling on the matter.

AMBASSADORS

WHAT ARE AMBASSADORS?

Ambassadors are your representatives in other kingdoms. The people you choose as Ambassadors should be able to perform well in Court and be suitably diplomatic. In some kingdoms, ambassadors rank in the order of precedence just under reigning royalty, so investing a garden gnome as an ambassador may not be the fun you thought it would.

The Crown appoints Ambassadors either for an extended period of time, in the case of someone moving to another area, or for a particular event such as a Coronation. Ambassadorships are only valid for the reign in which they are given and must be renewed for each reign. There are no laws governing the activities of an Ambassador other than those in Corpora that outline the duties of the Crown that cannot be delegated to such a person.

You may wish to give an ambassador a scroll of appointment and/or a letter of introduction to the royalty of the foreign kingdom.

THE AMBASSADORIAL SCROLL

There is no set wording for an ambassadorial scroll. It should be tailored to the situation clearly stating the scope of responsibility and authority you are investing in your ambassador.

AMBASSADORIAL DUTIES

Here are some examples of what you may have an ambassador do for you:

- ❑ Present gifts and good wishes at another kingdom's coronation. Particularly nice if it is the kingdom's first coronation.
- ❑ War schtick.
- ❑ Sit on a council of kings if you absolutely cannot be there.
- ❑ Negotiate treaties.
- ❑ Provide a Western subject who is moving to a new kingdom with instant kingdom level exposure.

APPEARANCES

At the beginning of the Handbook it was mentioned that there are many ways to reign and to a large degree we have stayed away from style issues unless they directly related to a tradition. However, there are some areas that bear exploration.

CLOTHING. The populace likes to see well-dressed Royalty. We don't advocate spending your house down payment on garb, but you will want to dress the part. You may also want to make sure you dress in private; photographs of royalty in their underwear have made great auction items at Ducal Prize.

SEX. Often times the King and Queen are not a couple. The populace may know this intellectually, but their mental model of a King and Queen is typically that of a couple. As one person put it "it looks really cheap and crass for the King to be playing tongue hockey." Graphic, isn't it? Have fun, but be discreet.

RESPECT. Show respect for the person you are reigning with. The populace sees you as a unit each with equal power. Try to avoid "taking over" and eclipsing the other person. For the long of leg - don't leave the other in the dust. Walk in processions together, show affection for each other as friends and do some things together.

HAPPINESS: Even if the person you are reigning with has done something you think was incredibly heinous, try not to let the populace see the strain in the relationship. This may be impossible at times, but the reign is only four months long.

UNITY: The Crown should always appear from the outside as having one mind on issues. Disagreements should be handled in private. Remember that tents are not sound proof! The Crown shouldn't be seen or heard arguing.

TANTRUMS: We say tantrums, but really it's stress relief - when you need to be able to say what you really think, or just wish you could think. As above, be careful where and when you de-stress. Tents aren't sound proof and people can spot your body language a mile away.

STRESS

Reigning is stressful. Most royal peers will probably agree that reigning puts a tremendous amount of pressure on the King and Queen. Not only are you performing from Friday to Sunday, organizing entertainment for the masses, and managing the kingdom, but you're making decisions that will affect peoples' hobby, often a major part of their lives and you will draw fire. No matter what you do, you simply can not please everyone. If you try to please

everyone, you may find yourself pleasing no one and getting even more stressed out. This amount of pressure will test your patience, endurance and your bonds with your partner.

Coping strategies can be mapped out ahead of time. For instance, when you plan your itinerary, plan some time away from the SCA. You may simply sit at home with the phone ringer and the answering machine's volume off, but you need down-time to maintain your perspective.

Spend time maintaining your relationship with your significant other. Any fissures in your relationship will widen during the reign. Make sure you have an hour or two each week together enjoying each other's company. Smooch lots. If you are not reigning with your significant other, that person can help you a lot with escape and perspective.

Keep yourself physically fit, as this will help combat stress. Take your vitamins. Combine that special time with your significant other with a long walk. Keep physically active. And, if you do get sick, take the time you need to get well.

Your stress level can rub off on your Court and Guard, too. Consider assigning one or two people to watch for this and help everyone work through the issues. This can be as simple as telling a court member to take time out or as complex as finding a time to let the royalty hide for 20 to 30 minutes (and convincing them that they need the break.)

Avoid creating stress by agreeing on some ground rules before the reign like *always* talking to each other before making a decision and who will take on which responsibilities. Some times the smallest, most inconsequential thing in passing can add the most stress to your reign and relationship. The Crowns, though plural, need to be unified.

Memorize the phrase: "We will take that under advisement." Develop other similar phrases that will help get you out of difficult situations.

The issues don't always stop when the reign does. The people who are unhappy with you will probably still be unhappy with you. How unhappy depends on what happened during the reign. It really is inevitable that someone will be unhappy, but time often heals these wounds. Every once in a while a major issue will come up that will cause you to make choices based on honor or oaths or what's best for the kingdom and sometimes these decisions will end friendships, but not necessarily. Friends can often disagree on an issue and remain friends. How you handle these situations is very important.

MONEY

IT'S EXPENSIVE

Being King and Queen can be an expensive exercise. You get some help from the Kingdom Travel Fund [see page 43], and you typically don't have to pay the gate fee for kingdom level events. You usually have free entry to any other event you wish to attend but it is a nice gesture to offer to pay anyway – sometimes local groups could really use the help. All other expenses are yours.

EXPENDITURES

Here are some of the things to expect to spend money on. How much is up to you.

- Clothes. Coronation, stepping down, during the reign. How does your wardrobe look? When budgeting for garb, realize that the outer fabric is only half the cost of the materials.
- Accessories. How's your belt looking these days? Do you have period (or at least period) footwear?
- Gifts. Royal gift exchanges at Crowns, Coronets and Investitures, gifts to territorial Barons and Baronesses when you visit, Court gifts, gifts for people who just helped out, gifts for your Guard, Champion and Knight' Councilor.
- Tokens. Little things to give to performers, children and helpful people.
- Travel. The travel fund is limited.
- Fuel. How fuel-efficient is your vehicle? Expect to put a lot of miles on it before the end of the reign.

- Food and accommodation. Budget for meals on the road and an increased number of restaurant and/or fast food meals as the reign steals your kitchen time. Sometimes it may be convenient to stay in a motel rather than camp.
- Telephone bill. It goes up and there's not much you can do about it except write more letters or emails.
- Postage. It isn't reimbursed and it's a very important communication tool.
- Photocopying. All sorts of things need copying including ceremonies, promisories, recommendation letters, correspondence, directions, etc. Your work may not appreciate your use of their photocopiers.
- Stationery. Will you be using custom stationery? You'll need copies. At the very least, you will need thank you notes.
- Coronets. You may want your own coronet to denote your rank after you step down.
- Queen's ciphers. Depending on what you want and how much notice you give the artisan, these can cost up to \$20 each. If you give out 20 of them that's \$400. Of course, if you design them well in advance with the artisan, you can bring the costs down substantially.
- Rose token. If you are inducting your predecessor into the Order of the Rose you should give her a token of some sort. A glass rose is nice. A living rose is acceptable.
- Roses. Expect to need 200 to 300 roses for the Tournament of Roses. If you shop around you can get good deals, but still expect to pay over \$150. There is a "roses fund", please contact the Exchequer for details.

The last informal survey had the range of reign expense between \$5000 and \$15,000.

CONTROLLING COSTS

There are a number of ways to keep costs under control.

- Decide on an overall amount that you can afford and allocate money to the different items above, just as you would for any major event or business project.
- Create a budget at the beginning of the reign and give it to your head of court. This will help control spending on gifts, royal feasts, clothes and other items often delegated to your court.
- Develop a travel plan and review it with the Exchequer before you step up. This will ensure that you know which of your plans are and are not eligible for reimbursement from the Fund.
- Ask members of your court to help by donating food to royal feasts, potluck style.
- Utilize the Queen's Gift Box maintained by Jania of Call Duck Manor.
- Ask the guilds if they would be willing to provide you with items to give as gifts.
- Utilize the Shopping Guide on page 87.
- If you are going to a major inter-kingdom event like Estrella or Pennsic, you might ask the Laurel Council if they know of any up and coming artisans (or any Laurels, for that matter) who might like to showcase their talent by providing gifts for the other royalty. You could make a similar call to your Baronies.
- Be creative. Some gifts look cool, but don't cost a lot and are easy to make. Your court and other friends will be happy to help out with the labor, especially if you give them advance warning. Consider having a lavender wand making party, an embroidery tea or a metal twisting extravaganza.

There are many people willing to help, you just need to ask them well in advance and give them clear directions.

KINGDOM TRAVEL FUND

Speak with the Kingdom Exchequer for the latest policy as soon as possible after becoming Crown Prince and Crown Princess. It changes on a regular basis.

The Travel Fund works on a reimbursement basis. You must keep your receipts. If you are claiming mileage, you need to keep a logbook. To receive your reimbursement, forward the original to the Kingdom Exchequer. Write on each one what it was for. The clearer the submission is, the sooner the Exchequer will be able to process it.

TAXES

The good news is that almost everything you spend on the reign is tax deductible. Keep detailed records of all your expenditures including mileage. You may be surprised by getting a little something back from the government. Check with a tax expert before filing. There are some in the SCA who are willing to review tax returns for free before they're filed. At this writing, Wulfstan Darroldson may still offer this service – he works with the IRS. One word of caution – you can't claim anything on taxes for which you have already received reimbursement.

ROYAL BASKET EXCHANGE

The exchange usually takes place during court at kingdom and principality events to demonstrate the royalty's generosity. During one court, Mistress Eilis made it into a sort of game by declaring each set of royalty's presentation a "round." It is a nice touch to bring something for territorial barons and baronesses when you visit their barony.

While etiquette dictates that you need only give one gift to each set of royalty during your reign, basket exchange escalation has taken place. Through discussion with your princes and princesses, you can come up with a reasonable balance that suits tastes and budgets.

Remember that useful and fun gifts are very much appreciated. For new heirs, a blank book and pen is particularly useful to record gifts and offers of help. Similarly, maps of the new heirs' lands to be.

Other gift ideas include

- | | | | |
|--------------------------------------|--|---|---|
| - wine, beer, cider, juice | - period looking eating utensils | - trinkets that they can give away (stones, beads, buttons) | - something reflecting the individual's personality or motif as long as it is in good taste |
| - tea, coffee or other favored drink | - massage oil | - thorn stripper | - custom made stationery |
| - headache remedy | - sunscreen | - cloth | - strings of stone chips or pearls |
| - toys | - stamps | - soaps | - wheat braids |
| - finger food | - small scissors | - something with the appropriate territory's motif as long as it is in good taste | - fun stuff from Chinatown |
| - their favorite confection | - spools of ribbon in kingdom or principality colors | | |
| - flowers | - lavender wands | | |
| | - boxes | | |

See page 43, Controlling Costs for ideas on how to reduce the fiscal impact of this particular exercise.

PARTICIPATING IN COMBAT

You are both welcome to participate in combat while you are reigning if you want to, you may just not have as much time for it as you would like.

SURCOATS

Sometimes the regalia has a surcoat and sometimes it doesn't. They wear out quickly for obvious reasons. If you plan to fight during your reign, add this to your list of things to commission so that you are ensured of a good looking, well fitted surcoat in your style.

TOURNAMENTS

When you go to local groups, the fighters will want to fight you. It is a wonderful opportunity for them to learn new skills and a terrific thrill if they win a bout. When you are traveling, find out from the autocrat if there will be fighting planned as part of the event, or if the local fighters would like to hold a practice so that you can plan to pack the necessary armor.

Often times the local group will sponsor a tournament. They will want you to fight in it. In the past, some royalty have used a pseudonym, but that fiction has passed pretty much into history. Nowadays, the locals would prefer to see you in your entire splendor. Should you win the tournament and receive a prize, it is considered magnanimous, not to mention good court-theater to pass it on to someone suitable (determined by the circumstances.)

CHALLENGES

There are challenges and then there are challenges. As the Crown, you are the rulers of the land and therefore beyond any challenge. On the other hand, a Pas d'Arms is a tournament format based entirely on challenges that are fine for a Crown. Use your best judgment about challenges. If someone makes a challenge that is inappropriate, try to diffuse the situation with humor. You were new once, too.

MEETINGS

PEERAGE MEETINGS: Peerage meetings for the Chivalry, the Laurels and the Pelicans are typically held on Sunday morning at Beltane, Purgatorio and all crown tournaments, but are only held at Twelfth Night by special order of the Crown, usually on Saturday morning. It is not a requirement to hold two meetings during your reign if you do not think it is needed. Likewise, you can hold additional meetings – just announce them before the event so people who want to attend can arrange their travel schedules. Occasionally, peers decide that they would like to hold a longer meeting at someplace other than an event to discuss an issue that has become too large to fit at the end of candidate discussions. It is expected that the Kingdom Royalty will attend.

REGALIA TRANSFER: The regalia transfer meeting is where you agree to take responsibility for the regalia you will be in possession of during your reign. It is also the time at which the Crown can ask to not have certain regalia items entrusted to them. See Royal Regalia Minister on page 68 for more on this. The royalty do not necessarily need to attend the transfer meeting, but you will sign for any regalia you take, so it is a good idea to either be there or have a trusted court member attend for you. Remember to discuss the logistics of hauling the regalia trailer. It is often held at events because the regalia and the people are in the same place at the same time. If the incoming and/or outgoing royals and the regalia minister (or representative) live near enough to each other, there is no real reason why this meeting could not take place outside an event.

KINGDOM OFFICERS: The Kingdom Officers Meeting is held as soon as feasible after a crown tournament. It serves as a method of acclimatizing the Crown Prince and Princess to the state of the Kingdom and provides a nonevent venue for discussing Kingdom issues.

EXCHEQUER: Usually the Royalty, Seneschal and Exchequer meet before or after the officers meeting to discuss the Kingdom finances and any requests for funding. The Exchequer can provide you with an agenda in advance, if you ask, though sometimes requests for funding will come up during the officers meeting.

OTHERS: Feel free to call other meetings at events as necessary to discuss issues, plans, etc. If the topic is of general interest and you would like a town hall style meeting, coordinate with the autocrat for suitable space and announce it in *The Page* if you know enough in advance. For other meetings, you will want to organize the level of privacy suitable for the topic under discussion.

EVENTS

PREPARING FOR EVENTS

Let the Autocrat know you are coming and make sure that suitable accommodation has been arranged. Although as King and Queen you can “just turn up”, it’s a little inconsiderate, and will unnecessarily panic the autocrating team. Work out whether you would like a High Table, and which guests you would like to join you there — and let the autocrat know so he or she can arrange the seating. Listen to the suggestions of the autocrat, who may have some good ideas about who should sit at High Table. If you are visiting a Barony, ask the Baron and Baroness. If any other royalty are present, ask them too.

If you plan on holding Court, and *especially* if you want a Grand March [see page 75], make sure the local herald is made aware. If you are planning any special ceremonies, try to get copies to the herald in advance. Conversely, if there is something special you’d like the herald to arrange, make sure you let him or her know as far in advance as possible. If you will not be holding Court, let the herald know that as well.

Prepare the awards you will be handing out. First, check the recommendation file to make sure you don’t forget anyone. You may need to buy ribbon.

UTILITY BOX

It is useful to have a *pre-packed* utility box that you *know* has everything you need for the average event. The idea is that you can grab this box, briefcase or basket and be more or less prepared to face an event. This includes, but is not limited to:

- pens, small note pads
- calligraphy pen and ink (or cartridge style pen)
- ribbons, basic awards tokens (leaves), blank promisories
- heralds award list – blank forms
- scissors, thread, needles, safety pins
- hair pins, bands, brush, comb
- breath mints
- pain killers – do you know how heavy those crowns are?
- toothbrush, toothpaste, dental floss, deodorant
- other toiletries (disposable razor, tampon, etc.)
- current copy of *The Page*.

PACKING LIST

Here is a sample packing list for an average event as Royalty. If the event is sufficiently distant, you may wish to call ahead to have the locals provide alternatives to things like the thrones.

- Utility box
- Crowns
- Chains of State if you are using them
- Kneeling cushions
- Travel thrones (ceremonial thrones are usually in the regalia trailer and used for Coronations and Crowns)
- Kingdom banners

- ❑ Tableware – utensils, table cloths, napkins, drinking vessels, plates, lighting
- ❑ Recommendations file
- ❑ Completed promisories
- ❑ Camping gear, if required
- ❑ Duct tape
- ❑ Royal cloaks
- ❑ Gifts as appropriate
- ❑ Your personal gear

YOUR ACTIONS SPEAK VOLUMES

Remember that you are the symbol of the Crown and the Kingdom of the West. Live up to that image. What you do at an event will be remembered and often emulated. Yep, you are a role model now. This does not mean you need to be stuffy and serious all the time, and we certainly do not want you to be so nervous about doing anything that you sit and do nothing. You can have a lot of fun and still maintain decorum worthy of royalty.

You will be someone's very first King or Queen. You want them to enjoy the experience and be proud to have met you. This is not to say you have to completely change your personality because that will not work either. But a regal version of you is definitely attainable.

BE ON PUBLIC DISPLAY

FEASTS: At least one of you should remain at High Table while food is being served, so the servers have someone to present food to. Ask the herald to announce the beginning of each remove so that you know when you should be at table. Ask the herald or an attendant to let you know when a remove has ended (the kitchen has stopped sending out food for this remove) so you know when you can leave the table.

THRONES: The ceremonial thrones (as opposed to the travel thrones) are large and you may not be. Try to be at ease and “control” the space you sit in with body language and gestures. Use a footstool to avoid dangling your legs. That will make you look regal rather than like a child in a high chair.

GREET PEOPLE

Say hello to newcomers — it is worth it, it costs you very little, and they remember that they were welcomed to the Society by the King and Queen. It is good public relations. Talk to people about what they are doing. The crown opens a lot of doors everywhere and you might be able to get to do something neat like ride into court or play with a catapult. Smile a lot, try and look as if you are enjoying yourself even if you are not. Everyone expects and hopes you *are* enjoying yourself, and if you can maintain this impression, everyone will benefit.

PAY ATTENTION TO THE ENTERTAINMENT

Whilst the singer may have a fading voice, and the storyteller is starting to ramble, remember that these people are doing their best to entertain The Royalty. Try and pay attention to the entertainment — especially if it is dedicated to you. A smile works wonders. If you are particularly pleased by someone's efforts, giving them a token of some sort is a nice touch.

TOASTING THE AUTOCRAT

If there is a feast, at some stage remember to toast the autocrat and thank the people who have made the event and food possible.

TOASTING ETIQUETTE

There is an etiquette to feast toasting that many people are unaware of. As royalty and a future royal peer, you should know it. The first toast is to the King and Queen. It should be made by the person of highest precedence in the hall, after the King and Queen. The toasts then proceed down the Order or Precedence of the Royals/Barons in attendance. The second toast may be offered by the King and/or Queen.

For example, at a Mists event it could go like this:

Prince of the Mists – “To the King and Queen of the West”

King of the West – “To the Prince and Princess of the Mists”

Queen – “To the Prince and Princess of Cynagua”

The order breaks down after several toasts. As stated above, always toast the autocrating team which may include a variety of roles. Always toast the cook(s) even at a potluck.

THANK PEOPLE

Remember to publicly thank the autocrat, the kitchen staff, the servers, the water bearers and so on during Court. Even if you publicly thank people during the event, it is a nice idea to send thank-you notes to individuals who were particularly helpful. People are more likely to help again if they have been thanked the first time. Probable recipients include the seneschal, the autocrat, the court herald, the kitchen autocrat and the people who provided your accommodation and transport. Do not forget to thank your lords or ladies in waiting.

CORONATION

STRUCTURE OF THE CORONATION

The only real requirement is the Coronation ceremony itself and the royal peerage accolade for your predecessors. However, coronation events have a *traditional* structure. There are typically three courts on Saturday: final court for the outgoing King and Queen, Coronation and first court of the new King and Queen. In theory, all three could run in sequence from one to the other without a break, but obviously, this would make a *very* long Court, so it is best to break it up a little. Where those breaks occur is entirely up to the Royalty involved. If the incoming Queen will be holding a Champion’s tournament, it is considered courteous to hold courts a little earlier so that the tournament isn’t run at night.

The crowns are usually adjusted for the incoming royalty between final court and coronation court even if they have been tried on earlier. Work with your predecessors and successors to find the best time for this in the schedule.

The royal peerage ceremony is traditionally held as the first piece of business in the first court of the incoming Royalty.

For a two-day event, the peerage meetings are traditionally held Sunday morning – occasionally, one or more meetings may be moved to Saturday. For a one day event, they are either not held or brief meetings may be held Saturday morning.

At Beltane, the King and Queen attend and judge the Bard of the West competition. The current Bard runs the competition and can brief you on the competition requirements and schedule. This typically takes place Saturday evening.

Parties, feasts, additional meetings are up to the royalty.

CROWN TOURNAMENT

TYPICAL SCHEDULE

The following is a typical generic schedule for a Crown event. Lots of other things happen, but these are some of the more pertinent ones to the Crown. Your mileage may vary.

- Saturday: 9AM, Lists open, Marshals, Heralds, Lists hold organizational meetings
 10AM, Lists close, First Court
 11AM, First Court ends
 11:15AM, Invocation begins
 12 Noon, Crown tournament begins
 Various competitions, meetings, etc. occur during the tournament
 2:30PM Tournament of the Roses (time is fictitious. Rose Tournament begins when the fields collapse to make room. Usually after the 4th round.)
 5PM, Tournament ends (this varies greatly depending on numbers, incidents and length of fights) field ceremony for new Crown Prince and Crown Princess if desired.
 6PM, Evening Court
 8PM, Royal feast/party (optional. Typically starts at 9 even when scheduled for 8)
- Sunday: 8AM, peerage meeting 1
 9AM, peerage meeting 2
 10AM, peerage meeting 3
 11AM, Order of the Rose meets with Crown Princess at Her request
 1PM, Final court

As the Crown, you can play with the schedule and determine which peerage order has to get up early Sunday morning. It is a very good idea to share your scheduling decisions with the autocrat, the clerks of the orders and the populace at your earliest convenience. Getting it into the *Page* copy is wonderful, but do not reschedule things at the last minute unless you absolutely have to. Some people arrange their work schedules around meeting times.

If you change things to later in the day, consider the ramifications. For example, some period musical instruments do not function well in evening moisture, some people have young children that need to go to bed at a fixed time. It is better to schedule some of the later things for a specific time rather than attach them to another activity (i.e. “after evening court”), because things will inevitably run late. The participants will understand that the royalty are busy elsewhere more than they will appreciate waiting around for a couple of hours.

Royal whim or not, schedules affect the populace, and you can make or break your relationship with them right here.

What this schedule does not show is the myriad of things that can happen on Sunday instead of or during peerage meetings. You can help make Sunday come alive for those who are not caught up in meetings. You can sponsor activities even if you are holding meetings. Here are some ideas: pas d’arms, quest, may pole, dancing, live chess, appoint a games master and let him/her have fun, boffer tournaments for different age groups. The list is not limited. If the activity promises to get too noisy to hold the meetings in the royal pavilion, you can always move the meeting (as long as you announce it well and arrange for perimeter security.)

If your tastes lean more towards classes and exhibits, you can give the royal pavilion over to the classes and hold the meetings standing in the middle of the Eric. This is not done much anymore since it does take over the Eric all morning and is hard on the royalty and peers, but it does make for shorter meetings and you can tell if anyone is in listening distance.

The West has an excellent corps of officers that make Crown run smoothly. This frees you to take care of the theater of Crown. If you have any special requirements for any officer try to let them know as far in advance as possible. For instance, if you want lists to open Friday night, this will have a huge impact on the Kingdom List Officer’s life. If you do not want the heralds to start making regular announcements until 9AM on Sunday morning, you should tell them

before the tournament so they can arrange volunteers accordingly (but do not schedule anything before 9:30 either!) Communication well in advance is the key to good officer relations, especially if your wishes affect anyone other than yourselves.

THE LAW

Article V: Tournaments of the laws of the West will give you the “legal” requirements for Crown Lists. The information below provides a discussion of these requirements and some background tradition. Always refer to a current set of laws before acting.

REQUIREMENTS FOR ENTRY

All entrants in the Crown Lists, and their consorts, must be paid members of the SCA [G&PD 4]. The Kingdom Lists Officer tries to obtain a membership list from the Registrar prior to the event. Alternatively, certain documents can be used as proof of membership. G&PD 4 specifies that positive “confirmation consists of a valid membership card, appearance of a name with a valid membership on a printout from the Registry, a membership label issued by the SCA corporate office showing the name and expiration date, or a postcard or letter from the Registry confirming that the membership has been received.”

In addition, all entrants must be acceptable to the Crown [WK: V,2] The Crown defines “acceptability”. This is not a responsibility to be taken lightly as any decision against an individual will be controversial and the Crown will spend a great deal of time answering questions.

Residency requirements are one of the political footballs of this Kingdom. Some Crowns want them and some Crowns don't. It changes now and then. Check a current copy of the laws to see which way it is this reign. If you don't like it, you can always change it.

Other requirements such as Loyalty, Intent to Reign, etc. are listed in the Laws in Article V.

ADVISE THE ENTRANTS

If there are any particularly interesting things your successors must do during their reign (such as Coronation will be in Oertha) you might consider telling the entrants about them to help them decide whether or not they wish to enter the Lists. Including something about them in your Words in *The Page* and reiterating the news in your first court at Crown should reach the majority of potential entrants. If the duty is particularly onerous, you could also place a flier at the Lists sign-up table.

INVOCATION

Immediately before the Crown Tournament, there is a ceremony called the Invocation of the Lists.

Traditionally, the unbelted fighters each challenge a Knight for the first round. If there are more unbelted fighters than Knights — and this will usually be the case — then the Crown chooses some of the unbelted fighters (usually the better fighters) to stand with the knights for the initial challenges. This is a great honor. The unbelted fighter is made, essentially a “knight for a day.” The Lists Officer should approach you before Invocation to make the choices. The fighters will be made aware of your choice during the Invocation ceremony.

Before the fighters pair off, the Crown has the opportunity to say some words to the entrants. Short, inspirational and encouraging speeches are much more welcome than anything long or punitive. Both the King and Queen may wish to speak, but it is by no means a requirement.

SEEDING THE LISTS

There are several different ways of running the lists. The Kingdom Lists Officer will be happy to review them with you in more detail. One method typically used is seeding the lists so that higher ranking fighters are evenly distributed among the fields. The Crown can choose whether or not to be part of this process, but must be careful not to step over the line into “fixing” the lists.

CONDUCT OF THE CROWN TOURNAMENT

The Crown Lists are traditionally fought as a double elimination tournament with double kills refought and with a clean best two out of three final round. The Law does not require this at this time. The tournament can be whatever the Crown wants and is willing to take the heat for. Discussing changes and announcing them in *The Page* in advance is strongly advised if you want to change the traditional format.

TOURNAMENT OF ROSES

This activity was started by Queen Shaheena to provide additional opportunity for honor for those who did not wish to fight in the Crown tournament or who were eliminated. The tournament has become a tradition that fighters look forward to.

The tournament begins after the list fields collapse making room on the Eric. It is run informally on a challenge basis. The victor of a bout (or series of bouts) will specify someone to receive a rose. The defeated fighter approaches the Queen and/or Princesses to receive a rose and convey it to the person nominated by the victor. After they have carried out their duty, they may return to the field.

Not all Queens have held this tournament. The feeling at the time was that it detracted from the solemnity of Crown. If this is your feeling, please announce that you will not be holding the tournament in *The Page*.

FINALS

It is traditional for the King to invite the Chivalry and the Princes and Princesses to join him on the Eric to witness the final round. The Chivalry form a circle in which the finals will take place.

It is also traditional for the Queen to invite the consorts of the two finalists to stand next to her during the finals. The invitation can be given in person or by messenger. The reasoning behind this is threefold. It places the consorts on display for the populace. It provides the consorts with an unimpeded view of the combat. Finally, it provides a bit of protection from impromptu hangers-on (and allows a clear shot for the consort to reach their fighter at the end of finals.) Again, make sure there is no one watching from behind you, thin the crowd of attendants, have them kneel or all of the above.

It is polite if *all* persons watching from the field (except the King and Queen and consorts) kneel so that the spectators may view the fighting. You may also provide seating for the consorts.

ACKNOWLEDGING THE VICTOR

It is traditionally the victor's choice whether to be acknowledged on the field or in court, but it is ultimately the Crown's decision. Of course, not asking for and following the victor's preference is not exactly the best way to start your relationship with your successor.

Field ceremonies do provide closure to an emotional event for the victor and his or her consort, though some may want to scrape off some of the grime and wash their face before accepting the wreaths.

A field court, if desired, is held immediately after the conclusion of the final round. There is a ceremony for this but there is also a segment in which to say something inspirational of your own, so be prepared. Having an experienced herald lined up for this impromptu court will help a great deal.

During this ceremony, the King places the wreath of victory made of laurel on the victor's head and the victor places a laurel wreath with red roses on his consort's head, usually accompanied by a statement in admiration of her/his support and inspiration. This plus an announcement of when evening court will be held concludes the field court.

WREATHS

Rosewitha Wolfsdottir coordinates and/or provides the wreaths for Crown. They receive a small reimbursement for materials, but a thank you note would be a nice touch.

Along with the wreathes of victory, Rosewitha also prepares wreathes for Valor and Chivalry. There is more on these wreathes in the Awards Section. Feel free to solicit suggestions for awarding these wreathes. Often the Crown will ask a member of the Chivalry to ask around for recommendations. Feel free to ask the Ladies of the Rose as well.

WREATH OF VALOR

The wreath of valor traditionally goes to the unbelted fighter who went farthest in the lists. It has red ribbon and is presented in evening court by the King.

WREATH OF CHIVALRY

The wreath of Chivalry is given to the fighter displaying the greatest chivalry on the field either throughout the day or in a single act. This has traditionally been reserved for unbelted fighters, but in recent years it has also been awarded to members of the Chivalry. One can make arguments either way. The wreath has a white ribbon and is presented by the Queen in evening court.

COMMENDABILIS

The oak leaves of the Commendabilis are awarded to the finalists who did not win. The ceremony should emphasize the honor of this position and the concept of honorable defeat. This couple has not failed or come second, they have enabled the Kingdom to continue and represent the honor of all the fighters entering Crown.

It used to be that the tokens for this position were two gold oak leaves and worn only from Crown Tournament to Crown Tournament, passed on to the next Commendabilis. Similar to the baldrics of the Mists Champion and Consort. This makes sense when you think about what the position represents: the honor of all those competing for the chance to elevate their consort to the throne through honorable combat.

The current tradition is to give pewter leaves to the Commendabilis just like any other award token.

Do not be too surprised if the Commendabilis recipients ask not to receive the honor, especially since the tradition of the travelling tokens has passed, the position is not well understood and they may already have tokens from previous Crowns. You can always try to express to them the symbolism of the position and what it means to you and to other fighters.

PACKING

Look again at the schedule in the beginning of this section. You'll notice that there isn't much free time until after 2PM on Sunday. It is a very good idea to seek help with packing your encampment or entrust it to your court. If particular things must be packed in particular ways, have them help you unpack Friday night so you can go over it then.

AFTER YOUR REIGN

PUT THE KINGDOM BACK ON THE SHELF

And let someone else play for a while.

If you have done it right, you should be very tired by the end of the reign and ready to hand over anyway. But, while you were King and Queen, you had power over and responsibility for the whole Kingdom. You also had access to all the latest and juiciest information. You were a player. It is sometimes hard to give that up.

You may want to take a break from the SCA for a while or redirect your energy if you have any left. Nevertheless, stay out of your successor's way, just as you appreciated it when your predecessor stayed out of yours.

NEW RESPONSIBILITIES

Rank does not confer privilege or give power.

It imposes responsibility.

Royal peerage titles say “Been there, done that, bought the t-shirt and I can tell you about it all night.”

You now possess a rank few will ever achieve. Little boys and girls dream of being royalty – and you were! The title also comes with responsibility the interpretation of which varies greatly depending on who you talk to. So, you get to polish yourself up for the rest of your SCA career, trying to live up to the ideals of people you may never meet, but who will watch your every move just as they did when you were on the throne. Awesome, eh?

Here are some of the responsibilities different people have suggested for royal peers:

- Support the Crown through direct service much like a royal family.
- Provide advice to the Crown whether or not you want to.
- Paragon of grace and courtesy.
- Paragon of chivalry.
- Magnanimous, generous and hospitable.
- Sometimes just let mistakes happen, but also help clean up.

There are those who feel that the royal peerage is not a real peerage at all and that it is a conceit of those in power that royal peers top the Order of Precedence. Your actions after your reign will counter or add strength to this belief. Because there are such diverse opinions about the royal peerage, the royal peers create their own reputation. You now have the opportunity to contribute.

POLITICS

Even though you have put the reign back on the shelf, there are others who will not. Making decisions at the Kingdom level will inevitably land you on the opposite side to someone. The more you reign, the more decisions. Take a deep breath and don't hold it against them. If you find yourself holding a grudge against someone, try to let it go. You'll be less of a stress puppy if you can be accepting.

As a general rule of thumb, royalty are given a four to six month grace period before the questions begin. People will give you a break to get over your burn-out, then they will want to know why you made particular decisions and took particular actions. They will not always be supportive, in fact, it will usually be a bit demanding and negative. The best way to handle these questions is to hold close to your ideals, freely admit your mistakes and learn from them, and remember that you had good reasons for making the decisions you did and stick to them. Rest assured that someone else will make a spectacular splash and people will direct their energy elsewhere.

On the other hand, if your reign went so well that sun shines from your very pores, it is still time to step back and let that radiance shine on the new King and Queen.

III: YOU AND YOUR OFFICERS

This section of Handbook describes the rôles of the Kingdom Officers. In particular, it lists each officer's duties and responsibilities as they relate to the Crown, what each officer can do for the Crown, and what each officer would like the Crown to do for them.

ABOUT THE KINGDOM OFFICERS

DUTIES OF ALL KINGDOM OFFICERS

There are some duties common to all officers, no matter what their particular duties their offices might entail. Those general duties include:

- Supervising their subordinate officers in the Principalities and Marches; assisting those staff to do their jobs effectively by providing information and training; and resolving any problems that might arise within their office.
- Maintaining the appropriate level of staff, which means making sure that Principality and Marches officers are members, that non-performing officers are sacked, good officers are thanked and that officers are correctly rostered or warranted.
- Counseling/informing the Principality and Marches officers on matters concerning their Office.
- Recommending to Their Majesties those of their staff who are deserving of reward.

All Great Officers must also pledge Fealty to the Crown.

It's a good idea to read through the corporate handbook for each of your officers. Since they report not only to the Kingdom but also to the Corporate Officer, you will do them no favors by asking them to do things that put them in conflict with their Corporate Superior's rules. In addition, you will better understand the expectations they have about the job, and about what your relationship with the Corporate Office will be.

SENESCHAL

Contributed by: Master Duncan Vitarius, OP

WHAT YOUR SENESCHAL DOES:

The primary job of the Kingdom Seneschal is to make sure that the administration of Your Kingdom runs smoothly. This includes, but is not limited to the following;

1. Reviewing all proposed Kingdom and Principality law changes for compliance with Corpora and the Society Bylaws. The Kingdom Seneschal must also forward a copy of the proposed law changes to the Society Seneschal, along with their opinion on the effect the new law will have on the Kingdom or Principality.
2. Make sure that there is a site and an autocrat for every Crown Tournament and Coronation.
3. Oversee the Kingdom event calendar, and review Page copy for Kingdom level events.
4. Arrange a Kingdom Officers meeting to be held at least two weeks prior to every Crown Coronation.
5. Help to insure that all of the Kingdom Offices are filled, and running as smoothly as possible.

6. Oversee all local groups within the Kingdom, and help to handle any disputes or problems should they arise. (Problems will happen)
7. Prepare the monthly and year-end reports on the state of the Kingdom, that are sent to the Society Seneschal.
8. Review and approve all new groups, and group status changes within the Kingdom, before they get reviewed by the Crown.
9. Act as a signature authority for all legal contracts the Kingdom may enter into. The Kingdom Seneschal can delegate this authority any other officer, or autocrat as they see fit.
10. Act as a member of the exchequers council, which approves Kingdom expenditures and budgets.

WHAT YOUR SENESCHAL CAN DO FOR YOU:

The biggest thing that your Kingdom Seneschal can do for you is to keep you informed of all the good, the bad, and the ugly situations going on in the Kingdom. They can also assist you in working with the other Kingdom Officers, and writing any law changes or proclamations that you may want to enact during your reign. Your Seneschal may also have insight into the long-term health of the kingdom, and help you make decisions about what's good for the kingdom. Information is the key to ruling well.

WHAT YOU CAN DO FOR YOUR SENESCHAL:

Please keep your Kingdom Seneschal informed of any law changes, proclamations, or policy changes that you plan to make during your reign. The Kingdom functions much better when everyone knows what's going on.

VESPER HERALD

Contributed by Master Hirsch von Henford, OL, OP

WHAT YOUR VESPER HERALD DOES

The Vesper Principal Herald is the chief heraldic officer of the Kingdom, and is responsible for all of the administrivia of the office, as well as being the ultimate heraldic authority of the Kingdom. They are the primary contact with the SCA's College of Arms and report directly to the Laurel Sovereign of Arms of the SCA. The office has several deputies who handle specific aspects of the office. The ones that Your Majesties will most likely have direct interaction with are described below.

WHAT YOUR HERALDS CAN DO FOR YOU

The heralds are the folk who make announcements (both the scheduled announcements and sometimes non-scheduled ones at events), announce the fights on the field of honor, and basically "MC" court (Master of Ceremonies). The heralds who run court are partially responsible for getting a list of awards to the Royal Chamberlain, who makes sure the list gets published in *The Page*. The Heralds are also the primary resource for name and armory research, but this aspect of the heraldic office is one that Your Majesties probably don't need to be directly involved with unless you don't have a name and device registered and would like to do so before you step up.

WHAT YOU CAN DO FOR YOUR HERALDS

Your Majesties can help the heralds by communicating with them (as has been stressed many times elsewhere in this handbook). Specifically, let the Vesper Principal Herald know of any concerns that You have with the office and work with the Court Heralds.

When it comes to working with the Court Heralds, the most important thing that You can do is to have your list of awards You wish to present in court ready well before court happens. This makes it easier for the court herald to prepare. Sometimes this preparation requires finding the blazon for someone's arms (in the case of a peerage) so the herald must hunt through the armorial to find it and make a note for the ceremony. In addition, the herald will attempt to organize court in a way that intersperses awards in between other court business, so knowing what the awards are will help them build court into a dramatic whole (one goal of a seasoned herald is often to work a court up to a dramatic award toward the end, often a peerage if one is being given, starting with lower-level awards.)

THE GREAT SEAL OF STATE

The Vesper Principal Herald is the official "keeper of the seal" (although in recent times the Kingdom Scribe often has it handy for sealing scrolls with permission of both the Vesper Principal Herald and the Royalty).

This seal is, as the Coronation ceremony states, the "symbol of the Word of the Crown." It is used to seal official documents that require the signature of Your Majesties. The most commonly known use is to seal award scrolls. The purpose is to show that the signature has not been "faked". If Your Majesties have need of the seal, You have but to ask the Vesper Principal Herald. But, if You need it at an event, please let them know before the event, as it does not usually travel to events (except Coronation).

THE GOLEM PURSUIVANT

The Golem Pursuivant is the herald who does the computer work. This really means the Award List (although the current Golem also handles the Ceremony Book, and the Herald's Handbook). The Golem Pursuivant may or may not be listed in *The Page*, but the information is readily available. At each Coronation a new Award List is generated (and made available to Your Majesties, the Princes and Princesses of the Mists, Cynagua and Oertha; the Banner Herald, and the Heralds of the Mists, Cynagua and Oertha). In addition, at 12th Night an Order of Precedence is printed up, as some folk find this useful. The Awards List is also available online at the West Kingdom Website, so that members of the populace can see the list, and help make corrections.

Your Majesties can request at any time during Your Reign (or after your reign is complete) a listing of all awards that are *on record* as having been given by You by contacting the Golem Pursuivant. This listing can be useful to ensure that all awards that You gave are listed, and that no mistakes have been made (despite the best efforts of all involved, an award can be attributed to the wrong royalty, the wrong date, etc.)

BANNER HERALD

The Banner Herald is the herald who organizes court heralds for events. Unless specifically told otherwise, the Banner Herald will make a suggestion to Your Majesties as to who will be the herald for any individual court. Your Majesties have the right to veto any suggestion, and to suggest someone else.

However, before You do so, please consider that the Court Heralds presented by The Banner Herald have been trained to handle court, where a friend of Your Majesties', while perhaps having a great voice, may not have had that training. (Watching court is not the same as being the person actually organizing and running court. One Count of the West who is also a herald once said "I have been to the dentist many times, that does not make me qualified to fix a cavity in your mouth.")

Your Majesties can help speed up court by encouraging that personal presentations be made outside of court (i.e., while You are sitting in State in the Thrones), and for those presentations that are made in court, that they be made quickly. One of the biggest reasons courts are long and drawn out are long presentations that really aren't necessary in court.

GREENCLOAK HERALD

Contributed by Wander Riordan, OL

What your Greencloak Herald can do for you

Greencloak is in charge of Field and Duty (town-crier) heraldry at Crown events. He or she is the one who sees to it that the morning shout happens and contains the necessary info for the day. He or she sees to it that there are heralds for each field during the tournament.

What you can do

Let the herald know anything you need announced in the duty shouts as quickly and as clearly as possible. Communicate the schedule of Sunday morning meetings preferably Saturday evening. Unless otherwise requested the Sunday Morning Shout will go out at 8am or one half hour before the first meeting, whichever is *earlier*. Also, while the Crown can decide who will herald the Final rounds, and Greencloak will usually consult with the Crown to see if they/you have a preference, giving this job without consideration of Greencloak's wishes/perogative will cause hard feelings, and may result in someone who isn't up to the necessary skill trying to do the job. Let Greencloak know your preferences, ideally beforehand, and if you have specific desires for the field litany.

EARL MARSHALL

WHAT YOUR EARL MARSHAL DOES

The Earl Marshal is responsible for all martial activities within the Kingdom. He oversees fighting activities, collects tournament reports and keeps the Marshal handbook up to date. He oversees all fighting (heavy, light and rapier) authorizations. The Rapier, Missile, Special Projects, and War marshals report to the Earl Marshal.

The Earl Marshal oversees Kingdom level tournaments (Crowns) and informs the fighters at these tournaments of the rules of combat. He is responsible for submitting an annual Marshal report to the Society Marshal.

WHAT YOUR EARL MARSHAL CAN DO FOR YOU

Keep you informed of any fighting concerns that may arise within the Kingdom, such as a safety issue. Review any changes that you think need to be put into action in regarding fighting activities.

WHAT YOU CAN DO FOR YOUR EARL MARSHAL

Let them do their job and support them. Communicate early and clearly your expectations of things that you would like to emphasize during your reign.

MINISTER OF ARTS

Contributed by Mistress Eireannach nic Ghiolla Chainnigh, OP

WHAT YOUR MINISTER OF ARTS DOES:

The Minister of Arts is responsible for the encouragement and development of the Arts within the Kingdom. Fostering the Arts can be accomplished in several ways; through teaching, demonstrations, competitions and Guilds. The Ministers of Art and Science sponsor the annual A&S Tourney which is a conglomeration of classes on a variety of subjects. These classes are mostly hands-on, but can include demonstrations and lectures. The Ministers of Art and Science also sponsor and administer the annual Arts and Sciences competitions. There are sixteen total contests held each year. Each contest winner is awarded a token in Court. The Golden Poppy is an annual award given to the artisan that wins with an overall average score in eight separate contests. The Minister of Arts serves on the Royal Regalia Committee, contributing both as an advisor on acquired regalia and in commissioning new regalia. As a Greater Officer, a written or oral report must be given at each Kingdom Officers Meeting on the state of the Arts Office and affairs. The Minister of Arts can also be a contact for the Kingdom level Guilds.

WHAT YOUR MINISTER OF THE ARTS CAN DO FOR YOU:

Your Minister of Arts can be a source of information and contacts in many areas. Documentation sources, what classes are being taught, who to contact for organizing a demonstration are just a few of the ways Your Minister of Arts can help. The Minister of Arts can also be a liaison to the Kingdom Guilds. Any new regalia needed by the Kingdom can be managed through the Arts office, both in working with the Guilds in fashioning the designs, or finding artisans to commission for the work.

WHAT YOU CAN DO FOR YOUR MINISTER OF THE ARTS:

As Royalty, Your presence at any function draws attention. Visiting demonstrations and displays can encourage the populace to also attend and participate. Announcing contests, displays and classes in Court disperses more information to the populace at large. The winning entries can be displayed during Court in addition to calling the winner up to receive the Art token. The Arts officers also may know of those deserving awards at all levels, and should be consulted or invited to submit awards recommendations.

MINISTER OF SCIENCES

WHAT YOUR MINISTER OF SCIENCES DOES

The Minister of Sciences works closely with the Minister of Arts as noted above and is responsible for the encouragement and development of the Sciences within the Kingdom. Fostering the Sciences can be accomplished in several ways; through teaching, demonstrations, competitions and Guilds. The Minister of Sciences can also be a contact for the Kingdom level Guilds.

WHAT YOUR MINISTER OF THE SCIENCES CAN DO FOR YOU:

Your Minister of Sciences can be a source of information and contacts in many areas. Documentation sources, what classes are being taught, who to contact for organizing a demonstration are just a few of the ways Your Minister of Sciences can help.

WHAT YOU CAN DO FOR YOUR MINISTER OF SCIENCES

Visit demonstrations and displays, announce contests, displays and classes in court. Acknowledge contest winners in Court; displaying their winning entry in Court adds a very nice touch. The Sciences officers also may know of those deserving awards at all levels, and should be consulted or invited to submit awards recommendations.

EXCHEQUER

WHAT YOUR EXCHEQUER DOES

The Exchequer has the somewhat daunting and thankless task of keeping track of the Kingdom's finances and ensuring the funds are sufficient and available for running the Kingdom. The Kingdom Exchequer ensures that each group has its own Exchequer who is complying with SCA financial guidelines. It is also the duty of the Exchequer to keep up with and in some ways influence changes in SCA financial policy.

The Exchequer chairs the Council of the Exchequer meeting that typically occurs after the kingdom officers meeting. Travel fund and event reimbursements go through the exchequer as well.

WHAT YOUR EXCHEQUER CAN DO FOR YOU

The Exchequer can explain the various financial policies to you, like the travel fund, and explain why they are in their current form. They can show you the budget and how the kingdom is performing against it. You will be submitting your receipts to the Exchequer for reimbursement from the travel fund.

WHAT YOU CAN DO FOR YOUR EXCHEQUER

Make all your reimbursement claims in the format requested by the Exchequer in a timely manner. Make sure you understand the various financial policies before making promises to spend money or to travel to distant events.

THE COUNCIL OF THE EXCHEQUER

The Council consists of the Exchequer, the Seneschal, the reigning royalty and Heirs, if any. The Council determines if policies should be changed and if requests for additional funds should be granted. If you do not know if there is going to be a meeting while you are the Heirs, please ask either the Seneschal or the Exchequer.

CHRONICLER

WHAT YOUR CHRONICLER DOES

The Chronicler is responsible for the newsletters in the Kingdom and oversees the Kingdom Web Minister's office. The Chronicler's primary responsibility is to ensure that the Kingdom newsletter is issued in a timely manner in accordance with SCA rules and regulations. The office is also responsible for assembling and issuing the administrative issue of The Page annually to include any updates to the laws that have been made in the past year. The Chronicler has been known to assemble, format, edit and print the newsletter themselves, though the job has grown and this is sometimes done by a team. Certainly the labeling is done in a group. It is a lot of work to assemble a presentable newsletter. This is why they have imposed a one-month deadline for submissions.

WHAT YOUR CHRONICLER CAN DO FOR YOU

Your Chronicler can ensure that your Words are entered in the Page, they can also pass on your Words to the Pegasus Chronicler if you ask. They can advise you on space requirements and often on what else will be in the Page in a given issue. This comes in handy if you want to give an event your support or augment Words from a principality or officer. Sometimes the timing will work such that the Chronicler can add the names of your successors to your words, filling in the blank.

WHAT YOU CAN DO FOR YOUR CHRONICLER

Be on time with your submissions. Be clever, clear, and short. Provide excellent incentives if you cannot be on time. Support fundraising efforts since the corporate stipend doesn't always keep up with rising costs and certainly doesn't provide enough for equipment upgrades.

CHIRURGEON

Contributed by Master Brocc of Alderden, OP who at times has been local, site, kingdom and society surgeon.

WHAT YOUR CHIRURGEON DOES

The chirurgonate provides first aid at events. They make preventative suggestions like, washing hands, keeping privy lids down, drinking water, wearing hats... as the opportunities exist. They work with the marshals and

constables to help maintain a safe camping and fighting atmosphere. They are also the office under which the waterbearers work.

WHAT YOUR CHIRURGEON CAN DO FOR YOU

Provide first aid support and suggest ways to avoid problems.

WHAT YOU CAN DO FOR YOUR CHIRURGEON

LISTEN. There is nothing more frustrating than to warn of a danger like it's too hot to fight in the sun, why not do the woods battle now instead, and have the royalty not listen and instead everyone hating the half a dozen holds called for heat problems.

Remember, they are support staff. Recognize their efforts, even if it means they sat on the sidelines and did nothing but give up their day. On the rare occasion there is a problem, support them.

CONSTABLE

Contributed by Master Hal Ravn, OP, OL and Master Balin the Hunter, OP

WHAT YOUR CONSTABLE DOES

The Constabulary is the department that gets all the miscellaneous jobs that no one quite knows where to fit in elsewhere. Besides such major concerns as site safety, site security, and fire safety, the Constabulary deals with parking and traffic control, noise, and Gate.

Constables are *not* police. They have no more law enforcement powers than any other person. Constables are directly instructed to call the civil authorities in any situation that they cannot handle solely with persuasion. However, most experienced Constables are likely to have more knowledge about the law as regards SCA activities than the average member of the populace.

Besides the obvious arrangement of having a Kingdom Constable, Principality Constables, and other Constables as officers at the various organization levels of the kingdom, there are also Senior Constables and Constables at Large. Senior Constables are those with enough experience in all aspects of Constabulary work that they can be trusted to serve as Constable In Charge for a Kingdom-level event. Constables at Large are rostered Constables who are not Constables of a specific branch. Note that a Senior Constable *may* be a branch Constable as well.

In general, it is the chirurgeonate who is responsible for asking that an ambulance or other emergency vehicle be called when needed. The Constabulary acts as "assistants" to the chirurgeonate in an emergency by clearing roads, directing the emergency vehicles, crowd control, or any other way needed for that emergency. It is up to the chirurgeonate to notify others about what occurred, not the Constable.

The Constabulary will not generally be the department to notify other departments or officials when setting out traffic control to guide an ambulance, an activity done in cooperation with the Chirurgeonate.

WHAT YOUR CONSTABLE CAN DO FOR YOU

The Kingdom Constable reports incidents in summary form at Kingdom Officers meeting. The Constable can advise the Crown on aspects of mundane law relating to SCA activities or find the information you need from those with more expertise.

The Constabulary will inform you of situations developing at Kingdom level events. However, since the Constabulary often deal with unplanned or rapidly developing events, as Royalty you may find out what the Constables have been doing after the fact. When dealing with urgent matters, the Constables will try to alert the

Crown (or other relevant Royalty/officers) before anything is done that would intrude on the event or on your attention, but this is not always possible when things happen quickly.

However, depending on how urgent a given situation is and the ease with which people can be found, the order in which word is passed will vary.

In many cases, the Royalty, autocrat and other relevant parties can be found and notified without any problem and will be consulted on a course of action. But there are always exceptions.

If this is not acceptable to you, please discuss the matter with your Kingdom Constable as soon as possible. But be aware that you may then be required to get out of bed at 3 AM when an incident occurs.

WHAT YOU CAN DO FOR YOUR CONSTABLE

Communicate your wishes.

Probably the biggest area of miscommunication between Royalty and the Constabulary is over noise or “quiet hours.” The general, though often unofficial, Kingdom policy is that noise should be held to reasonable levels after midnight. On some sites, our agreements with the site owner may restrict noise earlier or more severely. At times, noise regulations are relaxed by order of the Crown or Coronet. Tighter restrictions are generally part of *The Page* copy. If the Crown’s wishes are not communicated clearly to the Constabulary, ill feelings arise when norms are enforced contrary to the wishes of the Crown.

Note that, while it is not generally the responsibility of the Royalty to resolve all rules differences, Royalty should be aware that the rules on late-night noise differ from one Kingdom to another. This has led to confusion in the past (and not just on the part of residents of other Kingdoms) that have required direct attention from Western Royalty to resolve.

CUSTOMS

There are a few customs in the West's Constabulary that you should be aware of. You have the right to overrule any of them, but unless you do so they will be in force.

The first is that very often the constable in charge at an event will “suggest” that, for minor rules infractions, if the parties involved do some public service the incident will be considered closed. An example is when a group of people from a camp set off firecrackers outside the camp in a no-fireworks county. The exact people involved could not be determined, but the camp they belonged to was. The camp agreed to empty trash cans for the rest of the weekend. Emptying trash cans and cleaning privies are the two most common punishments. The parties involved always have the right to present their case to the Crown, but have so far always declined.

Second, and more serious is ejecting someone from a site. About one group/person a year does something so serious that they are asked to pack and leave site immediately. The constable does not have the authority to make this decision. Instead, he presents his case to the appropriate Royalty and/or officers who make the decision. The Constable then informs the parties involved. If they refuse to leave (none ever has) then it is up to the Royalty as to whether they want them charged with trespassing or not. Some things carry automatic ejection, while others come up as special cases and must be dealt with accordingly. Remember, ejecting someone from a site is not a banishment. They are free to come back the next weekend if they behave themselves.

There are, by tradition, two things that carry automatic ejection. The first is drawing any sort of weapon with the intention of doing bodily harm to another. This includes knives, swords, clubs, and yes, once a pewter tankard (the victim required stitches.) If the person threatened wishes, the police are also called and all evidence is immediately turned over to them.

The second is giving drugs or alcohol to someone they know is a minor who they are not the legal guardians for. This one is tricky, as you must prove beyond a reasonable doubt that the person involved knew the person they were giving things to was a minor. The SCA BoD would prefer if we turned over all evidence to the police, but will at this time settle for removing the person from site. This is a major liability for us and we must act on it. Remember,

there must be strong evidence of this before the person is ejected, not just hearsay that it happened. As officers of the West Kingdom you make the whole kingdom liable if you fail to act. Also, as in the previous case, if the parents of the minor wish, we must call the police and turn the evidence over to them.

CHATELAINE / HOSPITALIER

Contributed by Countess Linda of the Lakelands, OP, Kingdom Chatelaine - Dec '98

WHAT YOUR CHATELAINE DOES

Definition: "chatelaine \Chat"e*laine), n. [F. ch[^]a]telaine the wife of a castellan, the mistress of a chateau, a chatelaine chain.] An ornamental hook, or brooch worn by a lady at her waist, and having a short chain or chains attached for keys, trinkets, etc. Also used adjectivally; as, a chatelaine chain."

We are the keeper of the keys to the Kingdom, and the SCA overall. It is the job of the chatelaine to welcome new people, help them find their way, and make them feel at home. In the West Kingdom, the Chatelaine has also become the "Information" officer at events. "Where is the arts pavilion? What time does the dancing start? Who is allowed to participate in Page school and where is it?", etc.

Under the Chatelaine, or part of the job description, is the "gold key" which is primarily loaner costumes, though in some groups it includes feast gear and event supplies, such as cooking gear and hall decorations.

WHAT YOUR CHATELAINE CAN DO FOR YOU

There is not a lot of formal interaction between the Royalty and the Chatelaine's office, but there are opportunities for mutual assistance.

Are you bringing friends and family to events to see "your Kingdom"? We can supply costumes for them for the events they attend, if notified ahead of time.

Royalty sometimes gets calls from new people, simply because they are listed first in the Page. Feel free to let the Chatelaine know about the calls so we can do follow-up.

Are you planning to visit groups, or need information about people in groups and don't have a contact name? We try to maintain a contact list that is more than just the seneschals.

Do you need bodies to help load /unload/ set up? We are always being asked by new people how they can help, and this would certainly make them feel part of the group.

WHAT YOU CAN DO FOR YOUR CHATELAINE

It is important that the Chatelaine be a visible presence at events. The autocrat usually asks the Royalty for their list of "on the eric" officers. If the chatelaine could be included in this list would be a big help. Having a site reserved on the eric for the gold key/chatelaine pavilion make it more likely that people will be able to find us, and not wander off to bother the Royalty, because the Royal pavilion is the one they notice as "official".

If you have offers from people to "make you costumes" let them know that the gold key is always in need of a few extras, especially cloaks. If you do have new costumes made, think about donating the old ones.

If the chatelaine is holding a class for new people, it's nice to be able to stop by the royal pavilion for introductions, and explanations of royalty and roles.

ROYAL ARCHER

Contributed by the Honorable Martin Whistler, Royal Archer at the time of this writing (12/98) and a crack shot.

WHAT YOUR ROYAL ARCHER DOES

The Royal Archer is the chief advocate and administrator for archery in the West. This includes, but is not limited to the following:

1. Respond to archery-related questions from the populace and peerage.
2. Communicate with autocrats of Kingdom events to reserve space for archery ranges and include notification of archery activities in Page event announcements. Coordinate publicity, setup and staffing of archery range at Kingdom events.
3. Coordinate the organization of archery activities at inter-Kingdom wars with foreign Royal Archers.
4. Collate Kingdom-wide target scores. Award annual certificates to top 10 archers at 12th Night. Forward Kingdom scores to the keeper of the InterKingdom Archery Competition.
5. Provide reports to Society Archery Marshal, Crown and Seneschal and to the Earl Marshal when requested.
6. Work with Archery Guildmaster to support local Guild chapters.
7. Teach classes relating to archery at collegia.
8. Interact with foreign Kingdom archers to keep abreast of archery developments society-wide; monitor archery lists on the Internet.
9. Work with Earl Marshal, War Marshal, and RCY on matters related to missile combat, including combat standards, inspections, equipment, and authorizations.
10. Promote inclusion of archery at wars.

WHAT YOUR ROYAL ARCHER CAN DO FOR YOU

Keep you apprised of archery-related activities and issues in Your Kingdom.

Provide your subjects with the opportunity to experience shooting a bow. Get people involved in SCA activities. Since archery is one of the few activities in which newcomers can actually participate hands-on we are quite often Your ambassadors to prospective subjects.

Provide target archery equipment if You wish to shoot. Provide Light combat armor and equipment (handbow, crossbow, or javelins) if You wish to fight as a missile combatant.

Be Your representative to other Kingdoms in matters related to archery and missile combat.

Advise You on the relative capabilities of missile troops at Inter-Kingdom wars.

Fight by Your side in war if requested.

WHAT YOU CAN DO FOR YOUR ROYAL ARCHER

Support and participate in archery activities. The royal presence lends a great deal of weight to any activity. Given that many newcomers participate in target archery, this would be an excellent opportunity to meet with prospective members.

Ask autocrats to consider the placement of the archery range when selecting and laying out Kingdom event sites. If you are interested in emphasizing archery in Your reign, the Royal Archer would be pleased to work with the autocrat to select a suitable location that would balance safety and accessibility.

During war negotiations, request your War Marshal to include archery in as many war scenarios as possible. The Royal Archer would be pleased to provide assistance to the War Marshal in ways of doing this in the most equitable way possible.

Please consider reviewing potential changes in the rules relating to missile combat with the Royal Archer. Your Royal Archer can draw upon the collective knowledge of the Kingdom's archers (in all principalities) to avoid potential problems as have occurred in the past.

When negotiating treaties for regional wars (Estrella, GWW) please consider requesting allowance of Western-style rules.

Please remember the archery awards and prompt the orders to consider new members if they have not yet approached you. Please bring any names to the Royal Archer's attention if you meet outstanding archers during your travels.

Please let the Royal Archer know in advance if You would like loaner equipment for combat archery and/or need to be authorized.

CHANCELLOR OF THE COLLEGE OF SCRIBES

WHAT THE CHANCELLOR OF THE COLLEGE OF SCRIBES DOES

Oversees all of the scribes in the kingdom that are registered in the College of Scribes. Maintains the list of outstanding scrolls that need to be created. Assigns scrolls to registered scribes. Tacks down royalty for signatures needed for the scrolls that have newly been completed. Ensures that once this has been completed that the scroll makes it's way to it recipient. Recently, the Chancellor has sought help from scribes residing in other kingdoms to help with the West's backlog.

WHAT THE CHANCELLOR OF THE COLLEGE OF SCRIBES CAN DO FOR YOU

Assign you a royal scribe/s for scrolls that you would like to use during your reign. Keep you informed on the number of outstanding scrolls that need to be completed. Help you (or find someone to help you) develop your royal signature.

ROYAL SCRIBES

Royal scribes are assigned by the Chancellor. If there is no designated RS at the moment and you do not have someone on your court to do your scribe work, contact the Chancellor. The royal scribe's duties include preparing promisories, drawing up official scrolls to be presented to other royalty, etc. The key to working successfully with your royal scribe is to provide as much advanced warning and communication as possible.

WHAT YOU CAN DO FOR THE CHANCELLOR OF THE COLLEGE OF SCRIBES

Communicate early your scribe/scroll needs for your reign. Support the college of scribes in their efforts to have no outstanding scrolls to complete. Work with the Chancellor to find ways to recognize and thank scribes (western or otherwise) for completing scrolls.

MINISTER OF EQUESTRIAN ARTS

WHAT THE MINISTER OF EQUESTRIAN ARTS DOES

The Minister is responsible for administrating and promoting all equestrian activities within the kingdom. They work on obtaining suitable insurance coverage for all equestrian events, finding suitable event locations and evaluating/creating event ideas.

WHAT THE MINISTER OF EQUESTRIAN ARTS CAN DO FOR YOU

Help arrange any equestrian needs you may have at events. Advise on all equestrian questions that you may have.

WHAT YOU CAN DO FOR THE MINISTER OF EQUESTRIAN ARTS

Support equestrian activities within the kingdom. Discuss with the Minister your equestrian needs or ideas for events during your reign.

MINISTER OF GOLD KEY

WHAT THE MINISTER OF GOLD KEY DOES

Gold Key provides loaner costumes for visitors or new participants at Kingdom events. They also act as a resource and guide for people to use to help them incorporate new people into the kingdom. The Minister coordinates all Gold Key activities throughout the kingdom, oversees all Gold Key officers in their work and maintains and updates the various policies on what Gold Key does to help incorporate new people into the kingdom.

WHAT THE MINISTER OF GOLD KEY CAN DO FOR YOU

Make you aware of what activities Gold Key is doing and is planning to do in the future. Make you aware of what challenges they are facing and how they are planning to undertake them.

WHAT YOU CAN DO FOR THE MINISTER OF GOLD KEY

Support them in all of their activities in incorporating new people into the kingdom.

MINISTER OF THE LISTS

Contributed by Mistress Alys Graye, OP

WHAT YOUR MINISTER OF THE LISTS DOES.

The Lists Minister runs the Crown lists to choose your successors. Upon request, Lists will usually also run a Queen's Champion list for the Queen/Crown Princess. In the case of Crown it is usually a double elimination tournament. List sign-ups should open at 8:00 on Saturday morning and close about 15 minutes before Opening Court. At that time the Lists Minister will bring the unbelted fighter list to you so that you may choose who to invite over to the Chivalry side. In the case of an odd number of fighters the Chivalry side gets the first round "bye" so that all the unbelted fighters may challenge someone.

During the Lists the List Minister will bring any problems requiring your attention to you and work with you for the best possible resolution. Usually the Lists will run themselves just fine!

WHAT YOUR MINISTER OF THE LISTS CAN DO FOR YOU

What this person can do for you is basically make the Crown Lists run smoothly and remove most concerns of a faulty Lists. A faulty List can invalidate the tournament meaning that it has to be held again. The Lists Minister can handle most field problems along with the Marshall in charge.

WHAT YOU CAN DO FOR YOUR MINISTER OF THE LISTS

Primarily let us know what you want for your Crown lists. Some key questions are:

- 1) Are byes required to be fought? If so who is fighting them?
- 2) Are any special items required? (i.e. list shields, banners, etc.)
- 3) Should Chivalry meet in the second round?
- 4) Have some idea about which unbelted fighters you wish to invite over.

The other item is for the Crown Princess to determine if she wishes to have a Queen's Champion List. If she does then she should contact the List Minister as soon as possible so he/she can make arrangements to be at Coronation or ensure that someone is there to run the Lists.

If you plan on doing anything different from the standard Crown tournament format, please let the Lists Minister know as soon as possible so that he/she can make the necessary adjustments in staffing, pairing trees, entry requirements lists, etc. If you have any questions about how a particular idea will affect the Lists, the Lists Minister will be happy to consult with you.

CHANCELLOR OF THE PAGE SCHOOL

WHAT THE CHANCELLOR OF THE PAGE SCHOOL DOES

The Chancellor coordinates children's activities at events, develops activities that will teach children the values inherent in the SCA, help children find ways to participate in Kingdom life and help Kingdom officials develop activities suitable for children. The Chancellor oversees children's boffer tournaments and works with the Marshalate to develop suitable rules and standards for boffer armor and combat. The Chancellor advises the Crown on potential recipients for the Kingdom level children-related awards. The Chancellor acts as a resource for children's activities throughout the Kingdom.

WHAT THE CHANCELLOR OF THE PAGE SCHOOL CAN DO FOR YOU

Advise you on when and where the children's activities are taking place. Help you with ideas for promoting children's involvement in Kingdom life – some of which needs the active support of the royalty. Identify the key needs of different age groups within the Kingdom and help develop programs for heading off potential issues among idle youth.

WHAT YOU CAN DO FOR THE CHANCELLOR OF THE PAGE SCHOOL

Support the Page School and children's activities for all those under the age of eighteen. A good number of these children will continue in the SCA and what they learn now will benefit everyone in years to come.

CHANCELLOR OF COLLEGIUM

WHAT THE CHANCELLOR OF COLLEGIUM DOES

The Chancellor of the Collegium organizes the Spring and Autumn sessions each year. These typically take place in the Mists in Spring and in Cynagua in Autumn. The Chancellor develops tracks and themes, arranges instructors, develops the schedule and ensures suitable facilities for different topics. They are the education champions in our non-profit educational group.

WHAT THE CHANCELLOR OF COLLEGIUM CAN DO FOR YOU

The Chancellor can advise you of the curriculum and come up with ways that you can participate and/or contribute to a Collegium.

WHAT YOU CAN DO FOR THE CHANCELLOR OF COLLEGIUM

Contact the Chancellor well before a Collegium and ask if there is anything you can do for them. Past royalty have contributed to classes on being a consort and on being royalty.

ROYAL CHAMBERLAIN

Contributed by the Honorable Stanislaw Jan Ossolinski, first Royal Chamberlain.

WHAT YOUR ROYAL CHAMBERLAIN DOES:

The Royal Chamberlain processes awards given by their Majesties, by organizing them into a proper format for submission into the Page. He/she works closely with the Court Heralds to ensure that awards are processed in a timely manner; and provides limited research support to their Majesties. The Chamberlain also notifies the Chancellor of Scribes and the Keeper of the O.P. of awards given by their Majesties. The Chamberlain provides support to the Principalities when requested.

WHAT YOUR ROYAL CHAMBERLAIN CAN DO FOR YOU:

Relieve you of a potential administrative nightmare by ensuring the awards are processed for publication into the Page in a timely manner.

WHAT YOU CAN DO FOR YOUR ROYAL CHAMBERLAIN:

Have the Awards List completed and signed before the Court. (Any awards not given can always be crossed out.) Have the Court Herald submit the Awards List for publication within three days of the event to the Royal Chamberlain. Do not hold all of the Awards Lists until the end of your reign. (There is a time limitation of four months to be published in the Page after they are given.) Check the Page to ensure the awards you have given are getting published in the Page.

ROYAL REGALIA MINISTER

WHAT THE ROYAL REGALIA MINISTER DOES

The Royal Regalia Minister has the onerous task of keeping track of and maintaining all the various bits of regalia the Kingdom has acquired over the years. They preside over the Regalia Council to discuss proposals for regalia (new, replacement or repair). Sometimes they arrange for little-used regalia to be transported to an event such as Twelfth Night. They conduct regular inventories of regalia, ensure that regularly used regalia stays in good condition and ensures that the royalty knows their responsibilities for the regalia they sign for.

WHAT THE ROYAL REGALIA MINISTER CAN DO FOR YOU

The Minister can provide you with the regalia items you want to use during your reign, evaluate proposals for new regalia, call the Regalia Council to consider promising proposals, arrange for regalia to be repaired, provide the history on various pieces of regalia, and advise you on your responsibilities towards the regalia (e.g., dry cleaning the Winter cloaks before passing them on, etc.)

WHAT YOU CAN DO FOR THE ROYAL REGALIA MINISTER

Ask for a list of regalia items as soon after winning Crown as possible and let the Minister know which items you will want to use during the reign; they may need to go to the storage unit to get the item you want. If the item needs

repair, they will need time to arrange it. You can also assign a court member or other person to create banners with your personal arms for the banner rope; the Minister can provide you with the specifications.

BARD OF THE WEST

WHAT THE BARD OF THE WEST DOES

The Bard of the West has a number of intertwined duties. They present a piece at Coronation for the new King and Queen, present a piece at Invocation at the Crown's discretion, provide a chronicle of events through their works, foster bardic activities in the Kingdom, and provide bardic services to the King and Queen. The bard is expected to attend wars at which the West is named (i.e. West/An Tir and West/CAID) to perform and record the deeds of the war. If the Bard can not attend, then they need to arrange for someone to be there in their place. The term is for one year.

WHAT THE BARD OF THE WEST CAN DO FOR YOU

The Bard can set the mood and tone of a court or tournament. They can arrange bardic entertainment for many different occasions, and write pieces in honor of dignitaries, notables and others who may receive the notice of the Crown. They can also fill gaps or pauses in Court.

WHAT YOU CAN DO FOR THE BARD OF THE WEST

Provide as much advanced notice as possible when you want the Bard to attend events beyond Coronation, Crown and West wars. If you have expectations please communicate them as clearly and as soon as you can be it mood, tone, style, deadline, or event attendance. Let them know if you would prefer to hear a piece in advance or if you would rather hear it for the first time as the populace does. When the Bard swears fealty, it has so far been tradition for the Royals to swear to keep anyone from silencing their Bard...a very popular and useful pledge!

If you are King and Queen at Beltane, you will be judges along with the current Bard for the annual Bard of West competition.

PRINCIPALITY RELATIONS

WHAT THE PRINCE AND PRINCESS DO

The princes and princesses of the Kingdom run a given geographic area. Similar to the Crown, they are responsible for governing their principalities including maintaining and supporting the laws, recognizing the efforts of their populace, dealing with any principality issues and providing a royal presence.

WHAT THE PRINCE AND PRINCESS CAN DO FOR YOU

You princes and princesses can offer a layer of management in that issues in their realm are dealt with at that level rather than moving straight to Kingdom level. They can assist with all manner of "presence" at events ranging from helping issue roses during the Tournament of Roses to organizing an activity.

In Oertha, they also can preside at peerage councils and relay the results of the meeting to you. They can also bestow a peerage or other Kingdom level award such as a Court Barony that you have approved.

In all cases, they are your eyes and ears and often your arms and legs.

WHAT YOU CAN DO FOR THEM

Allow them to govern their principalities without undue interference from the Crown. Coordinate activities with them to create the most enjoyable event and best use of time. Stay in touch with them to understand the state of the Kingdom. Ask their advice, opinions and ideas on various topics.

IV: COURT AND CEREMONIES

This is about the Court that you perform to give awards, make proclamations and generally be seen in state by the populace, not the group of people that supports you – though they will help with Court a great deal.

This section provides information on how to prepare for Court and some of the elements that go into successful courts. Although being the center of attention at Court can be a lot of fun, it is also WORK. Approach Court as you would approach any major responsibility. Some people are blessed with theatrical talent the rest of us need to plan to be able to look good.

WHAT IS COURT FOR?

Court has a number of purposes including: awards, announcements, presentations, law changes, etc. It is also one of the most public of your duties you will perform and to this end allows you to interact with a large number of your subjects, not to mention giving them the opportunity to form their opinion of you as a ruler.

Court is not for tasteless presentations, public debates, judging cases or airing grievances. While other kingdoms may perform ceremonies such as a squiring in Court, this is typically not done in the West, except perhaps rarely at smaller local events.

LEGAL NOTE ON COURTS

Court is the only place where you can conduct official business. That includes giving out awards, making changes to laws and making proclamations.

The event must be published before you can conduct official business. Corpora Section II, paragraphs A&B are quite specific about these requirements. In particular IIB, Business Requiring Prior Announcement requires that any formal action or announcement with long-term impact on the Society may only occur at an event that has been published in the appropriate kingdom newsletter. This includes things like awards and law changes. [\[Corpora II.C\]](#)

ANATOMY OF A COURT

There are a number of elements that go into any court. We have used some words from the stage only for ease of terminology.

THE CAST & CREW

ROYALTY: depending on the court you could be the only royalty present or one of several. The royalty are the stars of the show. You set the tone and pace for the performance. Remember that this is your court – you are the one who decides what will be in the script. Pay attention and look interested, otherwise you will lose your audience.

HERALDS: heralds have a combined role of narrator and scriptwriter. Experienced heralds can help royalty set the pace of the court through advice on what pieces of business fit best in which places. The best heralds can bring life and humor to the court without drawing the light away from the royalty. The College of Heraldry may suggest a court herald, but the Royalty holding the court have the final say on who their court herald is. Please do not surprise your court herald, it can make it hard for them to do their job, which is to make you look and sound good.

COURT MEMBERS: court members are your stage crew. They make sure that the awards tokens are placed in your hand at the right time, that you have drinks available when you need them and that any presentations you are given make it safely back to your pavilion.

GUARDS: court duty for guards is often ceremonial. The Queen can ask a few to stand behind her during court, space allowing, and to assist people up stairs. The Guard is always willing to protect the Queen should any wayward soul try to assault her person. Of course, if you do not feel threatened by your subjects, you do not need to be guarded from them.

CHAMPION: as mentioned before, the Champion does not have a clear job description, but standing behind the Queen at Court is considered one of the duties, though this has only become the case in the last ten years or so. What the Champion does is a matter between the Queen and Her Champion.

AUDIENCE: also known as the populace, typically sit on either side of an aisle so that award recipients and others may approach the thrones. This varies depending on the weather and the level and style of court. Be kind to your audience. If it is hot, trim the business as much as possible. If it is raining, arrange for shelter or invite the populace into the pavilion. Try not to be boring and **SPEAK UP!**

AWARD RECIPIENTS, OFFICER CHANGEOVERS: Very much a walk on role, typically don't have any lines unless it is a peerage ceremony, but they do need a way to get to you and a soft place to kneel is considered polite. Rugs over dirt, mud and wet grass are highly welcome.

ANNOUNCERS/PRESENTERS: another walk on role, but this time they have lines. If you do not know the presenter, your herald may be able to help. Sometimes a reminder from the herald before the court will help the presenting group keep it short and sweet in consideration of the populace. If it is not short and sweet, it had better be amusing. Same goes for anyone with an announcement. If too much rambling occurs, find a *tactful* way to cut it short. Some people don't know how to get off stage.

PERFORMERS: You can always invite a group of performers to play for the populace while everyone is getting ready for court. It also helps alleviate the boredom if things are running a little late.

With so much business to get through, courts can be long and dull. Work with your herald to find ways of making them as interesting as possible for the populace. One hour is expected - two hours is getting long. Longer than two hours will definitely stretch the patience of your populace. For the most part, people like short and snappy courts, as long as things that are supposed to receive a significant amount of time, like peerage ceremonies, are not rushed. If you know that court will be long in advance, feel free to add this note to your *Page* copy or to the schedule flyer at the gate.

With so many potential people to gather in a defined space (stage or royal pavilion) you will want to limit the number of your attendants. Too many people can also look cluttered from the populace's perspective. Too many people can also start to chat and the collective murmur could interfere with royalty-herald communications.

THE STAGE

The stage is wherever you are holding Court.

LOCATION: the royal pavilion [see page 74] is a typical location for camping events like crowns. There is usually a stage at Twelfth Night and some local halls will have stages as well. Courts can be held anyplace the Crown wishes including the middle of a lake on a hot day. (This happened at a Purgatorio at Lake Berryessa fondly known as Bake at the Lake.) All part of making your populace comfortable.

PROPS: thrones, banners, kneeling cushions. The type of Court you are performing will in large part determine which thrones, banners and kneeling cushions you will use. In a pinch, any chair draped with suitable cloth will do.

THRONE ORDER: The host is placed in the center. The first place of honor to the right of the host is given to the guest with the highest precedence, second place of honor to the left of the host goes to the guest with the next highest precedence, continuing right, left, right, left until everyone is seated. The "units" in this arrangement are geographic areas, rather than individuals.

This is the order if all principalities and no heirs were present at a kingdom level event. From the populace's perspective:

Oertha Mists K&Q Cynagua

When the Crown is a guest at a baronial or principality court, the hosts take the center spot, and the King and Queen sit in the place of honor at the hosts' right hand. For example, if the King and Queen were to visit Winter's Gate and attend a baronial court, the thrones would be arranged thus:

K&Q B&B Winter's Gate P&P Oertha

When heirs are present, the order may vary yet again. You may have seen evening court after a Crown tournament in which the Royal Heirs were placed on either side of the King and Queen.

If you do not have protocol expertise on your court, most senior heralds will be able to help your court with the arrangements. Some people, including royals visiting from other kingdoms can get touchy about this.

THE SCRIPT

Except for the ceremonies, court is rarely scripted. More often, they are extemporaneous. Learning the ceremonies and going over the court business with your herald as far ahead as possible will help eliminate most of the variables. Again, please do not surprise the herald if you can possibly help it. Surprising an individual herald with an award or something is OK, but have a backup herald who is prepared to take the tabard and book.

The heralds will field business for you. The general rule is that personal presentations are made out of Court. On rare occasions, the presentation is such that it is appropriate for court. Talk to your heralds about what you will and will not accept as Court business.

PREPARING FOR COURT - ANOTHER CHECKLIST

- Review the ceremonies just one more time. Figure out what the key parts, phrases and words are (i.e. We name you Jack the Joyous, Jarl) thereby minimizing the possibility of getting all the flourishes right and flubbing the main event.
- Review any changes to ceremonies with the herald again.
- Provide award promissories and a list of award recipients to your court herald. The names give the heralds time to figure out pronunciation, the awards list lets them put markers in the ceremony book to speed up the transitions in court. The promissories are placed in the right order and handed to you at just the moment you need them. As stated above, if you are going to surprise the herald with an award, make sure there is a backup herald who is in the know.
- You may wish to try to arrange for award recipients to be in court, discretely, of course.
- Go over all business with the herald before court, but remember that ultimately, you decide which items are allowed in court, which are not and in what order.
- Place all items of business in an order that will best balance the court. Experienced heralds can advise you well.
- Before court, agree with the herald on the following:
 - if an award recipient is not present, will you give the award to a representative, move it to a later part of court or hold it for another court or event?
 - can the principalities do business in your court?
 - what kind of presentations will you allow in court?
 - do you ever want to be surprised?
 - are there any phrases or words that the herald should not use?
 - is there any particular heraldic style or attitude you want the herald to follow?
- Have all awards tokens on ribbons and easily accessible. (Coordinate this with your Court.)

- ❑ Have all promissories filled in, signed and dated and in order of presentation. These can be given to the herald who can make sure they get in the right order by placing them in the ceremony book.
- ❑ Have all your own presentations ready and tell your Court how you want to present them (yourselves, via court members, in what order). Some sort of tagging method is also useful like tying ribbons to the basket in the Principality's colors.
- ❑ Let your Head of Court or lead court person have a rough idea of how long court will run so they can schedule your attendants accordingly. Every one understands that you can only give an approximation.
- ❑ Take a deep breath. Relax. And *smile*.

DURING COURT

You are always on camera. Attitude is everything. Happy smiling royalty makes for a happy smiling populace. High energy adds pizzazz and interest. The converse is also true: frowning serious royalty makes for a somber populace, low energy royalty make for a slow, quiet nondescript court.

Be flexible. Sometimes things do not go quite the way you hoped. A flexible attitude going in will help maintain that sparkling smile.

MISTAKES HAPPEN

Mistakes will happen. Do not sweat it. You might make a mistake, your herald might make one or someone else might make one. The middle of court is not the time to be a raving perfectionist it is the time to be magnanimous and if you can, diffuse the mistake with a little comic relief.

FORMAL VS INFORMAL COURTS

Because there is often an incredible amount of business for the standard courts at large events, some royalty have opted to give out awards in portable courts, also known as strike courts, hit and run courts and pop-up courts. The idea is to take the court to the household or group that the person is associated with. This is especially thoughtful when giving awards to members of groups where only a few members might attend a more formal court.

However, pop-up courts are not generally done in the West and could offend some people. It is best to know the target audience very well indeed before considering this type of court. Senior heralds can provide you with the pros and cons in more detail.

ROYAL PAVILION

It has become the Queen's Guards' job to set up the royal pavilion in the place marked off by the site autocrat. This typically includes putting up the banners and setting up the thrones as well. But, you may want your Guard to do different things and assign this task to your Court.

It is always a good idea to send an experienced court member to make sure that everything is in order a little while before each court.

CHANGES TO CEREMONIES

Contributed by Hirsch von Henford, Keeper of the Ceremony Book (as it were)

MAKING CHANGES TO THE CEREMONIES

There are a couple of ways that Your Majesties may wish to change ceremonies. However, before changes are made, it helps to remember that the ceremonies of the West Kingdom are steeped in tradition, and making dramatic changes to them may cause ill will or upset folk. There are good reasons for the ceremonies being written “as they are”.

One type of change is called a “one-off” - this kind of change is done for a specific candidate/award recipient. The changes can range from very minor wording changes, to some fairly dramatic changes. Sometimes the dramatic changes happen due to the fact that the Royalty, being familiar with the ceremony, inadvertently changes the sequence of the ceremony. This isn't a bad thing as long as the text and meaning doesn't change a lot. It can confuse the herald, and/or the recipient of the award, and/or the populace watching. Other “one-off” changes may be requested by the candidate (typically for a Peerage, as most other award recipients don't know in advance that they are receiving an award).

In these cases, part of the question is “how much of a change is acceptable.” As noted above, the Western ceremonies have many years of tradition to them. They are not necessarily as complex as some other Kingdoms, but sometimes in simplicity lies beauty. The West Kingdom Ceremony Book (and the Herald's Handbook, and a website noted below) have copies of “The New Peer Packets” which are intended to be handed out to a candidate before they are actually made a peer, to let them know of their options.

That said, not everyone subscribes to the following, but please consider it:

- A candidate who has been asked to join an Order of Peerage is not yet a member.
- The ceremony belongs to the Order, not the candidate. If the candidate is allowed to just change the ceremony however they like, they are taking liberties with something that is not yet theirs to take liberties with.
- You are well within your rights as Crown to deny requested changes, require a candidate to consult with the Order, or accept the changes presented. In any case, if a change is acceptable to you, please let your herald know about the change in advance.

The other type of change to a ceremony is a permanent change. These changes should be considered carefully, because, again as noted above, the West Kingdom ceremonies are steeped in tradition. Ask anyone who has been active if the Queen's Order of Grace ceremony should be changed. Chances are you will be given a resounding “NO!” as your response.

However, sometimes a change is good, simply because something was over-looked once upon a time. For example, up until a few years ago, new Counts and Countesses were not offered the chance to swear fealty to the Crown during their ceremony, unlike the other peers. While in most cases a new Count is a Knight, in many cases a new Countess is not a member of any of the other orders of peerage. So, with consultation with the Royalty at the time, this was changed.

Finally, if Your Majesties feel a change is necessary to the ceremonies, please consider checking with the Banner Herald (the herald in charge of court) – their contact information is usually in *The Page*. The Vesper Principal Herald (ditto), and/or the Keeper of the Ceremony Book (particularly if doing a permanent change) can help ensure that the change is recorded.

GRAND MARCHES

Grand Marches have not been done in the Central part of the Kingdom for a long time. They take a long time to organize and a long time to perform.

WHAT IS A GRAND MARCH?

A Grand March is a presentation of people to the Royalty in a structured order, usually based upon the Order of Precedence which is printed out at Twelfth Night. It should be in the binder with the Award Recipient List. The main function of the Grand March, apart from it being a spectacular piece of theater in its own right, is to allow you to meet

the populace, and to put faces to names. To a lesser extent, the Grand March also allows the populace to meet the Royalty.

WHY SHOULD YOU DO A GRAND MARCH?

Because you love a parade.

You can do a Grand March at any event you like — the decision is always yours — but please warn the heralds at least two weeks before the event.

A Grand March can be more effective on a visit to an individual SCA group. There are fewer people to march, so it will be much quicker to organize and conduct. And you'll have a better chance of remembering who all the faces belong to.

Kids, don't try this at Crown. The Grand March done at Purgatorio AS XXI (1986) took at least four hours. It would take even longer now.

THE "SPONTANEOUS" GRAND MARCH

You can also have a more-or-less "spontaneous" Grand March. In this instance you don't worry about strict Order of Precedence. Just have the heralds ask the populace to get into the correct award groupings (Peers, Leaves of Achievement and Armigers) and then let them sort themselves out into an appropriate order.

An informal Grand March is appropriate for smaller "local" events and can be effective at getting people up to stretch their legs.

V: LEGISLATION

CROWN'S WORD IS LAW

But it has to go through a few hoops before it will last past your reign.

PRECEDENCE OF THE LAW

With the various sets of legislation within the SCA, there needs to be some formal way of defining which set has precedence should some conflict arise. Basically, mundane law and the corporate documents come first and that kingdom level laws cannot be in conflict with them. Kingdom law takes precedence over Principality law.

CORPORATE LAW

You can get a copy of Corpora and the By-Laws from the Kingdom Seneschal or if you have web access from the SCA web site at www.sca.org. Corpora and the Governing Policies and Decisions (GP&D) provide rules for the “medieval” or “game” side of the organization, while the By-Laws provide rules for the real world legal side of the Society. Kingdom laws need to be checked against these documents to avoid conflict. Your Seneschal typically does this for you.

KINGDOM LAW

In your coronation ceremony, you will swear to uphold the laws of the kingdom. That means you will abide by them until such time as you change them and then abide by the changes. Kingdom law applies to all the principalities and the Marches, though the principalities will have their laws, too. See Article 1: The Law in the West Kingdom laws for a thorough understanding of the rules about laws.

CHANGING THE LAW

You can tell from the list of names at the beginning of the Laws that there is a long tradition behind them. If you feel a law change is necessary, you may want to find out about the history before you proceed. Remember also, that your law change will affect Oertha and the Far West too. If you still believe that the law needs to change, it is a fairly simple process.

Give the idea to the Seneschal to work on wording and check for conflict with the relevant corporate documents. You could provide the wording yourself, but unless you want particular words, why not delegate and save yourself the time?

Once the Seneschal has completed the verification, sign the law – the Seneschal signs, too to indicate they did, in fact do the research. Announce the law change in Court at an official event. Ask the Seneschal to submit it to *The Page*. The Chronicler is responsible for getting it into the Administrative Issue of *The Page*. Keep a copy of the law for the Kingdom files and your own records.

Until the law is published in *The Page* (remember to get it into *Pegasus* as well), it does not rescind existing law. The law will revert to the published version after your reign if your change is not published.

This sounds like a lengthy process, but if the situation is urgent and the required parties willing and present, a law can progress through to proclamation in a matter of hours. This is the exception. The general rule is to give your Seneschal a few weeks lead-time.

PRINCIPALITY LAW

Principality law cannot conflict with Kingdom law or the corporate documents. The Coronet's word is law, just like the Crown's word is law, except that the words need to be acceptable to the Crown. Consequently, if the Coronets want to make a law change they need to clear it through you. You need to sign them. This is a hard copy/ original signature exercise – the kingdom is not using electronic signature authority at this time.

Make your expectations very clear to the principalities about how much and what kind of lead time you will require for considering a law change. If you ask them to make alterations in wording, tell them what you expect regarding lead times for your second review. Open communication is critical to avoid disappointment and hurt feelings.

TEMPORARY PROCLAMATIONS

If you want to change the law for one day, perhaps change the residency requirement for Crown, you can. If you do not publish the change, the law will revert to the published version as soon as you either reverse the proclamation or your reign ends. The rule about conflict with the corporate documents still applies.

VI: ARTICLES OF GENERAL INTEREST

THE ARTICLES IN THIS SECTION, whilst not of vital and direct relevance to your duties and responsibilities as King and Queen or as Crown Prince and Crown Princess, will nonetheless provide some useful background information. The articles in this section come from a variety of sources, and are individually credited. The editor will gratefully accept suggestions for further additions.

FEALTY, LOYALTY AND OBEDIENCE

as we know and use them

[This article was first written at the request of Lord Reynardine de Clifford and published in Cockatrice. It's a brief introduction to fealty, loyalty and obedience, as they're understood by the authors to be practiced in the Kingdom of the West of the Society for Creative Anachronism. At the time of writing, the authors were Duke Frederick of Holland, MSCA, OP, Vesper Principal Herald and Mistress Eilis O'Bourne, OP, formerly Latimer Herald]

Please be aware that the opinions given here are our own, and do not represent any official policy of the Kingdom of the West, nor necessarily the opinions of a majority of the people in the Kingdom. Further, opinions on these subjects differ even more between Kingdoms than they do in any one Kingdom, so this paper should be read as reflecting some of the attitudes held in the West.

We would also like to thank Sir William the Lucky and Mistress Hilary of Serendip for constructive criticism and judicious editing.

FEALTY

In the Old Middle Ages, fealty was a contract between lord and vassal, based on concrete benefits for both parties, and with very specific terms and limitations. The vassal, say a knight or baron, would receive a fief, most often a piece of land. In return, he would promise to fight for his overlord (bringing along a certain number of men and horses for a specified period), or to perform some other service, or to pay an annual rent, either in coin or in produce. These contracts were often very specific, promising so much aid for a battle against Lord Thus-and-So, and less aid for a battle against Lord This -and-That, but more aid if Lord This -and-That was the one who provoked the quarrel.

Fealty was a cornerstone of the feudal system, influencing both economic and social life, and it shaped the ideals of the period. Oaths of fealty and their consequences were an important part of the history and literature from which we drew our inspiration in creating the Current Middle Ages. Therefore, fealty naturally occurred in our re-creation. For us, however, it is an emotional rather than economic force. We could not re-create it in its original form — our Kings have very few manors to give to their supporters.

The eventual result of twenty years of experience, evaluation, adaptation and re-evaluation (mostly subconscious) is a system in which the Peers and Great Officers swear fealty to the Crown, and the Crown returns the fealty. The oaths are lovely, and impressive, and fill a real emotional and ceremonial need. However, the meaning of the oaths is nebulous at best. Some people feel that they are simple a collection of words which feel “proper” but which bind each side to nothing. Others feel that the oaths are much more serious, and that they do bind both sides to commitments of loyalty, obedience and mutual service. When you speak of fealty in the Society, make sure that you and your audience are both thinking of the same thing. If you do not, unnecessary misunderstandings may develop.

The foundation oath of our system is the one sworn by each Sovereign at his Coronation. In it, he swears to protect the Kingdom, and all who dwell in it, to the best of his ability. This is the Society version of the mythos which binds a King to his land. It is the fulfillment of this oath which differentiates a true King from the tyrant and keeps the power of the Crown from being abused. Further, the King is bound to obey this oath by custom and tradition which are, in the West, far more binding than the limits set down either by the oath or in the Law. The practical limit on the abuse of

the Royal Power is peer pressure, for in this Kingdom there is a large, active and vocal group of Peers, drawn from all the Peerage Orders, who have strong opinions and are not shy about expressing them. If these people feel that a King is choosing an unwise course, they will not hesitate to inform him of this fact — although they will generally do so in private and avoid making a scene in Court. Whether the King chooses to take the advice offered is his decision, but he should consider it carefully. If nothing else, he must consider whether he wants to live with the consequences after he leaves the Throne. (The final protection from a bad King is the fact that one can always choose to take a brief vacation from the Society — until a new King is chosen.)

It is the King's oath that makes it not only unnecessary but actually inappropriate for those members of the populace who are not Peers to swear fealty to the King. If they do so, the King promises protection (as he has already promised in the Crown oath), in return for a promise of personal loyalty and obedience. He gives nothing he has not already given, and takes back substantially more than he had before. Fealty is a mutual contract, and when something is given, something should be returned. It is, however, both fitting and proper for the populace to offer homage — a formal statement of their respect for the King and for the Crown. In a ceremony of homage, the King is promised nothing, but is offered honor by his people. He gives back nothing but thanks. There are no lasting bonds formed; the ceremony simply acknowledges those which already exist.

It is proper for the Peers to enter into fealty, as they have received a fief of sorts. They have been given titles, and the right to wear certain badges of rank, and public recognition of their accomplishments. [\[You can look at it that their Patent of Arms is their fief. – Juana\]](#) If they choose to swear fealty, they are given, in addition, the right to call upon the King, and upon the bond of fealty when they need to. In return, the King gets the knowledge that these Peers will support him, the best of their not-inconsiderable ability, whenever he needs to call on them. Since the words of the oath are vague, the limits to these bonds are set, again, by custom and tradition. As a general rule in the Society, the overlord should invoke fealty gently. The vassals should invoke it formally, and only if truly necessary. It is proper for the King to remind his knights that they should fight in an upcoming war, but it would be improper for him to invoke their oaths and insist that they attend if it would create difficulties for them. It would be inappropriate for a knight to use his fealty to ask the King's support in a private quarrel, unless his honor as a knight had been questioned, and even then he should endeavor to solve the problem himself, and only call on his overlord in an extreme case.

The only person ever obliged to swear personal fealty (that is, fealty sworn in one's own person, not as King or Prince) are those members of the Order of Chivalry who elected to be named Knights. Whether they are obliged to renew this oath at each Coronation is a subject of debate, with some claiming that, if it is possible, a knight should swear to each new King, and others maintaining that a knight is in fealty to the Crown and Kingdom, and does not need to renew his fealty to each individual King (although he should unless there is cause). There are arguments to support each of these points of view. There is no "official" correct position in the West.

For all other Peers, entering personal fealty is optional. This is also true for the Great Officers and ceremonial heads of territorial groups. The oath sworn by the Officers and territorial Barons is for fealty in their offices, not for personal fealty. In other words, while acting *ex officio*, they are bound by their oaths, but they are not so bound while acting in a personal capacity. (They should be very careful to keep the two separate — but that's another article.) In fact, those Officers who are not comfortable swearing personal fealty may state explicitly, in the oath, "In my Office, I so swear".

All the relationships discussed above are "public" fealties. Oaths of this kind may be accepted only by a King or Prince, or by a Baron or by other designated representative, in the name of the King or Prince. They should not be demanded by, or offered to, Barons or other heads of branches as part of their office. In fact, such oaths have been specifically disallowed in the West. [\[Ed. note - clarification provided by Count Phillip Harlech of Exeter: "They are not disallowed; they have been forbidden to be required by anyone or position below prince."\]](#)

Of the "private" oaths of fealty, the most common is that sometimes sworn between a knight and his squire. In this oath, the knight will promise to instruct the squire in fighting and the ways of chivalry, usually in return for some degree of personal service on the part of the squire. The relationship must be clearly understood by both parties, and the conditions clearly set forth, as the terms are much less clearly defined by custom, and thus are more liable to abuse. In many knight-squire pairings, the bonds are indistinguishable from those of simple friendship and those developed by training together. However, in others there may be a strong master-servant aspect ("Squire! More beer!"), which reflects some of the older medieval models. This might seem to run counter to the courtesy which we

are all supposed to show in our dealings with each other. However, it is acceptable, even appropriate, in these relationships, provided that it has been agreed upon by both parties. It would not be an acceptable expression of the bond between the King and one of his knights. There is a more formal relationship, a contract between two who are essentially equals. It should be called upon only for higher purposes.

Occasionally all the members of a household will enter into joint oaths of fealty, or will swear fealty to the head of the household. This sort of bond is even more dangerous than that between a knight and his squire, as it is even less well defined by custom and tradition. Although it is not met with often, it is very open to abuse, especially since the members of a household usually interact a great deal of the time on an informal basis. Fealty in the SCA is more appropriate to a formal relationship, and is not truly needed within households. If members of a household feel the need for mutual promises, it would be more appropriate for them to swear mutual support and friendship, until such time as they part.

Although all these oaths bind only within the Society, it is sometimes difficult to determine exactly where the Society ends and mundane life begins. In general, the extension of an oath of fealty to mundane life, or to the informal SCA situations like fighter practices, is entirely voluntary. However, if one takes the Society seriously, this extension (like the extension of chivalry and courtesy to all) comes naturally. The difficulty is that courtesy and chivalry don't get you into trouble outside the Society, but attempting to maintain or enforce a bond of fealty may.

A word which might be considered at this time is "glamour". In its old sense, glamour meant magic, a spell or enchantment. In the modern sense, it means alluring charm. Fealty is a "glamorous" relationship in both senses of the word. It is a relationship filled with the possibility of danger, but with great potential for adding a dimension to our lives which is missing from the mundane world. It should be entered into only after the consequences have been thought out, and should not be taken lightly.

LOYALTY

Even to those who are not all that serious about participation in the Society, loyalty to the Crown and Kingdom should never be an issue. It is one of the binding forces which holds us together. This loyalty can be expressed in various ways. It starts with simply dressing for events, and acting in a manner which maintains the illusion for those around — not necessarily fancy or formal, but in keeping with the surroundings. Beyond this minimum, which occupies very little time, some people feel that it is among their responsibilities to travel as much as they can to far parts of the Kingdom. There they do what they can to enhance the Society for those who do not live where they can attend an event every weekend and pursue SCA activities three evenings a week if they so choose. Others express their loyalty by putting in many hours a week, every week, event or not, on the semi-mundane tasks which are necessary to allow the Society to function. There are some who feel that they should attend all Crown events and Courts, to bear witness to the business of the Kingdom.

Another common way of expressing loyalty is the vocal boasting and boosting of your Principality or Barony or Province. This sort of vocal loyalty gets its best expression in the declarations of War, and rhetoric can run high on both sides, and flow on for hours. But since, by gentlemen's agreement, all parties know that neither side will be convinced, no one's feelings should get hurt.

These are valid expressions of loyalty to the Crown, and each serves to enrich the lives of us all. However, it is worth noting that, by common consent, "patriotic fervor" is not emphasized at Kingdom level by subjects of the West, especially when they are dealing with subjects of other Kingdoms. There are several reasons for this. One is that the SCA started in the West, other Kingdoms perceive that there is a "Western Monolith" which is out to control the Society, and any boasting on our part would be taken badly. Another is the strong tradition in the West towards humility, which is sometimes actually a form of reverse snobbery ("I'm just a simple country knight_").

It is possible to have loyalty to the Kingdom, a Principality, a local branch, a household, an office — all at the same time. It is possible for some of these loyalties to come into conflict, and that is when we have to decide which ties are most binding. This problem is not new — it was a common one in the Old Middle Ages. The decision as to which loyalty should be given priority at a given time can be different in different cases. But if the conflict is between two ties of fealty — for instance, between a knight's fealty to his King and to his squire — then whichever of these ties cannot be honored should be released in a formal manner, not simply ignored or broken. A release from fealty may be honorably sought, but breaking an oath damages the fabric of our Society.

For all of us, foremost among all our loyalties should be our loyalty to the ideals of the Society and of the medieval culture we emulate. Although not all of us dream the same dream, for each of us there is a reason why we joined this group, and for most of us this reason includes some aspiration to courtesy, chivalry and prowess, and to a more honorable society than we know in the mundane world. If we remain loyal to this aspiration, all our actions contribute to the realization of the Current Middle Ages. If we fail in this, all other loyalty loses value.

OBEDIENCE

The question of obedience is a somewhat more difficult subject for most of us. Obedience to the Crown is a vital part of our re-creation, but even the obedience owed the Crown in the Old Middle Ages did not include giving up the right to ask questions. Such questions could get you labelled either as a trusted advisor of the King or as a potential rebel. It all depended on how you asked the questions. This is also true in the Current Middle Ages — the difference is that the label may change every four months.

“The King’s word is law” does not mean “The King is always right”, although it does mean that the King has the last word. Every subject has the right — and the duty — to question the decisions of the Crown, if the subject feels that the decisions are not correct. However, the questions should be put at the appropriate time, and in the appropriate form. A question put at formal Court and phrased “Are you out of your mind, you ninny?” has much less chance of being answered than one asked privately, which begins “Your Majesty, have you considered the following points?” Further, the public question is bad theatre as well as being rude, while the private question is both politic and polite.

Further, even with those who are bound to him in fealty, the King does not have the right to demand obedience in matters which are not within his lawful command. The exact phrase used in the Western oaths is “to obey the lawful commands of the King”, and some matters lie beyond that bound. “We would like to use your pavilion to hold Court, as the Royal Pavilion has blown away” is very different from “My sister showed up unexpectedly and will be staying in your pavilion this weekend — find another place to sleep”. The first is a command phrased as a request, and is something needful of the Kingdom, and should be accommodated if at all possible; the second is a bald command upon an unlawful issue. It would provoke resistance for the first error, and deserve it for the second.

In his Coronation oath, each King promises “to uphold the Law of the Kingdom”. This “Law” includes both the written law of the Kingdom and the body of custom and tradition on which it rests, and it is this “Law” which bars the King from making unlawful commands. Further, in the same oath, the King swears “to speak and to be silent”. The first part of this phrase refers to the King’s duty to issue such commands as are needful, but the second binds him to listen to the counsel offered him.

CONCLUSION

In all these matters, there is a necessity to balance and match the needs and demands of the parties on both sides. Both overlord and vassal must consider the abilities of their partners, and must not demand that which cannot be given. This is simple courtesy, which is the bedrock of our Society and should govern all actions.

TO BE A LORD OR LADY IN WAITING

By Duchess Juana Isabella de Montoya y Ramirez

Why do you do it?

- You get to help your friends, the K&Q.
- You get to see all the presents and hear the jokes at court.
- It is excellent preparation if you ever intend to be royalty.

Why are you needed?

- The K&Q have no time. They may not realize it, but They have no time.
- You must make sure They look good, eat, drink, get to the privy on time, get to meetings on time, and keep Their cool.

Things to keep in mind, without the K&Q or the head of court asking you to

- The K&Q must always look good. If They need a hair brush, get it. If there is a thread or grass on Their clothes, pick it off. Get Them a tissue if it is required.
- The set (the Royal Pavilion) must also look good. Pick up the trash. Remove or cover mundanities. Straighten the chairs, pillows, rugs, banners, etc.
- Yes, They are your buddies and you are familiar with Them, but They are also the K&Q... show Them the respect expected of the office; always bow, don't sit without permission, always rise at Their approach, don't approach a private conversation without permission, etc. The populace takes their cues on how to treat royals from the people around the royals. Be a good example.

What are your useful skills?

- | | |
|-----------------------------|---------------------|
| - Calligraphy | - Remembering names |
| - Sewing | - Organizing |
| - Embroidery, beading, etc. | - Cooking |

The King may carry one heavy thing if He insists. The Queen may only hold a flower or a fan or a goblet. She doesn't carry anything. They will resist this. Be politely persistent.

During daylight hours They must be attended at all times. If They need privacy, then attend at a distance, but They can not be unattended. After dark, try to continue to keep track of Them. If They are done with the business of the day (after dinner and after court) and are party hopping, it is less formal, but someone should keep track of Them.

They will have to deal with icky stuff from time to time. You don't need to know the details, unless They want to tell you. But, if it looks like They need a hug, give Them one. If They need a laugh, tickle Them or tell a joke. Happy royalty = happy kingdom.

If you know something about an issue They need to deal with, offer your counsel. If you think They are missing some important point, try to bring it to Their attention. The more information royalty has, the more likely They will make wise decisions. However, if They've heard enough, don't push it.

You will be in a position to hear things (politics, peerage business, etc.) that you ought not to hear. Do not pass anything on. If you must tell someone talk to the trees, or your cat. The K&Q will need to vent at times. They must be able to trust that what They say goes no farther.

The K&Q get busy. They may forget a thank you or a please from time to time. It is because They are busy, not because They don't appreciate you.

Surviving court

- Make sure all the award tokens, favors, flowers, gifts, etc. that will be required for court are ready before court starts.
- For award tokens, make sure the ribbon is long -- people wear hats, glasses, etc.
- Also, on award tokens, hide the token in your hand until the herald gets to the part of the ceremony where the populace can tell what award is being given. The suspense is part of the entertainment value of court. If the prop is seen before the line is given, the suspense is gone.
- Make sure They have Their pain killer of choice before and immediately after court. The hats are heavy.
- Make sure They go to the privy before court. Squirming in the chair isn't very regal.
- If you can tell, do it right before, otherwise, right after, They have a big bunch of lines give Them a drink of water.
- If court runs long, make sure They eat something -- real food, not just cookies. Something that isn't messy -- not sticky, no crumbs.
- Someone must be assigned to take note of all awards given out and all presents received. The list of awards must be sent to the kingdom chamberlain after the event and the addresses of the gift givers need to be obtained so thank you notes can be sent.

If you are asked to hold the crown (They are in the privy, or need to brush Their hair, etc.) hold it upright in two hands. It is not a bracelet and you may not wear it until you are king or queen.

Contents of a proper waiting basket. Feel free to add to this list.

- | | | |
|---------------------|---------------------------------|-----------------------|
| - notebook | - pliers | - fan |
| - pens | - paper clips | - mirror |
| - note pad or index | - envelopes | - chap stick |
| - cards | - pain killers | - clock |
| - wash-n-drys | - water | - current <i>Page</i> |
| - tissues | - cup | - Kingdom Laws |
| - tape | - emergency rations (dried | - Corpora |
| - ribbons | fruit, nuts, power bars, | |
| - super glue | chocolate, | |
| - safety pins | - whatever your royals | |
| - needle and thread | prefer) | |
| - scissors | - little gifts (flowers, beads, | |
| - thorn stripper | bits of trim) | |

ARCHERY IN THE WEST

[This information was provided by Martin Whistler, who at the time of writing (12/98) is the Royal Archer of the Kingdom of the West. It outlines the hierarchy, awards and competitions that take in various parts of the kingdom.]

ARCHERY HIERARCHY

Honorary Orders

There are only two kingdom level awards specifically for archery in the West at this time. Both carry a Grant of Arms in part to recognize outstanding skill in and contribution to archery in lieu of a peerage.

- ❑ **Royal Company of Archers (RCA).** Grant-level order. Originally for both target and combat archery, became exclusively for target archery upon formation of the RCY. Currently moribund. Members are appointed by the Crown upon nomination by the Company.
- ❑ **Royal Company of Yeomen (RCY).** Grant-level order. Members must demonstrate both exceptional prowess and service in missile combat. Duties are to assist and advise the Crown and Earl Marshal on all aspects of missile combat. Formed in AS 28, currently has 14 members who are fairly active. Members are appointed by the Crown upon nomination by the Company.
- ❑ **Order of the Grey Goose Shaft (OGGS).** The OGGS was the original grant-level archery order in the West. It has been de-activated in the West, and taken over by An Tir. There are about four Western members.

Appointed Officers

Royal Archer: appointed by the King and Queen. Lesser officer, deputy to the Earl Marshal.

Principality Archers: appointed by the Prince and Princess. Lesser officers reporting to the Royal Archer and Coronets.

Mists: Archer of the Mists

Cynagua: Minister of the Bow

Oertha: no active archery program

Baronial Officers: appointed by Barons. Darkwood, Vinhold, Fettburg have active archery officers.

Archery Guild

Membership in the West Kingdom Archery Guild is open to all persons with an interest in archery. The **Guildmaster** is elected by Guild members. **Guildwardens** are elected by members to oversee guild chapters. **Active Guild chapters** include Darkwood, northern Mists (Vinhold), central Mists (Esfenn), Fettburg, perhaps Southern Shores.

COMPETITIONS

InterKingdom Archery Competition (IKAC)

The IKAC runs from April through November. Only the top 3 scores per kingdom are entered into the competition. Divisions include Open, Period, Crossbow, Period Crossbow, Combat. The Period division requires selfnock arrows and period-style bows (non cutaway), although some modern materials may be used.

West Kingdom Top 10

There is a kingdom only competition that runs from January through December. Awards are presented to the top ten scorers in Court at 12th Night. There are two divisions: Handbow and Crossbow. Participants must also have some Period scores to emphasize the use of period equipment and to further research into historical archery.

Other Contests

There are a few local contests as well. Darkwood (Jan and July), Cloondara (July), Esfenn (Sept). There are Drop-in Contests at some Kingdom events. Occasionally Missile Combatant Lists have been held.

PRACTICES

All of the archery guilds hold semi-regular practices. Archery ranges are set up at most Kingdom and some Principality events if the site allows, and usually at inter-Kingdom wars.

SHOPPING GUIDE

[Please send the editors your list of secret shopping sources. If you are willing to help shop for or provide shopping advice to royalty, please send us your name and area of shopping expertise.]

GOOD SOURCES

Item Description	Name/Location	Notes/Comments
Fabric	Sal Berressi, Bryant St. between 16th St. and Division in San Francisco \$2 Fabrics, Modesto Hancocks, various locations Poppy Fabrics, Oakland Thai Silks, Los Altos WalMart, various Stonemountain & Daughter, Shattuck Ave., Berkeley Online fabric stores	Spiffy Brocades, etc. They are usually having a 40% off sale. That's 40% off the price on the tags. Excellent source for cheap upholstery fabric and muslin. Good selection, a little expensive. Great silk, good prices. Basic cotton sheeting, \$1.97/yard. Natural fibers, reasonable prices, good advice. Some good ones are out there. Do a search if your local shops can't provide what you're looking for.
Gifty Bits	China Town -- San Francisco Cost Plus -- San Francisco, Mtn. View, Alameda, San Jose, Santa Rosa Pier 1 Imports -- Most Major Cities Indian import shops -- many in Berkeley on University Ave. Online: orientaltrading.com, ustoy.com, iparty.com	Medieval people paid lots of money for cool stuff from the Orient. We have an easier time of shopping for such things now. Bulk toys and some jewelry at very reasonable prices.
Beads, stone chips, metal charms	Out On a Whim, Cotati (707) 664-8343 Global Beads -- Castro Street, Mountain View Blackmarket Minerals, Great Mall, Milpitas	Good selection of gems, decent prices, nice selection of stone chip necklaces and strands of pearls. Good selection of gems, beads, charms, strands of pearls, etc. Stone chip necklaces, glass bead necklaces, polished stones, etc.
Books	Green Apple Books -- Clement and 6th Ave. S.F. Moe's Bookstore, Telegraph Ave. Berkeley	
Everything	Annual White Elephant Sale -- Oakland, early March	

Coronets	Brion of Bellatrix & Dirk William Bjornson, An Tir (www.billdawsonmetalsmith.com) Drachenstein Treasures (www.dragonsjewels.com)	West An Tir Middle
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VII: ADDITIONAL READING LIST

Along with the laws, the Known World Handbook and other reading materials mentioned above, here are some additional titles that may give you guidance and insight if not a bit of a chuckle.

Alexander the Great, by Robin Lane, Penguin edition

The Art of War, Sun Tsu

Bartholomew and the Oblech, by Dr. Suess

Burden of the Crown (song)

The Emperor's New Clothes

How to Win Friends and Influence People

Imperial Compound (song)

The King's Stilts

The Leadership Engine, by Noel M. Tichy

Le'Morte d'Artur, by Thomas Mallory

The Once and Future King, by T. H. White

The Prince, by Machiavelli

SCA Primer

Truman

Victoria

A Year at Hell's Gate (SCA)

Yertle the Turtle, by Dr. Suess

VIII: AWARDS LIST

Please be aware that interpretations of what awards are for (other than those specified in the laws) do vary and only some perspectives may be represented here.

ARMIGEROUS AWARDS

These awards grant the bearer the right to bear arms.

DUKES AND DUCHESES

Dukes and Duchesses are those who have served as King and Queen at least twice. They can usually be identified by the coronets they wear. These coronets normally have strawberry leaves in groups of three and may have additional "personalized" decorations as well. The successor performs the ceremony for their predecessor. The title and acknowledgment by the Crown are required by Corpora and are automatic. This means that as soon as a person's second reign is over he/she is a Duke/Duchess whether or not a ceremony is held and whether or not the recipient acknowledges it. [See page 40].

COUNTS AND COUNTESES

These are people who have served as King and Queen once. Their coronets are typically embattled, and may have additional personal decoration. The successor performs the ceremony for their predecessor. Title and acknowledgment by the Crown are required by Corpora and are automatic. This means that as soon as a person's first reign is over he/she is a Count/Countess whether or not a ceremony is held and whether or not the recipient acknowledges it. [See page 40]

VISCOUNT AND VISCOUNTESS

A Viscount or Viscountess is a person who has served as Prince or Princess of a Principality at least once. Viscounty coronets are in no way defined, but are a matter of personal taste and tradition. It is traditional in the West that viscounty coronets have four or more points on top. The successor performs the ceremony for the predecessor. The title and acknowledgment by the Crown are required by Corpora and are automatic. This means that as soon as a person's first reign as prince/ess is over he/she is a Viscount/Viscountess whether or not a ceremony is held and whether or not the recipient acknowledges it. [See page 40]

THE ORDERS OF PEERAGE

There are three Orders of Peerage which may be granted by the Crown. These are the highest ranks within the Society a person may attain unless they become Royalty. These Orders are: The Order of Chivalry, The Order of the Laurel, and the Order of the Pelican. Each of these orders has precedence equal with the others, and two people with different peerages are considered to be equals. Hence the term "peers."

The Crown bestows peerages, but the Crown must consult with the Council before deciding on making a peer [Corpora IV.H.2]. This does not mean that the entire council must be unanimously in favor of the elevation unless that is your own requirement. More often than you might think, the Crown is called upon to make tough decisions about candidates when the Council cannot make a clear recommendation one way or the other.

Remember that while the Crown may poll the Order for their opinion, the ultimate responsibility for making the decision is the Crown's. Sometimes the Crown is very much in favor of a particular candidate while the council is not; consider if it is really in the best wishes of the candidate to elevate them over the council's objections. If they were not aware of the fact that they did not have the council's backing before their ceremony, they will find out shortly after their first meeting. You may not be doing the person a favor by ignoring the council.

See [Corpora VIII.A](#) for more information regarding general peerage requirements.

The Order of Chivalry

Members of this Order are either Knights or Masters at Arms, depending on whether or not they wished to swear fealty to the Crowns of the West at the time of their recognition. They are elevated to this rank for their ability on the field and for their courtesy and chivalry both on and off the field. Knights swear fealty to the Crown, sometimes to Coronets, and are considered to be vassals of the King, while Masters at Arms may swear fealty to an individual Crown (or Coronet) if they so desire. Masters at Arms wear a white baldric, a belt worn diagonally across the chest. Knights wear white belts and chains of large single links. Spurs are not officially reserved, but by tradition, they are reserved for the Chivalry.

For the Knights the chain represents the bond of fealty between the Crown and Knight. As of October 1998, the chain was officially reserved for the Order of Knighthood. In some kingdoms (particularly the East), Masters who have sworn fealty to a particular Crown wear fealty chains – this custom has not been adopted in the West.

The white belt is a symbol of chivalry and prowess, which is why both Knights and Masters at Arms wear white belts, albeit in different ways. The spurs come from the days when knights were mounted warriors, and are the symbol of the rank of Knight.

The Order of the Laurel

Membership in the Order of the Laurel is given for excellence in the arts and/or sciences. Only a member of the Order of the Laurel may wear a medallion with a laurel wreath, and in the Kingdom of the West may wear a cloak with the laurel wreath on the back, possibly enclosing an emblazon of their Arms, and a smaller one on the front. The laurel wreath is a Greek symbol of achievement, and was also a symbol of Apollo, the Greek god of the Arts.

The Order of the Laurel was originally given for all things not covered by the Chivalry. The focus narrowed to arts and sciences when the Pelican was adopted for service.

The Order of the Pelican

The Order of the Pelican is given for extraordinary service to the Kingdom, part thereof and/or the Society as a whole, far and beyond that given by most members. The members of the Order may wear a medallion depicting a pelican in its piety (wounding itself to feed its young), and a cloak with the same on the front and back (as for the Laurel). The pelican in its piety symbolizes sacrificing oneself for others, and was a medieval symbol of Christ (the ultimate symbol of sacrifice).

The Order of the Pelican was created by the Board of Directors, and was originally to honor people who had given service to the Society (the Laurel was still used to honor service to the Kingdom.) Only later was it released to the kingdoms. Those who received their Pelican directly from the Board are often called “Imperial Pelicans.” On occasion, the Pelican is still given to people based primarily on their service to the corporation.

The Order of the Rose

This order is given automatically to Countesses in the Kingdom of the West. The Order of the Rose was created in the early days of the Society, before the title of Countess was used for those who had served as Queen. All Kings, in those days, were already Knights, so it was felt that those who had served as Queen deserved recognition as well. The Order of the Rose is not included in Kingdom Law at this time.

It is customary for the successor to present the new member of the Order with a rose – something lasting like crystal or silver is preferred, but a cut rose is acceptable. There is no medallion per se but the symbol that can be used by members is a wreath of roses in any color. In other kingdoms, a red heraldic rose is used as a pendant and various merchants carry such “order of the rose” pendants.

GRANTS OF ARMS

The Grants were created specifically to honor Great Officers of State who were stepping down from their office. Later, they were used to designate several mid-level awards as well as awards for activities for which there was no recognizable peerage. It is also said that the Grant was created to give to kingdom greater officers who were not already peers so that they would not feel so intimidated by the peers and royalty they dealt with.

In the Kingdom of the West, the Grant is usually given to Greater and Lesser Officers of State, their Deputies, (often) founding Baron/ess, the Royal Company of Archers, the Royal Company of Yeomen and Masters in the Royal Guild of Fence. A Grant of Arms may be given at Their Majesty's wish, and therefore there are no set standards for who may receive one. They are, however, somewhat rare. There is no token given for a Grant of Arms except for members of the either the Royal Company of Archers or the Royal Company of Yeomen.

In most kingdoms, grant recipients are addressed as “Your Lordship/Ladyship” or with the title “The Honorable Lord/Lady” so and so. This is acceptable practice in the West, though it is seldom used.

The Royal Company of Archers

This was instituted to honor archers who have achieved high standing in target archery, and who are exemplars of courtesy and chivalry. The token is a glove to be worn in the belt, with the badge of the Order on the back. It carries a Grant of Arms. This honor is given by the Crown on the recommendation of the members of the Order.

The Royal Company of Yeomen

The members of this order have demonstrated high achievement and service to the Kingdom in war with missile weapons, they are also exemplars of courtesy and chivalry. The token for membership in this order is a leather baldric with the badge of the order on it. Membership in this order confers a Grant of Arms. This honor is given by the Crown on the recommendation of the members of the Order.

WESTERN LILY

The Western Lily stands between Grants and Leaves in precedence and is given for outstanding achievements and consistent contributions in teaching in the arts, sciences and other activities. The award carries with it an Award of Arms.

LEAVES OF ACHIEVEMENT

There are two "Leaves of Achievement" given within the Kingdom of the West. The first is the Order of the Leaf of Merit, given for service and the Order of the Rose Leaf, given for expertise in the arts or sciences. These are given at the wish of Their Majesties, but often upon recommendation by knowledgeable people. Tokens for these are awards are a cast pewter laurel leaf pendant for the Leaf of Merit, and a pendant (in various media, but most recently gold) in the shape of a rose leaf for the Rose Leaf.

These are generally given for meritorious behavior that enhances the realm whether at kingdom or principality level. Recipients should display a certain gentility of attitude.

AWARDS OF ARMS

An Award of Arms is the first level of “armigerous” award. It confers the right to bear Arms (as opposed to an “heraldic device”), and the title “Lord” or “Lady” as appropriate. It is usually given for service or other significant contribution to the well being of the Kingdom, often at the local level.

There is no official West Kingdom policy on what is required for an Award of Arms. However, it generally takes a couple years of regular SCA activity, but it has been known to take as little as a weekend (for outstanding service well above and beyond the call of duty) and as long as eight years (for a lady who blended in so well with her Kingdom's life that everyone assumed she already had one).

AOAs are the core meat award of the SCA. Most folks in the SCA *will never have anything higher*, and you will be doing them and the kingdom well to remember that. Don't trust the answer "Yeah, sure, she's got an AOA," because frequently people assume that someone who's doing stellar work has one already. We know one person who did not get an AOA for 14 years, despite holding and competently executing offices and managing events, because everyone assumed he had an AOA already. Also be sure to check on imports from other kingdoms; never assume a competent person from another kingdom already has an AOA, especially if they come from one of the massively huge or geographically disparate kingdoms. On the other hand, we also know of several people who have multiple AOAs because they have lived in a number of kingdoms. The heralds are your chief resource here; they will have the contact information for the heralds doing similar work in other kingdoms and can check for you.

This award is usually accompanied by a promissory. A pre-printed "scroll" with a recap of the ceremony, the recipient's name, the date and by whom the award was given. This promissory can be "from stock" or you can commission special promissories for your reign. You can also, with enough forethought and planning, give the recipient a real scroll. The promissory is called such because it is a promise for a real scroll sometime in the future.

COURT BARON/ESS

This title is given, as an addition to any other titles, by Their Majesties, for whatever reason They wish. If the person receiving a Court Baronage is not previously Armigerous, this award carries an Award of Arms. They wear a coronet of their own design, usually, but not always, decorated with pearls in addition to some personal insignia. The pearls in this case do not need to be the oyster variety, but the heraldic representation of pearls. Court barons and Baronesses stand in precedence between Leaves and Awards of Arms.

When a landed baron and baroness step down, they may receive a court barony at the discretion of the Crown. [WK, IV:7.2] It is tradition that when a founding Baron or Baroness step down that they are styled, for example, Mistress Rowan Perigrinne, Baroness Rowany. While no longer Baroness *of* Rowany, she will always be Baroness Rowany. If you decide against awarding this to the outgoing Baron and Baroness, you will need to be prepared for dealing with some hurt feelings. But the award is by no means automatic, in particular in Palantine Baronies it is not common.

It is also said that court baronies are given as consolation prizes to popular people who don't quite make it for one of the peerage orders. This opinion is not held by everyone, but the sentiment is out there, just be aware of it.

NON-ARMIGEROUS AWARDS

The Kingdom of the West has many non-armigerous awards, listed below in brief form. Many of the tokens are available in the awards box you receive at your Coronation and are restocked by the Regalia Minister, but some of the tokens especially for the arts and sciences are kept by the relevant officer.

FROM THE QUEEN

THE QUEEN'S ORDER OF GRACE

The QOG is given to those the Queen finds courteous to all. Members of this order may wear a medallion of a crowned rose, from which is dependant a pearl. This award is not limited to one per reign, but it is given sparingly and is highly prized by the recipients.

There is one opinion that the QOG also goes to people who have been of great personal service to the Queen. Your mileage may vary, but current opinion appears to be that the QOG should go to those displaying exceptional levels of Grace and Courtesy.

THE QUEEN'S CIPHER

This award is given to those who have been thoughtful and helpful personally to the Queen. The Cipher recipients may wear a medallion which is personalized from Queen to Queen, normally in the shape of her initials. It is quite possible for a person to be given several Ciphers.

FIGHTING

COMMENDABILIS

This recognition is given to the person who came in second in the Crown Lists, and their consort, as a recognition of all of the combatants who fought with honor and chivalry in the Lists and for those who inspired them. Those so honored are given tokens of pewter oak leaves on ribbons of green and gold that are usually worn from Crown to Crown.

WREATHS OF VALOR AND CHIVALRY

This honor is given at Crown Tournaments to (usually) unbelted fighters who have proven the most Valorous and the most Chivalrous on the field of honor that day. The tokens are wreaths of Rosemary, the Wreath of Valor has a red ribbon wrapped around it, and the Wreath of Chivalry has a white ribbon wrapped around it. The Queen presents the Wreath of Chivalry and the King presents the Wreath of Valor. Verena started the wreaths in her first reign. They are painted inside the lid of the Royal Suitcase along with other scenes from that reign. The rosemary was 'for remembrance. Originally, the Queen presented both wreaths.

For more information see the section on Wreaths on page 51.

KING'S HUSCARLS

This honor lasts for the reign in which it is granted, much like membership in the Queen's Guard. Members (usually of the Chivalry, but this is not limited to the Chivalry) are asked to serve as the King's house guard, specifically during wartime. They are given baldrics to wear with the badge of the Huscarls ("Or, an antique crown voided, surmounted by a sword gules") to signify that they will stand between the Crown of the West and any danger that threatens it. See page 30 for more information.

This is only given sporadically. All the knights, as direct vassals of the King, are the King's men and are bound to guard him.

THE QUEEN'S GUARD

This is an honor, rather than an award, and opportunity is offered to unbelted fighters who show much promise (quite often a member of the Guard are knighted while still a member, removing them from the Guard). Members of the Queen's Guard wear a baldric of red leather with the device of the Queen tooled into it, and are given the favor of the Queen on whose guard they serve. [See Queen's Guard on page 26.]

THE ORDER OF VALOR

This honor is given at the wish of the Crown, for great service in war. It is usually given to those who lead units, or who have made some other especially noteworthy contribution. Its symbol is a torse braided of green, gold and red, the colors of the Kingdom and the color of blood.

KNIGHT BANNERETTE

This honor is given to individual members of the Chivalry who have shown continuing support to Crown and Kingdom in battle. The Knight Bannerette may display on the fly of their banner a stripe colored barry or and vert (the colors of the Kingdom).

DEFENDERS OF THE WEST

This honor is given to those non-combatants that serve the realm most outstandingly during times of war in any manner. It is given to people such as water-bearers, marshals, heralds, chirurgeons, and many others. Members are given a braid of ribbons containing colors from the arms of all four of the Principalities of the Kingdom.

THE ORDER OF THE SILVER MANTLE

This honor is given by the Crown on the recommendation of the members of the Order to those who serve as consistently good examples of well-acquainted fighters. It may be awarded to heavy or light fighters. There is currently no symbol for the Order, but it has been held in tradition that their accoutrement serves as their token/symbol.

THE MUCKIN' GREAT CLUBBE

This is the oldest award and piece of regalia in the SCA dating from April 30 AS I. It was originally given out at every Crown, but the tradition has fallen away. We encourage you to revive it, given its historical value.

This honor is given for ferocity on the field. The current holder of the honor maintains a massive club with a spike driven through the head. They are responsible for determining the next holder of the Clubbe, and for rubbing at least one pound of wax into the Clubbe (used to be ¼ pound, but that's inflation for you.)

THE OLD BATTERED HELM

The Battered Helm is presented to those who die gloriously on the field. Histrionics are not mandatory, but do increase your chances. Steven McEanruig and William the Lucky created this award. The Helm itself is a freon tank helm which has suffered greatly, for each new recipient is expected to mark the helm with a steel weapon of his/her choice in front of witnesses and pass the helm on at a Crown event to the person they deem most worthy. This was also given out at every Crown. If it hasn't appeared for a while, we encourage you to scare it up.

ARTS & SCIENCES

THE ORDER OF THE GOLDEN POPPY

This award is given to those people who have won the Arts and Sciences Competition of the Kingdom for the current year. The members of the order are given a wreath of silk poppies to signify membership in the order. The Crown places the wreath on the winner's head during court at Twelfth Night. By law, the recipient bears the title Royal Artisan or Royal Artificer depending on their expertise. The way the law is written (as at 6/1/01) this looks like it is an automatic award to the winner of the competition but there have been cases in which it was not given. Check with the Arts and Sciences Minister. [\[WK IV:8.5\]](#)

There are a number of duties spelled out in Kingdom Law [\[WK IV:8.5.2\]](#) including Regalia projects.

THE ORDER OF THE WOODEN SPOON

This Order consists of the victors of the Kingdom cooking contests. They are given to wear a wooden spoon dependent from a ribbon. It is possible to win many of these tokens.

THE ORDER OF THE PIED D'ARGENT

Membership is given to winners of the Kingdom dance competitions. Winners of these competitions are given a small pendant or pin of a silver dance slipper. Members of the Order run and judge the Pied d'Argent competitions. It is possible to receive more than one of these, but the first few winners decided not to compete again, so as to build up their order. It is now tradition.

THE ORDER OF ARACHNE'S WEB

This is actually a guild of lacemakers. Membership is given to those who have shown excellence in the art of lacemaking. There are many ranks within the "Order", corresponding to levels of competence. The members of the Order present lace napkins to the Crown at each Coronation, and the lacemaker to the Queen is usually selected from amongst the members. This tradition has faded in recent years.

THE ORDER OF THE SILVER NIB

This is an award given by the Crown to members of the College of Scribes of the Kingdom, for excellence and quantity of scrolls in their scribe work. The token given is a silver pen nib on a black and gold braided ribbon. The Chancellor of the College of Scribes currently holds the tokens. You may want to discuss candidates for this award with the Chancellor for additional information.

THE ORDER OF THE KING'S LANCE

This award is given to those who have shown excellence in and continued support of the equestrian arts. The token of this award is a silver lance suspended from a ribbon. Members are expected by law to advise the Minister of Equestrian Arts and do research into aspects of medieval equestrian arts.

GENERAL EXCELLENCE

THE ORDER OF THE SILVER MOLET

The Silver Molet was based on the order of the Garter and was originally for knights who displayed the highest examples of knightly behavior. The duty of the order was to act as bodyguard for the Crown Prince and Crown Princess at their coronation. The badge of the order was the arms of John Chandos, founder of the Order of the Garter (Argent, a pile gules), differenced by a voided crown or. Originally, only knights of the Silver Molet were allowed to wear rowelled spurs. They were also distinguished by the armorial cloaks they wore (putting the cloak on the new member was the accolade for the order.)

The Silver Molet was created by King Henrik at Twelfth Night, AS VIII (1974). The order was opened to other orders of peerage by King Geoffrey and Queen Kira, and then closed by King Jade at Beltane, AS XXIV (1990). (at which time the sumptuary law regarding rowelled spurs was rescinded.) You will occasionally see members of the order wearing their cloaks at coronations.

PILLARS OF THE WEST

This honor is given by the Crown to groups (households, clans, etc.) who, as a group have served the kingdom outstandingly. While not an individual award, members of the group so honored may add an augmentation to their arms of: "Or, a crown of three points, voided vert."

THE WESTERN ROLL OF HONOR

This honor is given to those individuals, who, by their actions have inspired the populace or have substantially enriched the realm. Their name is added to the "Western Roll of Honor" (a scroll listing the name, date and deed they are being recognized for), and are given a token which will be a heater shaped medallion with the Western demi-sun above a rolled scroll.

WKPM (WEST KINGDOM PARAGONS OF MERRIMENT)

This award is given to people who help create and support period entertainment. It is particularly aimed at those who enhance festivals and evening revels (PM, get it?) through dance, music, performance arts, and "any other social activity" which may prove worthy of the honor. However, this should not be the party harty award given to the most drunken. While drunkenness is period and can sometimes be entertaining – well, you get the picture. Treat the award with dignity and the recipients will be honored to receive it.

The token is a ribbon of festive colors with a leather roundel stamped with the initials of the award.

ORDER OF THE NOBLE MANOR

Given once per year at June Crown, this award is given to individuals who have created an exceptionally period and well-appointed encampment. The recipient is given a banner to display. After the banner has passed, the recipient may develop their own version as described in Kingdom Law. [WK IV:8.18]

ORDER OF THE QUEEN'S TREASURE

This award is to publicly thank and recognize the people who consistently provide excellent items to fill gift baskets, etc., so that you can look generous and wonderful. These people rarely ask for anything in return and since many of the gifts go out of kingdom to Pennsic and Estrella, they receive very little internal recognition except to be called again by the next set of royalty. The token is a treasure chest depending from a green and gold ribbon (though one green and one gold would probably satisfy the intent if not the letter of the law.)

FOR CHILDREN & THOSE SUPPORTING THEM

These awards have not been used well in the past. Frequently because the King and Queen do not have children of their own and are not "connected" to this group. Getting people to make recommendations for these awards can be very frustrating. Feel free to beat the bushes – call the Page School Chancellor, ask the parents in a meeting to see you afterwards, attend Page School functions and talk to the parents, make a specific request in *The Page*, etc. These awards are important, especially because AoAs often aren't considered appropriate for children younger than mid-teens.

ROYAL PAGES OF THE WEST

This honor is given by the Crown to those children who have demonstrated exceptional courtesy and given of their service or talents to the Kingdom. The recipients are given a token of the letters "RP" strung from ribbons.

THE ORDER OF THE GOLDEN ACORN

This is given to those who have assisted in the upbringing of the Kingdom's children. The token is a small pendant of an acorn on a green ribbon.

SPECIAL APPOINTMENTS

Bard of the West

The Bard of the West competition is held at Beltane each year. The Crown is expected to help the current Bard judge the competition for the new Bard. The Bard is then invested at June Crown. Duties of the Bard include presenting a piece to honor a new King and Queen at Coronation, and performing a piece at Invocation should the Crown so desire (a good way of setting the tone for the day if you are so inclined). They should also attend Wars like West/An Tir and West/CAID and other events as you arrange between you. The Bard is also charged with fostering bardic activities throughout the kingdom.

Western War Council

The Western War Council was created by Uther at March Crown 2002. It is appointed once per year, by means of a mass melee tournament between war units of 6-10 members. The victorious unit is appointed Western War Council and assumes the role of command for the Army of the West Kingdom in time of War, at the discretion and direction of the Crown. The Western War Council can display the badge: Or, two Thunderbolts in Saltire, Overall a Demi-Sun, Vert or if that does not pass the College of Heraldry, another badge will be developed. War units who have held the post of Western War Council, upon retiring from the post, can augment the badge of their war unit, in canton, with Checky, Or and Vert, a Demi-Sun, Sable.

The specifics of the tournament are outlined in Kingdom Law [WK 8.20], but there is a clause for variation. We suspect that once the tournament is established in tradition, there will be no need to codefy it and the details may eventually be trimmed from the laws and left to tradition.

Guild Master of Fence, Royal Guild of Fence

This honor is given by the Crown on the recommendation of the Body of Guild Masters of Fence. It has two functions.

1. To recognize those individuals who are fitting examples of excellence in Rapier practice, Instruction, and Reconstruction of Techniques in the West.
2. To provide a body of Guild Masters who are responsible for the proper instruction of Rapier Participants in order to ensure high level of skill in rapier combat with Schlager bladed rapiers.

Members of the Rapier Community who have previously achieved the rank of Provost in the Royal Guild of Fence may be recommended to the Crown for this award by the Body of Guild Masters of Fence. The requirements for consideration for elevation are published in the Charter of the Guild, which is an Appendix of the Rapier Combat Rules of the West available from the marshallate.