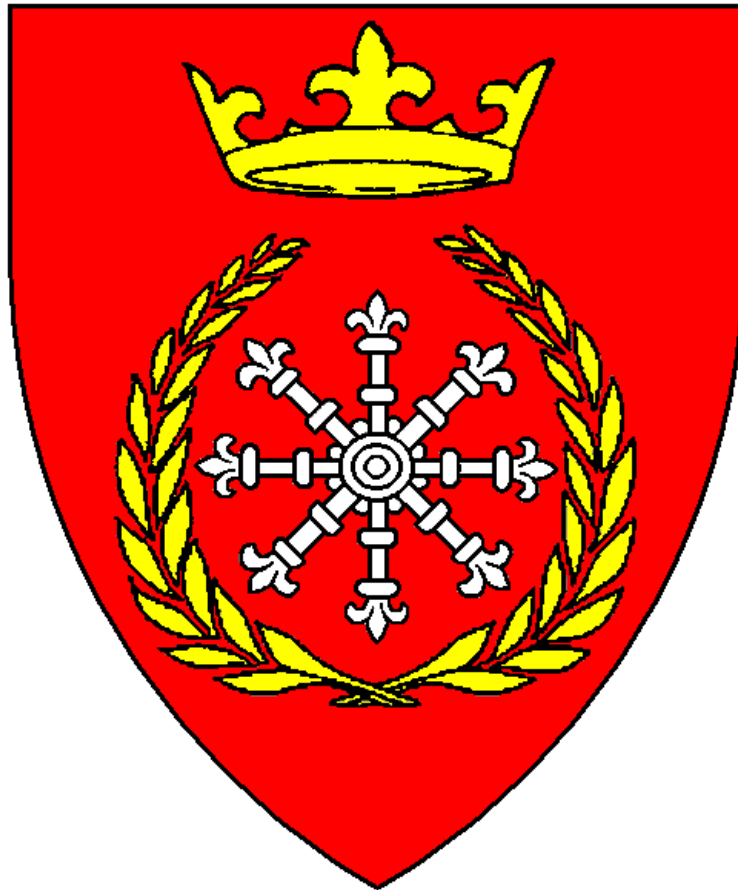


Ethelmearc

Book of Ceremonies



June, Anno Societatis LI (2016)

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What This Book Is, and What This Book Is Not

This book is a general guide to how the Kingdom of Æthelmearc currently conducts prevalent ceremonies in Court.

It is meant as a resource for Principal Heralds, who will be the primary heralds responsible for conducting many of these pieces of business, as a reference for the traditions of the Kingdom, with the understanding that each Royalty is different and may want to change things to fit their personae or the theme of a certain event.

It is meant as a resource for Court Heralds to familiarize themselves with ceremonies with which they may not have previous experience, prior to conducting them.

It is meant as a resource for Royalty, to understand the role They will play in these ceremonies.

It is meant as a resource for those candidates who will be elevated to the Peerage, and those people assisting and sponsoring said candidates, to help plan all the things that will be part of the ceremony.

It is meant to change as the Kingdom changes, being not only a record of where we have been but also a record of where we are and where we wish to go.

This book is **not** Gospel, The One True Way, Immutable, Never To Be Changed, The Way We've Always Done It, or The Only Way We Can Ever Do It. What you will find in this book are not scripts, they are *guidelines*, to make sure that all of the "required" elements of ceremony are covered. You will not find scroll wordings, oaths, or other standardized texts.

As always, if you have any questions about the contents of this work, please contact Silver Buccle Principal Herald at ae.herald@aethelmearc.org.

Common Terms

Crown - a collective term for the current ruling Royalty of the Kingdom

Sovereign - the member of the Crown who was victorious in Crown Tournament

Consort - the member of the Crown who was not victorious in Crown Tournament

Heirs - a collective term for the impending ruling Royalty of the Kingdom

Heir - the member of the Heirs who was the victorious combatant in Crown Tournament

Heir's Consort - the member of the Heirs who was not the victorious combatant in Crown Tournament

Baronage - a collective term for the current Landed Nobility of a Barony

Baronial Heirs - a collective term for the duly elected, but not yet invested, successors to the current Landed Nobility of a Barony.

Precedence of the Kingdoms of the Known World

1. West - May 1, A.S. I (1966)
2. East - June, A.S. III (1968)
3. Middle - September, A.S. IV (1969)
4. Atenveldt - January, A.S. V (1971)
5. Meridies - January, A.S. XII (1978)
6. Caid - June, A.S. XIII (1978)
7. Ansteorra - June, A.S. XIV (1979)
8. Atlantia - May, A.S. XVI (1981)
9. An Tir - January, A.S. XVI (1982)
10. Calontir - February, A.S. XVIII (1984)
11. Trimaris - September, A.S. XX (1985)
12. Outlands - June, A.S. XXI (1986)
13. Drachenwald - June, A.S. XXVIII (1993)
14. Artemisia - July, A.S. XXXII (1997)
- 15. Æthelmearc - September 20, A.S. XXXII (1997)**
16. Ealdormere - October, A.S. XXXIII (1998)
17. Lochac - July, A.S. XXXVII (2002)
18. Northshield - October, A.S. XXXIX (2004)
19. Gleann Abhann - November, A.S. XL (2005)
20. Avacal - June, A.S. L (2015)

Note that the local Kingdom is always of the highest precedence.

Precedence of the Baronies of Æthelmearc

The Order of Precedence of the Baronies is as follows:

1. Barony-Marche of the Debatable Lands - February 24, A.S. VIII (1974)
2. Barony of Thescorre - October 14, A.S. XIII (1978)
3. Barony of the Rhydderich Hael - January 6, A.S. XIII (1979)
4. Barony of Delftwood - August 21, A.S. XVII (1982)
5. Barony of Blackstone Mountain - April 16, A.S. XXVIII (1994)
6. Barony of Endless Hills - January 24, A.S. XXXII (1998)
7. Barony of St. Swithin's Bog - July 18, A.S. XXXIII (1998)

Table of Precedence of Æthelmearc

1. Crown of Æthelmearc
2. Heirs of Æthelmearc
3. Crowns of foreign Kingdoms, by Precedence of Kingdom
4. Heirs of foreign Kingdoms, by Precedence of Kingdom
5. Dukes and Duchesses
6. Counts and Countesses
7. Viscounts and Viscountesses
8. Companions of the Orders of Chivalry, Defense, Garnet, Laurel, Pelican and Rose
9. Holders of Patents of Arms who are not companions of one of the above orders
10. Local Landed Baronage (if applicable)
11. Landed Baronage of Æthelmearc, by Precedence of Barony
12. Landed Baronage of foreign Kingdoms, by Precedence of Kingdom and then Barony
13. Retired Landed Barons and Baronesses of Æthelmearc
14. Members of Grant-bearing Orders of Æthelmearc (Fleur d'Æthelmearc, Gage, Golden Lance, Millrind, Scarlet Battery, Scarlet Guard, White Horn, White Scarf)
15. Members of Grant-bearing Orders of foreign Kingdoms
16. Holders of Grants of Arms
17. Court Baronage without Grants of Arms
18. Members of Award-bearing Orders of Æthelmearc (Golden Alce, Golden Stirrup, Keystone, Sycamore)
19. Members of Award-bearing Orders of foreign Kingdoms
20. Holders of Awards of Arms
21. Holders of non-Armigerous awards of Æthelmearc (Æthelmearc Award of Excellence, Augmentation of Arms, Cornelian, Golden Escarbuncle, Golden Thorn, Jewel of Æthelmearc, Sigil of Æthelmearc, Silver Alce, Silver Buccle, Silver Stirrup, Silver Sycamore)

Peerage

Vigil Ceremony

1. The Order and Candidate are called into Court.
2. The candidate confirms their intention to sit vigil.
3. Any business that needs to happen before the vigil (e.g., returning a belt to an oathbound Peer) is conducted.
4. The candidate is conducted into the custody of the Order.

Elevation Ceremony

1. The candidate is called into Court.
2. Once the candidate's procession is complete, the Order is called into Court.
3. The Crown confirms with the candidate that it is their desire to proceed with the elevation.
4. Any business that needs to happen before the ceremony starts is conducted.
5. The Crown calls for testimony from the Worthies. While the order of the Worthies can be changed to suit the preferences of the candidate, the traditional order in Æthelmearc is:
 - a. Royal Peer
 - b. Peerages the candidate is not receiving, in alphabetical order: Chivalry, Defense, Laurel, Pelican
 - c. Peerage the candidate is receiving
 - d. Jewel of Æthelmearc, if one is speaking
 - e. Any other testimonies, if applicable(For example, the traditional order of Peers for a Laurel would be Royal Peer, Chivalry, Defense, Pelican, Laurel.)
6. The Crown affirms that, having heard the testimony of the Worthies, it is Their intent to elevate the candidate to the Peerage.
7. The candidate is presented with regalia befitting their new station.
8. If the candidate is being created a Knight, the Crown dubs the candidate with the Sword of State. (If neither the Sovereign nor the Consort are a Knight, a Knight is summoned into Court to assist.)
9. The candidate gives their Oath of Fealty or Service, if they desire to do so.
10. If the candidate is being elevated to the chivalry, The Crown gives the candidate the Last Unanswered Blow.
11. The candidate is officially proclaimed a companion of the Order, and the scroll is read.

Coronation

Ceremony

1. The Crown conducts all normal award business.
2. The Heir comes forth to claim the Throne.
3. Testimony is given from Kingdom Officers regarding the legitimacy of the Heir's claim
 - a. Seneschal testifies that Kingdom Law was followed
 - b. Earl Marshal testifies that the Crown Tournament was legal
 - c. Minister of Lists testifies that the Heir was the victor
 - d. Silver Buccle testifies that the Heir was Crowned in Court and promised the Throne
4. The Crown bids the Heir to hold while They complete the business of Their reign.
5. The Crown bestows any remaining awards They wish.
6. The Consort calls forth the Captain of the Guard and releases the Guard.
7. The Crown call forth the Head Retainer and release the reign staff.
8. Silver Buccle releases the current Jewel of Æthelmearc Herald.
9. The Crown calls for the Heir.
10. The Sovereign removes the crown from the Consort and places it into the care of Silver Buccle.
11. The Sovereign removes the crown from his/her head and places it onto the head of the Heir.

THE GENTLE FORMERLY KNOWN AS THE **HEIR** IS NOW THE **SOVEREIGN**.

12. The Sovereign calls for the Heir's Consort.
13. The Sovereign takes the Consort's crown from the care of Silver Buccle and places it on the head of the Heir's Consort.

THE GENTLE FORMERLY KNOWN AS THE **HEIR'S CONSORT** IS NOW THE **CONSORT**;
THE GENTLES FORMERLY KNOWN AS THE **HEIRS** ARE NOW THE **CROWN**.

14. Silver Buccle reads the lineage of the Kingdom.
15. The populace, led by Silver Buccle, cheer the new Crown.
16. The Kingdom Officers are called and collectively swear their continued service to the Kingdom.
17. The Landed Baronage are called in precedence order and individually swear their service to the Kingdom.
18. The Peerage Orders are called in the following order and each collectively swear their service to the Kingdom:
 - a. Royal Peers

- b. Order of Chivalry
 - c. Order of the Laurel
 - d. Order of the Pelican
 - e. Order of Defense
19. Silver Buccle invests the new Jewel of Æthelmearc Herald.
 20. The Crown invest the Head Retainer and reign staff.
 21. The Consort invests the Captain and Guard.
 22. The former Sovereign and Consort are called forth, and recognized with their new station of Count, Countess, Duke or Duchess (as appropriate) or have their previous station as Duke/Duchess reaffirmed.

Crown Tournament

Royal Procession

Combatant couples are processed before the Crown in precedence order. Whether that precedence is ordered solely by the precedence of the combatant or by the higher precedence of the couple is at the discretion of the Crown . In cases where both members of the couple are competing, the higher precedence of the two will be the determining factor.

Heralding of the Tournament

All matches up to, but not including, semi-finals are heralded by such field heralds as volunteer. The semi-final matches are heralded by Sycamore Herald. The final match is heralded by Silver Buccle.

Tournament Honors

During Crown Tournament, standard practice is for the first round to feature Full Honors, then Abbreviated Honors up until the semi-finals. Semi-final and Final fights return to Full Honors, but only for the first bout of each match.

Full Honors

1. Honor to the Crowns of Æthelmearc
2. Honor to the populace
3. Honor to the combatant's inspiration
4. Honor to the opponent

Abbreviated Honors

1. Honor to the Crowns of Æthelmearc
2. Full Honors having been done, such other honors as the combatants will

Crowning of the Heirs

Upon the completion of the Tournament, the victor and consort may be crowned upon the field, or in evening Court, as per the preferences of the Crown and the Heirs.

Baronial Investiture

Ceremony

1. Royal Court opens. The Crown summon the Baronage and inform them that the time of their retirement draws near.
2. The Baronage ask for time to complete their business before vacating the Baronial Thrones. Leave is given to the Baronage to conduct the business of Baronial Court.
3. Upon the completion of Baronial Court, the Baronage are summoned before the Crown and divested of the Baronial Coronets.
4. The Seneschal of the Barony is summoned to attest that an election was conducted in accordance with Baronial and Kingdom law and that the populace voted to remain a Barony, and to present the petition on behalf of the Barony for their chosen heirs.
5. The Baronial Heirs are called forth and their desire to ascend the Baronial thrones is confirmed.
6. The Baronial Heirs are invested as the Baronage, and the Crown receive their Oath of Fealty.

THE GENTLES FORMERLY KNOWN AS THE **BARONIAL HEIRS** ARE NOW THE **BARONAGE**.

7. The Baronage is invited to take their place upon the Baronial thrones and join Royal Court.
8. If the Crown desire it, the former Baronage are summoned and awarded the title and station of Baron/ess of the Court.
9. The Baronage is given leave to conduct Baronial Court to invest their senior staff (e.g., head retainer, reign coordinator, guard) and other business as they desire.
10. Upon the completion of Baronial Court, Royal Court resumes for other business as the Crown desire.

Pennsic

Opening Ceremonies

Note: It is highly recommended that a “Royal entourage” consist of no more than 1 retainer and 1 guard. Heralds of the three Primary Kingdoms (Silver Buccle, Brigantia and Dragon) are not counted amongst the number of the entourage.

As the host Kingdom, Æthelmearc is present at the site of Opening Ceremonies first. The Crown, Silver Buccle, and a Royal entourage should be present at the front of the ceremony. If the ceremony is taking place on the Battlefield, the Consort’s Guard should occupy the castle.

When Æthelmearc is present and ready, the East and Middle Kingdoms process in as they will, the Crowns of those Kingdoms and Their heralds and entourages joining those present at the front of the ceremony. Following them, the other Kingdoms of the Known World arrive as they will, the Crowns and their entourages joining those present at the front of the ceremony.

When all Kingdoms are present, the Crown of Æthelmearc speaks what words of welcome They will. The Crowns of Æthelmearc, the East and the Middle banter as They will until such time as the War Arrow is produced and broken, and War is declared. The traditional rotation of allegiances is as follows:

Pennsic XLIV, XLVII, L, LIII, etc.: Æthelmearc vs. East and Middle
Pennsic XLV, XLVIII, LI, LIV, etc.: Æthelmearc and East vs. Middle
Pennsic XLVI, XLIX, LII, LV, etc.: Æthelmearc and Middle vs. East

The Kingdoms of the Known World declare their allegiances for the War. This is done in order of Kingdom Precedence, with these exceptions:

1. The West Kingdom, being the eldest Kingdom, reserves the right to declare first or last.
2. Æthelmearc, being the local Kingdom, declares next, *unless* the East and Middle are allied against Æthelmearc.

The lineage of Kingdoms is called by Silver Buccle, Brigantia and Dragon, starting with the Host Kingdom, and from then in whatever order is most logical.

Following the Kingdoms, the Traditional Allies are called forth and declare their allegiances, in whatever order follows the rotation of heralds:

- The Middle Kingdom calls for the Great Dark Horde
- The East Kingdom calls for the Holy Kingdom of Acre
- Æthelmearc calls for the Allied Clans of the Tuchux

The Host Kingdom calls for House Darkyard to produce the War Horn. The agreed-upon Sovereign blows the War Horn to officially start the War.

Closing Ceremonies

The Crown of Æthelmearc speaks what words They will, following by the Crowns of the East and Middle Kingdoms, declaring an end to the war and announcing the victors. Crowns of other Kingdoms present may speak what words of thanks as they will.

The Host Kingdom calls for House Darkyard to produce the War Horn. The agreed-upon Sovereign blows the War Horn to officially end the War.

Silver Buccle, Brigantia and Dragon conduct The Pennsic Countdown. The Host Kingdom calls for all those present at the current War to raise their hand, and keep them raised for each War at which they were present as they are called. The Heralds call each War, in descending order, in whatever Order is reasonable.

When Pennsic X is called, those gentles whose hands are still raised are asked to come forth and be recognized. (Note that Pennsic VI was the first Pennsic held at Cooper's Lake.) Another cheer is raised for those who were present at Pennsic I.

Document History

Version 1.0 - June, 2016, written by Kameshima-kyō Zentarō Umakai, Silver Buccle Principal Herald