

The Northshield Boke of Ceremonies

Northshield Ministry of Protocol



Kingdom of Northshield

College of Heralds

Version 2016

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Preface

The original Boke of Ceremony was drafted surrounding Northshield's First Coronation in 2004. During First Coronation, a special one-time Boke was used, the Coronation Boke of Siegfried and Bridei, which contained not just the ceremonies to be used but also the court lists and other text in a single file. Master Richard Morgan of Cumberland, then Minister of Protocol, and his assistant THL (now Mistress) Moraig Anne Drummond, produced a completed Boke for general use. The first complete Boke of Ceremonies was based on their own research and ideas, ideas from the First Heirs, and consultation with the Estates of the Realm.

While the Boke remains the officially published ceremonies, Northshield has more of an improvisational mindset than some kingdoms. Many Crowns customized the ceremonies, although the “printed” Boke¹ was not updated regularly. In particular, the Coronation Ceremony was commonly customized, until the actual script published in the Boke was rarely used verbatim. Common changes to the oaths, particularly to the responses, became traditional but never actually official.

Thus, the changes in this new edition of the Boke reflect the use of our ceremonies for over a decade. Some changes sound better to the ear; others reflect Northshield's style. This is the result of over 20 reigns of experience and growth.

Now, it is time to write these changes down. It is never the goal of this Boke to create a rigid canonical text. This version strives to make it easier to create personalized, customized ceremonies. Each ceremony includes an explanation of what the ceremony is really meant to accomplish and the minimal elements absolutely necessary to make the ceremony “kosher”. It also includes much more information on how Northshield courts run in general.

Lastly, this edition strives to improve overall readability both on paper and on electronic devices (despite their raging anachronism). Efforts have also been made to incorporate bookmarks and other features useful to those using PDF readers, improving navigation.

¹ Which might be a bit of a misnomer. While many individuals certainly do print it and keep it in a binder, it has always been distributed as a PDF file!

Master Maol Mhichil mac Giolla Pheadair did much of the hard work in creating this version. Many thanks to him for his efforts. Please do not hesitate to contact the current Minister of Protocol with any questions you might have about the text, or how the text might be modified to suit the needs of a given moment. That's what the office is there for, after all!

Lady Jane Waye
Minister of Protocol

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General Court Ceremonies

Setting up for Court

Usually, the Royal Chamberlains handle the physical set-up for court. However, the Herald in Charge is responsible for making sure court set up is done right. Further, it will be much easier to actually function during court if it is correct.

The Thrones and other Seats

Generally, the thrones and seats are set up based on the precedence of the people sitting in them. There are some oddities, which we'll discuss in a minute, but first, we'll go with the straightforward cases.

In all of these examples, the following clause should be assumed as a coda: "*...unless the Crown has reason to want it done differently.*" The Court belongs to the Crown, and they can conduct Court standing on their heads if they desire.²

Space around the Thrones

Too often, the thrones are placed and there is not enough room behind them for everyone who needs to be there. Leave enough room for at least: one or two or more heralds, the signet, the champions, and at least one attendant who helps with tokens and the like.

There should be a minimum of two (2) meters between the back of the seats and front of the banner pole stands. No one should be standing between the banners, or on top of the banner pole stands. Ideally, no one should be *behind* the banners unless this is set up as a "back stage" in a large, complicated court.

Standard Precedence

By kingdom law, the Sovereign and Consort are equal in precedence. As well, the Heir Combatant and Heir Consort are equal in precedence. When acting jointly, the Sovereign and Consort are referred to as "the Crown" or "Their Majesties." When acting jointly, the Heir Combatant and Heir Consort are referred to as "the Heirs" or "Their Highnesses." Collectively, Their Majesties and Their Highnesses are referred to as "The Royal Family"

The thrones are usually arranged "outward" with the Crown at the center of the pattern. For the royal pairs, the Sovereign or Heir Combatant sits to the left of their consort (Sovereign drives the bus). For baronial pairs, it depends entirely on their preference, but by tradition, the Baron sits left of their Baroness.

² And now they have done so!

Pairs (or singles) are arranged in precedence order, alternating right and left of the Crown. Precedence is determined by the age of the barony as a barony (dating from their First Investiture). The hosting barony has first precedence. For Northshield royalty and baronies, the standard precedence would be:

- Sovereign and Consort
- Heir Combatant and Heir Consort
- Castel Rouge
- Jararvellir
- Caer Anterth Mawr
- Nordskogen
- Windhaven

If all baronies are present, they should be laid out with the Sovereign and Consort in the center, the Heir Combatant and Heir Consort to the Consort's right, Castel Rouge to the Sovereign's left, Jaravellir to the right, Caer Anterth Mawr to the left, Nordskogen to the right, and Windhaven to the left.

If foreign royalty are in attendance, then they are placed ahead of the baronage, but after the royal family in this pattern. Precedence of foreign royalty is determined by the age of the kingdom dating from their First Coronation. They may choose to either have their royal family all sit together (with their heirs to their right) or to separate heirs into the pattern. At the time of this writing, that order would be³:

- West
- East
- Middle
- Atenveldt
- Meridies
- Caid
- Ansteorra
- Atlantia
- An Tir
- Calontir
- Trimaris
- Outlands
- Drachenwald
- Artemisia

³ In a foreign court, Northshield would come right before Gleann Abhann.

- Æthelmearc
- Lochac
- Gleann Abhann
- Avacal

The Business of Court

Legal Court

Per Northshield Law (II-600), a warranted seneschal and a warranted herald must be present with the Crown or Regent when Court is conducted. This is the only legal requirement for court.

Types of Courts

The information below specifically references royal courts. All of this applies to baronial or regency courts as well. The scripts will reference “Their Majesties.” Substitute the appropriate title for who is presiding over court.

Processional

The order and manner of the processional is up to the Crown. It is the job of the Herald to announce them correctly. The heralds and signet(s) should be in place behind the thrones before the processional begins.

A court of Northshield usually begins with the procession of the dignitaries and their retinues, in precedence order as described above. The exact wording varies depending on circumstances and the crown’s wishes—sometimes, dignitaries other than the Royal Family are explicitly invited in after the Royal Family are in place; sometimes (in Northshield, more often), they simply process in. A typical, simple processional reads something like this:

Herald:

Oyez! Oyez!

Note: the above Oyez should not be perfunctory. You are trying to get the crowd’s attention. Do not proceed until you have it.

All Rise for their Dread Stellar Majesties,
_____ and _____, [King]
and [Queen] of Northshield.

Pause

And for their Serene and Stellar Highnesses,
_____ and _____,
[Prince] and [Princess], Heirs to the Gryphon Thrones.

If other dignitaries are processing in, you would proceed in like fashion for each of them. If you happen to know foreign royalty’s preferred variation on “Their Royal Majesties”, use it; if not, just stick to the basics. For example, let’s assume that the King and Queen of the Midrealm were visiting:

And for their Draconic Royal Majesties,
_____ and _____, [King]
and [Queen] of the Middle Kingdom.

Now let's assume a territorial baron and baroness are also processing...

And for Their Excellencies, _____ and
_____, [Baron] and [Baroness]⁴ of
_____.

Opening Court

Everyone has processed in. Their retinues have either peeled off or settled in behind the thrones. Their Majesties will invite everyone to sit down and do so themselves. If there is no processional, this is where court begins. Once they're comfortable, greet Their Majesties in a conversational tone and ask them if they're ready to proceed. When they say they are:

Herald

Here begins the Court of Northshield, presided over by
Their Dread Stellar Majesties, _____ and
_____, [King] and [Queen], this ___ of
_____ Anno Sociatatis __, in the
_____ of _____.

If the court is a regency court, then the opening might look something like this:

Here begins the Court of Northshield, presided over by
Their Serene and Stellar Highnesses,
_____ and _____,
[Prince] and [Princess], in the names of Their Dread Stellar
Majesties, _____ and
_____, [King] and [Queen], this ___ of
_____ Anno Sociatatis __, in the
_____ of _____.

⁴ You may also use "Lord and Lady of", which is a more period form of reference. In English, in period, "baron" is not really a title, but a description referring to a lord who holds his land directly from the Crown, especially one who isn't also an earl or a duke. Later, it refers to any lord who is more or less entitled to a summons to Parliament, but still isn't really a title.

Court Business

From this point forward, most items of business, whether they're inbound presentations or honours being bestowed, will follow a basic pattern:

1. Remind those presiding in court what the next item is. They'll often have their own copy of the court list handy, but it's always a good idea to ensure you and they are on the same page. This also gives them an opportunity to decide if they want to do things differently for a given item of business.
2. Summon the people needed for the business. We'll go through variations on this in a moment.
3. For presentations, the people coming in will usually state their business; this applies if you're summoning in a peer to beg a boon to elevate someone to a peerage. For awards, the Crown will usually initiate things, or signal the herald to start reading a scroll. ***Do not start reading*** until signaled by the crown. When in doubt, quietly ask if you should begin.
4. The crown will often have additional words to say before or after a scroll is read. If a presentation has been made, it might be a good idea for the herald (with the Crown's permission) to announce what the presentation was, since few presenters are very loud about it.
5. When the crown has dismissed them, boast them out.

Presentations

Let's look at a typical presentation:

Herald:

Your Majesties, at this time, the Shire of Loch Stockenborough⁵ has business in your court.

or, if you or Their Majesties prefer, the more formal:

Their Majesties now summon before them representatives of the Shire of Loch Stockenborough.

The shire members come in and proceed to tell Their Majesties how they've come to pay their taxes, which they choose to pay in kind -- a vast vat of chocolate coins.

⁵ There once really was such a shire, but the name didn't pass heraldic muster! We will memorialize them by using them for our mock court scripts from this point forward, because all those blanks get distracting!

Their Majesties say very nice things and possibly start flinging coins as largesse at the audience, after which the herald might announce:

The Shire has come to pay their taxes, and bestowed a vast treasure of chocolate coins upon Their Majesties.

When Their Majesties have signaled it's time to dismiss the presenters, the herald would boast them out, saying:

The Shire of Lock Stockenborough: VIVANT!

Digression: Vivat vs Vivant

OK, folks. This is actually really, really easy. You all learned singular and plural in 2nd grade or so, right?

Right. So, here it is:

1. "Vivat" is singular.
2. "Vivant" is plural.

More people? More letters! If you're boasting out one person, use "Vivat!". If you're boasting out more than one person, use "Vivant!". If a presentation was made in the name of a group, even only one representative of that group made the presentation, you're boasting out the *group*. Use the plural, "Vivant!"

Bestowing an Award

Remind Their Majesties which item is next, and make sure you have the scroll, if any, from the signet. If you don't have a scroll, have some idea what you're going to say instead! It doesn't have to be fancy.

If the honor being bestowed is an Order (grant-level or non-armigerous), it is not uncommon to call the order in first and then the candidate(s), but this is not adhered to strictly, and the crown should be consulted on a case by case basis. Whenever the order is summoned in, one of the following provide a good guideline:

Herald

Their Majesties summon/invite before them the companions of the [Order of the White Weasel].

Or

At this time, Their Majesties desire the counsel of the companions of the [Order of the White Weasel].

If the order has been called in, Their Majesties will likely have things to say to them first, before calling in the candidate.

Herald

Their Majesties summon(invite) into their court,

_____.

Note that by custom, a candidate, no matter how high their station, can be summoned/invited by name without a title.

If the candidate is present, they will come into court. Commonly they will kneel on the cushion, but this is not required.

If the candidate is not present, ask Their Majesties if they would like someone to accept for the candidate. If they want someone to accept, announce this fact:

Herald

Is there someone to accept for _____?

Whether someone is accepting or not, confirm with Their Majesties if they would like the scroll to be read. If they do not want it read, announce that the award will be presented later. If they do want it read, proceed to the reading of the scroll.

Returning to a candidate who is present, Their Majesties may choose to speak when the candidate arrives. If they do not, watch for a cue (or confirm) from Their Majesties to proceed with the reading of the scroll.

The herald reads the scroll. If the court was opened with a date and location as above, the herald should not read the date and location section of the scroll. The key exceptions are:

- The wording of the scroll incorporates the date and location in a way which would be awkward to skip.
- The scroll is a backlog from an older court.

The herald then hands the scroll to one of Their Majesties. Usually one will turn or reach out for the scroll. If not, alternate between them. It is the prerogative of the crown to display the scroll to the court or not.

At this point, Their Majesties may choose to speak to the candidate or to the court.

At Their Majesties' cue, the herald boasts the candidate out. The most common is to use the title appropriate to the new award, their name, some reminder of what they've received, and "Vivat!"

Examples:

For a bare Award of Arms

Lord Aethelraed, VIVAT!

For an AoA-level award

Lady Aelfgifu, recipient of the [Award of the Wombat],
VIVAT!

For a GoA-level order

Honorable Lady Aelfgifu, companion of the [Order of the
Glowing Purple Spot], VIVAT!

For a Court Barony

His Excellency Aethelraed, Baron of the Court, VIVAT!

If an order was summoned in, and all the business with that order is now concluded, the Crown or Herald should dismiss the order.

Coronation and Investiture Ceremonies

Coronation of the Sovereign and Consort

Structure

There are several ways to transfer the crowns from one pair of heads to the next, but all of them follow a basic pattern.

1. The “decision” of the outgoing Crown to retire is announced⁶.
 - a. The Crown makes some announcement of a desire to return to their own lands, then summon their Heirs.
 - b. The Heir or Heirs might request an audience and make their claim pre-emptively, prompting the Crown’s retirement.
 - c. The Crown might take their leave and leave the crowns behind, usually to be guarded by the one of the orders or estates (the Chivalry, perhaps, or the Beares).
 - d. More elaborate variations have been uncommon in Northshield but are common in other kingdoms. For example, in Meridies and Glenn Abhann, the previous monarchs are always “killed” or reported deceased! One Principality of Northshield reign ended with an “off-stage” battle in which the Princess returned on her shield and the Prince retired because he could no longer continue without his consort; and so on.
2. If Options C or D are chosen, then the ceremony is conducted entirely by the Herald from that point forward.
3. The Heirs are called and process in together. They may also choose to process separately in a ceremony customization.
4. Witnesses are called to attest to the Heirs’ right-of-combat and inspiration to succeed. The usual order is Seneschal, Earl Marshal, and defeated finalist (or another combatant) from the tourney the Heirs won. All explicitly say something to the effect that they attest to the candidates’ right. The exact words are not important. Hardly any Seneschal or Earl Marshal has ever actually read this script, nor are they really expected to.⁷
5. After this, the Peers, Baronage, and finally Populace are asked if they bear witness, but are expected only to respond with resounding, “Aye!”.

⁶ They don’t, of course, actually get a choice!

⁷ Beginning with the 2014 edition of the Boke, the default ceremonies explicitly prompt these worthies.

6. Some statement is made, by Crown or Herald, reminding the Heirs what it's all about.⁸
7. The Heirs are offered a pro-forma chance to get out of it. (None have ever taken the opportunity).
8. The Heirs swear their oath to the Kingdom.
9. The Heirs are either crowned, or crown themselves, or each other.

This default version assumes⁹:

- The Heir-Combatant is male (Prince) and Heir-Consort female (Princess).
- A “laying on of hands” ceremony in which the old King and Queen crown the new King and Queen.

⁸ In practice, it's almost always the Herald.

⁹ Before the 2014 edition, the official script was that the Heir-Combatant was crowned by the Sovereign, then the Heir-Consort was summoned and crowned either by the new Sovereign or the retiring Queen. This was almost **never** done in practice, however.

Coronation of Sovereign and Consort -- Sample

Sitting Crown take their leave of the kingdom in the manner previously agreed upon with the incoming Crown.

Herald:

Their Majesties summon _____ and _____, Heirs of Northshield.

[Heir Combatant] enters and declares that they are the rightful heirs of the Crown of Northshield.

Herald:

Does the Kingdom Seneschal bear witness to _____ and _____ as victors and rightful heirs to the Crown of Northshield?

Northshield Seneschal:

As Seneschal of Northshield, I bear witness to their right to the Crown of Northshield.

Herald:

Does the Earl Marshal bear witness?

Northshield Earl Marshal:

As Marshal of Northshield I bear witness to their right to the Crown of Northshield.

Herald:

Is there a combatant in the last Crown Tourney to bear witness?

Finalist (or other person):

As a combatant in the Crown Tournament held in _____ I bear witness to their right, by victory and inspiration, as heirs to the Crown of Northshield.

Herald:

Do the Peers of Northshield bear witness?

Peers respond "Aye!"

Do the Barons and Baronesses of Northshield bear witness?

Barons and Baronesses respond “Aye!”

Shall all Northshield bear witness?

The Populace responds “Aye!”

Sovereign

Know now what it means to bear the Crown.

Crown (or Herald):

The [King] and [Queen]
Must remain loyal to Their people,
Who depend upon them to defend the Kingdom.

They must be bold of heart
For They are the point of the sword that all follow in battle.

They must seek the path of justice
Without bias or personal interest,
And Their judgments must be tempered
By humanity and mercy.

They must strive for excellence in all endeavors,
Not for their own good but for the good of the Kingdom.

As the embodiment of all that is Northshield,
Their service will inspire others to greater service.

They shall inspire love and respect in the realm
and their deeds will be remembered long after they have
passed from these lands.

Consort

Understanding all this
Do you still desire the crown of Northshield.

Heirs

I do!

Sovereign:

Then swear this oath

The Heirs will turn and face the populace and speak the oath (assisted by the Herald if needed)

Heirs:

I swear to keep and confirm
To the people of Northshield
The laws, customs and traditions of the realm.

To defend, strengthen, and maintain them
To the best of my ability.

To seek the wise counsel
Of our Peers, Baronage and people.

I shall do and keep
In all my domains and judgments
True and right in mercy and truth.

To be vigilant as I guide her people,
To be diligent in my service to all,
And to light the way
From the Stellar Thrones.

May all my strength fail me
And the world turn against me
If I break this solemn oath.

Thus swear I, _____.

The previous Sovereign places the crown on the head of the new Sovereign; the previous Consort on the head of the new Consort; or the new Sovereign and Consort crown themselves.

Former Crown:

People of Northshield behold your [King] and [Queen]!

Herald:

Vivant!

The former Crown retire in the manner agreed. The new Sovereign and Consort are seated upon the Thrones. Their Majesties' first court begins, with something along the lines of:

Herald

Here begins the reign of Their Dread Stellar Majesties,
_____ and _____, [King]
and [Queen] of Northshield!

Ducal Rank

A Duke or a Duchess is not created, but rather acknowledged. They bear their titles from the moment that the new Monarchs are crowned. A ceremony acknowledging the new title is optional, and should be left to the choice of the new royal peers. It need not be done at the new Crown's first court, but can be left until a day when those people whom the new Duke or Duchess wishes to participate can attend.

There is only one symbol that *must* be present at these ceremonies: a *coronet ornamented with strawberry leaves* for each person being recognized. If there are additional tokens, the appropriate places for the exchange of such symbols are marked in the stage directions.

Usually, if both members of a formerly royal couple are now of the same rank, they would use the Joint Recognition of a Duke and Duchess (below). However, it is not uncommon for one retiring royal to have only achieved Comital Rank while the other has achieved Ducal; or for one to already hold Ducal rank before their most recent reign. Therefore, a ceremony for one person is also provided.

Joint Recognition of Ducal Rank

At the time appointed, and in the manner agreed upon by the Crown and the new [Duke]/[Duchess], they will present themselves in court before the thrones. Either the Herald managing court or the personal herald of Their Graces may announce them.

Crown

Summon forth Their Graces.

Herald

Their Majesties summon forth _____.

The future [Duke] and [Duchess] enter the Royal presence.

Herald

It is known those who have reigned as [King] and [Queen] of Northshield, bestow their word and bond to rule this fruitful Kingdom, guiding the populace with a stern but kindly hand, leading them in peace or the strife of war.

In all the Kingdoms it has been recorded in written and oral tradition that those who have reigned twice upon the thrones of their Kingdom are a beacon of light upon a hill an exemplar of the virtues we prize.

For to be the steward of so great a land is a heavy burden indeed.

The Crown then takes up the coronets

Crown

Your Graces, so all may recognize your nobility,
May you wear this recognition of your service.

The coronets with strawberry leaves shall be set on the brows of Their Graces.

Crown

Herald, let all know what it means to be a [Duke] and [Duchess] in Northshield.

Herald

Those who have served twice as Sovereign and Consort of Northshield and have honorably retired shall continue to be numbered among the nobility of the Kingdom.

They shall be recognized with the title and rank of [Duke] and [Duchess].

A [Duke] and [Duchess] therefore cannot be created by the decree of any Crown, but only acknowledged.

These Dukes and Duchesses shall bear as their emblem a gold coronet with strawberry leaves, ornamented as they see fit.

By token of this coronet they shall be recognized as persons of great merit and consequence. They shall be

addressed as "My Lord Duke" or "My Lady Duchess" or "Your Grace." They will be sought to defend, strengthen and maintain the realm as they are able.

Many will ask for their counsel to find the path of mercy and truth. And great respect shall be given to them.

At this time if additional symbols are to be given to Their Graces, they should be presented. If Their Graces wish to pledge service or swear fealty as Royal Peers, it may be done at this time.

Their Graces

I here swear fealty/pledge service and do homage
To the Crown of Northshield.

As I have served in the past,
I will diligently serve
This Crown and Kingdom;
And guide by my example
As befits one of my station.

I will guard and nurture
The spirit of Northshield
And illuminate the aims and ideals of the Realm.

Here by my honour and my heart, swear I,
_____.

Crown

We accept your wisdom and leadership
And will rely on you to advise us wisely.

As you have already served
With diligence and grace,
We will act toward you
Respectively in all things,
Protecting you with Our aid
And rewarding you with Our love.

But may all strength fail
And the world turn against
Any who break their solemn oath.

Crown:

Arise, [Duke] _____ and [Duchess]
_____.

Herald

For Their Graces, [Duke] _____ and
[Duchess] _____, and for the Royal line
of Northshield, VIVANT!

Recognition of Ducal Rank

At the time appointed, and in the manner agreed upon by the Crown and the new Duke/Duchess, he/she will present himself/herself in court before the thrones. Either the Herald managing court or the personal herald of His/Her Grace may announce him/her.

Crown

Summon forth [His Grace].

Herald

Their Majesties summon forth _____.

The future Duke/Duchess enter the Royal presence.

Herald

It is known that one who has reigned as [King] of Northshield, bestows [his] word and bond to rule this fruitful Kingdom, guiding the populace with a stern but kindly hand, leading them in peace or the strife of war.

In all the Kingdoms it has been recorded in written and oral tradition that those who have reigned twice upon the thrones of their Kingdom are a beacon of light upon a hill an exemplar of the virtues we prize.

For to be the steward of so great a land is a heavy burden indeed.

The Crown shall take up the coronet.

Crown

Your Grace, so all may recognize your nobility,
May you wear this recognition of your service.

The coronet with strawberry leaves shall be set on the brow of the new Duke/Duchess.

Crown

Herald, let all know what it means to be a [Duke] in Northshield.

Herald

Those who have served twice as [King] of Northshield and have honorably retired shall continue to be numbered among the Nobility of the Kingdom.

They shall be recognized with the title and rank of [Duke].

A [Duke] therefore cannot be created by the decree of any Crown, but only acknowledged.

These Dukes and Duchesses shall bear as their emblem a gold coronet with strawberry leaves, ornamented as they see fit.

By token of this coronet they shall be recognized as persons of great merit and consequence. They shall be addressed as "My [Lord Duke]" or "Your Grace." They will be sought to defend, strengthen and maintain the realm as they are able.

Many will ask for their counsel to find the path of mercy and truth, and great respect shall be given to them.

At this time if additional symbols are to be given to His/Her Grace, they should be presented. If he/she wishes to swear Oath of Fealty for Royal Peers it may be done at this time.

His/Her Grace

I here swear fealty/pledge service and do homage
To the Crown of Northshield.

As I have served in the past,
I will diligently serve
This Crown and Kingdom;
And guide by my example
As befits one of my station.

I will guard and nurture
The spirit of Northshield
And illuminate the aims and ideals of the Realm.

Here by my honour and my heart, swear I,
_____.

Crown

We accept your wisdom and leadership
And will rely on you to advise us wisely.

As you have already served
With diligence and grace,
We will act toward you
Respectively in all things,
Protecting you with Our aid
And rewarding you with Our love.

But may all strength fail
And the world turn against
Any who break their solemn oath.

Crown

Arise, [Duke] _____.

Herald

For [His Grace], [Duke] _____, and for
the Royal line of Northshield, Vivant!

Comital Rank

A Count or a Countess is not created, but rather acknowledged. They bear their titles from the moment that the new Monarchs are crowned. A ceremony acknowledging the new title is optional, and should be left to the choice of the new royal peers. It need not be done at the new Crown's first court, but can be left until a day when those people whom the Count or Countess wishes to participate can attend.

There is only one symbol that *must* be present at these ceremonies: a coronet embattled Or (gold)¹⁰ for each person being recognized. If there are additional tokens, the appropriate places for the exchange of such symbols are marked in the stage directions.

Generally speaking, if both members of a formerly Royal couple are now of the same rank, they would use the Joint Recognition of Comital Rank (below). However, it is not unknown for one retiring Royal to have Comital rank while the other has achieved [Ducal Rank](#) or already reigned more than twice. Therefore, a ceremony for one person is also provided.

Joint Recognition of Comital Rank

At the time appointed, and in the manner agreed upon by the Crown and Their Excellencies, they will present himself in court before the thrones. Either the Herald managing court or the personal herald of Their Excellencies may announce them.

Crown

Summon forth Their Excellencies.

Herald

Their Majesties summon forth _____ and
_____.

The future [Count] and [Countess] enter the Royal presence.

¹⁰ Actually, Corpora protects the *coronet embattled* in all tinctures for County; Kingdom law, however, reserves the *coronet embattled or (gold)* for County. Longstanding Northshield tradition recognizes the *coronet embattled argent (silver)* for Viscounty.

Herald

It is known that those who have reigned as Sovereign and Consort of Northshield bestow their word and bond to rule this fruitful Kingdom, guiding the populace with stern but kindly hands, leading them in peace or the strife of war.

To be the stewards of so great a land is a heavy burden indeed.

The Crown shall take up the coronets.

Crown

Your Excellencies, so all may recognize your nobility,
May you wear this recognition of your service.

The coronets shall be set on the brows of the new Count(s)/Countess(es).

Crown

Herald, let all know what it means to be a [Count] and [Countess] in Northshield.

Herald

Those who have served as Sovereign and Consort of Northshield and have honorably retired shall continue to be numbered among the Nobility of the Kingdom.

They shall be recognized with the title and rank of [Count] and [Countess].

A [Count] and [Countess] therefore cannot be created by the decree of any Crown, but only acknowledged.

These Counts and Countesses shall bear as their emblem a gold coronet embattled, ornamented as they see fit.

By token of this coronet they shall be recognized as persons of great merit and consequence. They shall be addressed as "My Lord Count" or "My Lady Countess" or "Your Excellency." They will be sought to defend, strengthen and maintain the realm as they are able.

Many will ask for their counsel to find the path of mercy and truth, and great respect shall be given to them.

At this time if additional symbols are to be given to Their Excellencies, they should be presented. If they wish to swear Oath of Fealty for Royal Peers it may be done at this time.

Their Excellencies

I here swear fealty/pledge service and do homage
To the Crown of Northshield.

As I have served in the past,
I will diligently serve
This Crown and Kingdom;
And guide by my example
As befits one of my station.

I will guard and nurture
The spirit of Northshield
And illuminate the aims and ideals of the Realm.

Here by my honour and my heart, swear I,
_____.

Crown

We accept your wisdom and leadership
And will rely on you to advise us wisely.

As you have already served
With diligence and grace,
We will act toward you
Respectively in all things,
Protecting you with Our aid
And rewarding you with Our love.

But may all strength fail
And the world turn against
Any who break their solemn oath.

Crown

Arise, [Count] _____ and [Countess]
_____.

Herald

For Their Excellencies, [Count] _____ and
[Countess] _____, and for the Royal line
of Northshield, VIVANT!

Recognition of Comital Rank

At the time appointed, and in the manner agreed upon by the Crown and His/Her Excellency, he/she will present himself/herself in court before the thrones. Either the Herald managing court or the personal herald of His/Her Excellency may announce him/her.

Crown

Summon forth [His Excellency].

Herald

Their Majesties summon forth _____.

The future Count/Countess enter the Royal presence.

Herald

It is known that those who have reigned as [King] of Northshield bestow their word and bond to rule this fruitful Kingdom, guiding the populace with stern but kindly hands, leading them in peace or the strife of war.

To be the stewards of so great a land is a heavy burden indeed.

The Crown shall take up the coronet.

Crown

Your Excellency, so all may recognize your nobility,
May you wear this recognition of your service.

The coronets shall be set on the brows of the new Count/Countess.

Crown

Herald, let all know what it means to be a [Count] in Northshield.

Herald

Those who have served as [King] of Northshield and have honorably retired shall continue to be numbered among the Nobility of the Kingdom.

They shall be recognized with the title and rank of [Count].

A [Count] therefore cannot be created by the decree of any Crown, but only acknowledged.

These Counts and Countesses shall bear as their emblem a gold coronet embattled, ornamented as they see fit.

By token of this coronet they shall be recognized as persons of great merit and consequence. They shall be addressed as "My [Lord Count]" or "Your Excellency." They will be sought to defend, strengthen and maintain the realm as they are able.

Many will ask for their counsel to find the path of mercy and truth, and great respect shall be given to them.

At this time if additional symbols are to be given to His/Her Excellency, they should be presented. If he/she wish to swear Oath of Fealty for Royal Peers it may be done at this time.

Their Excellencies

I here swear fealty/pledge service and do homage
To the Crown of Northshield.

As I have served in the past,
I will diligently serve
This Crown and Kingdom;
And guide by my example
As befits one of my station.

I will guard and nurture
The spirit of Northshield
And illuminate the aims and ideals of the Realm.

Here by my honour and my heart, swear I,

_____.

Crown

We accept your wisdom and leadership
And will rely on you to advise us wisely.

As you have already served
With diligence and grace,
We will act toward you
Respectively in all things,
Protecting you with Our aid
And rewarding you with Our love.

But may all strength fail
And the world turn against
Any who break their solemn oath.

Crown

Arise, [Count] _____.

Herald:

For [His Excellency], [Count] _____, and
for the Royal line of Northshield, VIVANT!

Investiture of Territorial Baronage

A Barony can be held from the Crown by a solo Baron, a solo Baroness, a Baron and Baroness together, or two of the same sex. However, to represent all of the possible variations in the text below makes the text awkward. As such, the text below represents the most common case: a Baron and Baroness retiring, and another pair stepping up. The Court Herald should make the necessary adjustments for the people actually involved.

Other variations might include the choice to use alternate titles appropriate to their personae (“Thegn”, for example, would be a valid alternative to “Baron”). In addition, when the time comes that we actually have two of the same sex stepping up, they may well choose less awkward titles than “Baron and Baron” or “Baroness and Baroness”. As long as the Crown agrees with their choice, their wishes should be accommodated and adjustments made.

If the departing Baronage are present

Herald

Their Majesties request the presence of
_____ and _____,
Territorial [Baron] of _____.

Once they have entered the presence of the Crown.

[Baron] and [Baroness] or their personal herald

We find that we can no longer give the land entrusted to us the attention it deserves.

We return the Coronet(s) to the Crown of Northshield, so they might bestow them upon worthy persons who will care for the lands we love so well.

The baronial coronets are passed to the care of the Crown.

If a court barony is to be bestowed upon either or both...

Crown/Herald

The lands of _____
have flourished in your care
and we are grateful for your efforts.

When persons of nobility
have diligently served the Crown
they have been acknowledged for that service.

So we wish it to be known that
From henceforth you shall be known as
a [Baron and Baroness] of our court.

The silver coronet with 6 pearls shall be set on the brow of the new Court
Baron(ess).

Herald

For Their Excellencies _____ and
_____, Vivant!

Crown gives the new Court Baron and/or Baroness permission to retire.

Herald¹¹

The good governance of the land and its people is the chief
responsibility of the Crown.

To help fulfill this responsibility, it has been known from
time immemorial that the Crown needs trusted local
representatives, wherever its subjects have settled.

Thus it is that a kingdom is divided into baronies, shires,
cantons and colleges.

A Barony will have a [Baron and Baroness] who are given
the Barony in trust to care for in the name of the Crown.

Only the Crown can create a landed [Baron and Baroness]
and feudal duty is owed to them and their heirs.

Crown

Please summon the candidates.

Herald

Their Majesties summon _____ and _____

The future Baron and Baroness enter the Royal presence.

¹¹ The first two sentences of this text is, almost word for word, the same text used for the creation
of a new full-status group. This is not an accident.

Crown

With due consideration
We have chosen you
To be Our [representatives] in the Barony of
_____ .

Are you willing to take on this burden
And succeed _____ and _____
As [Baron and Baroness]?

Candidate(s)

I do

Crown places baronial coronets upon the brows of the candidates.

Crown

Bear these coronets with nobility
And now fulfill your first duty to the Crown.

The Baron/ess holds in their hands some soil from the territory to be held in fief.

The Crown wraps their hands around the Baron/ess's hands.

Candidate(s)

Prompted by the herald

I acknowledge to the Crown of Northshield
the fealty and homage for the Barony of _____
which my ancestors held from you and your predecessors
as a fief.

I swear that I will always be faithful to you,
defending you,
and giving you power
over all the castles and manors
in peace and in war.

I will strive to be vigilant
as I guide your people,
to be diligent
in my service to all,
and to light the way from my baronial seat.

Here by my honour and my heart swear(pledge) I,

Crown

We acknowledge the fealty and homage
for the castles, manors, and places
which your ancestors held from Us and Our predecessors
as a fief.

As you are faithful vassals,
holding Our lands in good faith
and without deceit,
We will act toward you
respectively in all things,
protecting you with our aid
and rewarding you with Our love.

But may all strength fail
and the world turn against
Any who break this solemn oath.

Herald

For _____ and _____,
[Baron and Baroness of] _____. Vivant!

Oaths of Fealty

Usually, Oaths of Fealty are offered to all estates of the realm at every event from Coronation Day (in the first court of the new Crown) through Crown Tourney (in the morning court, before the Procession of Combatants and Consorts). However, they may be offered in court at any event where a sufficient number of a given estate has not yet sworn/pledged and wishes to do so. Of course, the Crown may simply choose to offer them at any event they desire.

Almost every Oath of Fealty may also be worded as a Pledge of Service, in respect to those whose traditions or personal ethics do not permit the swearing of oaths. In the earliest days of Northshield, this was made explicit every time every oath was offered, in the way the oath was worded by the Herald for recitation, and that wording **is** retained here. That quickly became awkward in practice, however, and it is more usual to simply recite the Oath, and rely on those who need to do it differently to know when their part comes by.

Now, a statement is generally made before the Populace Oath, a sample of which appears with said oath below. Since this is often the first oath/pledge any subject of Northshield will make, it gets the point across and is reinforced every reign. For the other estates, there is a reminder in the way they are called forward to make their oath/pledge, and that wording also appears below.

The one exception to this rule is that Knights **must**, by definition, swear fealty at their elevation. An individual offered elevation to the Chivalry who cannot swear oaths may instead choose to become a Master at Arms. There is no separate pledge for Masters at Arms, as there is only one in Northshield at this writing, and he simply chooses not to offer a public pledge of any kind.

Oath of Fealty for the Chivalry

Herald

Their Majesties now invite before them any Companions of the Order of Chivalry wishing to swear fealty at this time.

Traditionally, the Knights memorize their oath and do not need prompting by the herald.

Knights

I here swear fealty and do homage
To the Crown of the Northshield;
To ever be a good knight and true,
Reverent and generous,
Shield of the weak,
Obedient to my liege-lord,
Foremost in battle,
Courteous at all times,
Champion of the right and the good.

Thus swear I, _____.

Crown

We accept your gifts of fealty and homage
And will rely on you to advise us wisely.

As you light the way for Northshield
With honour and charity,
We will act toward you
Respectively in all things,
Protecting you with Our aid
And rewarding you with Our love.

But may all your strength fail you
And the world turn against you
If you should break your solemn oath.

Herald

The knights of Northshield: VIVANT!

Oath of Fealty for Laurels

Herald

Their Majesties now invite before them any Companions of the Order of the Laurel wishing to swear fealty or pledge service at this time.

Laurels

I here swear fealty (pledge service), and do homage
To the Crown of Northshield.

I give my talent, knowledge and wisdom
for Your use and the Kingdom's benefit.

I will strive to teach and give good guidance
to all who seek me out,
and to light the way for the people of Northshield
with honour and charity.

Here by my honour and my heart, swear I,
_____.

Crown

We accept the gifts of your talents and knowledge,
And will rely on you to advise us wisely.

As you light the way for Northshield
With honour and charity,
We will act toward you
Respectively in all things,
Protecting you with Our aid
And rewarding you with Our love.

But may all your strength fail
And the world turn against
Any who break their solemn oath.

Herald

The Laurels of Northshield: VIVANT!

Oath of Fealty for Pelicans

Herald

Their Majesties now invite before them any Companions of the Order of the Pelican wishing to swear fealty or pledge service at this time.

Pelicans

I here swear fealty (pledge service), and do homage
To the Crown of Northshield.

I give my service and wisdom to You
For the prosperity of the Kingdom.

I will strive to diligently serve
Wherever needed,
And to act with honour and charity
In a way which will guide by my example
The people of Northshield.

Here by my honour and my heart, swear I,
_____.

Crown

We accept your offer of service and leadership
And will rely on you to advise us wisely.

As you serve and guide Northshield
With honour and charity,
We will act toward you
Respectively in all things,
protecting you with our aid
And rewarding you with Our love.

But may all your strength fail
And the world turn against
Any who break their solemn oath.

Herald

The Pelicans of Northshield: VIVANT!

Oath of Fealty for Masters of Defence

Herald

Their Majesties now invite before them any companions of the Order of Defence who wish to swear fealty or pledge service at this time.

Masters/Mistresses

I here swear fealty/pledge service and do homage
To the Crown of Northshield,
To ever serve the kingdom by my word and sword,

Defender of the Weak
Proven in battle, Tempered by mercy,
Generous with my knowledge and ability,
An example of Courtesy, Skill, and Grace,
Guiding the people of Northshield
with Integrity and Charity.

by my honor and my sword,
swear I, _____

Crown

We accept your gifts of service and leadership
And will rely on you to advise us wisely.
As you light the way for Northshield
With honour and charity,
We will act toward you
Respectively in all things,
Protecting you with Our aid
And rewarding you with Our love.
But may all strength fail
And the world turn against
Any who break their solemn oath.

Herald

The Masters of Defense of Northshield, VIVANT!

Oath of Fealty for Royal Peers

Herald

Their Majesties invite before them any Royal Peers wishing to swear fealty or pledge service at this time.

Royal Peers

I here swear fealty (pledge service) and do homage
To the Crown of Northshield.

As I have served in the past,
I will diligently serve
This Crown and Kingdom;
And guide by my example
As befits one of my station.

I will guard and nurture
The spirit of Northshield
And illuminate the aims and ideals of the Realm.

Here by my honour and my heart, swear I,
_____.

Crown

We accept your wisdom and leadership
And will rely on you to advise us wisely.

As you have already served
With diligence and grace,
We will act toward you
Respectively in all things,
Protecting you with Our aid
And rewarding you with Our love.

But may all strength fail
And the world turn against
Any who break their solemn oath.

Herald

The Royal Peers of Northshield: VIVANT!

Oath of Fealty for Territorial Baronage

Herald

Their Royal Majesties call forth those Territorial Barons and Baronesses who wish to swear fealty or pledge service at this time.

Crown

Are you willing to become Our vassal?

Baron/ess

I am willing.

(Optional): The Baron/ess holds in their hands some soil from the territory to be held in fief.

The Crown wraps their hands around the Baron/ess's hands.

Baron(ess)

I acknowledge to the Crown of Northshield
The fealty and homage for the Barony
of _____,

Which my ancestors held from you and your predecessors
As a fief.

I swear (pledge) that I will always be faithful to you,
Defending you, and giving you power
Over all the castles and manors
In peace and in war.

I will strive to be vigilant
As I guide Your people,
To be diligent
In my service to all,
And to light the way
From my Baronial seat.

Here by my honour and my heart, swear I, _____.

Crown

We acknowledge the fealty and homage
For the castles, manors, and places,
Which your ancestors held from Us and Our predecessors
As a fief.

As you are (a) faithful vassal(s),
Holding Our lands in good faith
And without deceit,
We will act toward you
Respectively in all things,
Protecting you with our
aid and rewarding you with Our love.

But may all strength fail
And the world turn against
Any who break their solemn oath.

Herald

The Territorial Barons and Baronesses of Northshield,
VIVANT!

Oath of Fealty for Great Officers of State

Herald

Their Majesties now invite before them any Great Officers of State who wish to swear fealty or pledge service at this time.

Officer

I here swear fealty (pledge service) and do homage
To the Crown of Northshield;
To well and loyally administer my office.

I will diligently serve
This Crown and Kingdom;
Uphold its laws and customs,
Guide by my example
All the people of Northshield,
And in all things
Comport myself with the dignity
Befitting one who holds my office.

Here by my honour and my heart, swear I,
_____.

Crown

We accept your service and leadership
And will rely on you to advise us wisely.

As you hold your office(s) in good faith
We will act toward you
Respectively in all things,
Protecting you with our aid
And rewarding you with Our love.

But may all strength fail
And the world turn against
Any who break their solemn oath.

Herald

The Great Officers of the Stallari Council, VIVANT!

Pledge of Service for the Order of the White Scarf

Herald

Their Majesties now invite before them any Companions of the Order of the White Scarf of Northshield wishing to pledge their service at this time.

Dons

I pledge my sword in service
To the Crown of Northshield.

Ever tempered by mercy,
Forged of humility,
Proven in battle.

To be a shield of the weak,
Servant of the kingdom,
Generous with my knowledge and ability.

A Don (Doña) courteous, noble and true.

Thus swear I, _____.

Crown

We accept your promises to Us
And to the Kingdom of Northshield.

We will act toward you
Respectively in all things,
Protecting you with Our aid
And rewarding you with Our love.

But may all strength fail
And the world turn against
Any who break their solemn pledge.

Herald

The White Scarves of Northshield, VIVANT!

Oath of Fealty for the Populace

Herald

Their Majesties invite before them any members of the populace wishing to swear fealty or pledge service at this time.

After they've assembled

It is the tradition in Northshield to respect the beliefs of all Northshield's subjects. As such, we recognize that some are not able, for reasons of conscience, to swear oaths. It is therefore permitted to substitute instead a pledge of service in lieu of fealty and homage. For simplicity's sake, what I recite for response now will be the oath, but feel free to substitute the appropriate words.

Populace

I here swear fealty (pledge service) and do homage
To the Crown of Northshield.

I will faithfully guide
Those who seek my aid,
Loyally serve
The Griffin Realm,
And by my honour and actions,
Light the way.

Thus swear I, _____.

Crown

We accept your promises to Us
And to the Kingdom of Northshield.

We will act toward you
Respectively in all things,
Protecting you with Our aid
And rewarding you with Our love.

But may all your strength fail
And the world turn against
Any who break their solemn oath.

Herald

The people of Northshield: VIVANT!

Crown Tournament

In addition to the ceremonies explicitly laid out here, Crown Tournament's morning court almost always follows a specific format:

1. Court is opened.
2. Incoming presentations are occasionally permitted.
3. Oaths of Fealty are offered to all estates of the realm.
4. The Herald or some other individual asks to address the Crown and urges them to ensure the continuity of the Royal Line by seeking heirs.
5. A Processional Herald is cued and a Procession of Combatants and Consorts takes place, in the precedence order requested by the Crown.
6. The Crown List is invoked, and then Court is suspended until the start of the tourney.

Invocation of the Crown List

After all of the Combatants and their Consorts have been gathered together before the Crown

Seneschal

My Lords and Ladies, do you affirm that each of you and your prospective consorts have read the Corpora of the Society for Creative Anachronism and the laws of the Kingdom of Northshield?

Combatants and Consorts

Aye!

Earl Marshal

My Lords and Ladies, have you all read, and do you understand the Rules of the Lists, and the conventions of combat of the Kingdom of Northshield?

Combatants and Consorts

Aye!

Marshal

Do you understand and do you agree to assume the possible risk of injury arising directly or indirectly out of combat related activities?

Combatants

Aye!

Herald

Good Gentles, be mindful that on this day and in these Lists, Honor reigns supreme.

You fight today not for your own glory, but for the greater glory of your consort, and of Northshield.

Let all gathered here as our witnesses be inspired by your conduct, in the honor of the Gentle whose favor you bear.

Remember at all times that should you carry the day, you and your Consort shall become the embodiment of all that is, and will become Northshield.

All will witness your acts, and your names will be writ large, sung in songs and remembered in legends long after we have passed from these lands.

In service, you will inspire others to greater service.

Governing in wisdom and with mercy, you will inspire love and respect in your realm.

And by establishing worthy traditions, your handiwork shall endure into the mists of time.

Sovereign

You have heard the reason of Our lists.

Do each of you here today
Have a lady or lord
Whose favor you advance
And whom you may crown as Consort,
Should you prove victorious
Upon this field?

Combatants

Aye!

Royal Consort

Then bear your favors bravely into the lists,
Either in victory or in honorable defeat.

Sovereign

Let the tournament commence!

At this time, Blawhorn Herald or the Herald in Charge should announce the first three pairings for each list field.

The Call to the List

Herald

Will _____ and _____
please report to this list?

Will _____ and _____
please arm themselves for this list?

Will _____ and _____
please prepare to arm?

If the herald knows that a given round is a bye fight, they should include that in the call, e.g.

Will _____ and _____
please arm themselves for this list for a bye fight?

Honours of the List

When the combatants have arrived in the list field...

Herald

Combatants, are you ready?

Marshals, are you ready?

Salute the Crown of Northshield!

Salute the one who inspires you this day!

Salute your most honourable and worthy opponent!

[In the final round only:

Salute the people of Northshield!

For honour, for a crown,]

Heed the Marshals!

BACK out of the list.

Before the Finals

There is always at least a short break before the final round. During this break, the herald should determine whether the each couple would prefer to be invested immediately after victory, or in evening court. The herald will also often act as the go-between to ensure that the combatants and consorts are ready for the mini-processional that proceeds combat.

When everyone is ready...

Herald:

Their Majesties invite the Companions of the Order of Chivalry to array themselves around the list field and witness this honourable combat!

Wait for them to assemble, then:

Their Majesties invite the Companions of the Order of the Rose, of Persephone's Circle, and all others who have served as Royal Consorts to join them and support the consorts of this combat.

Wait for them to assemble, then:

Your Majesties, it is my honour and privilege to present to you, _____, fighting for the honour of _____; and _____ fighting for the honour of _____.

Allow them to process in any way they like: side by side, one behind the other; hand in hand and skipping...

The Crown will undoubtedly have words for the combatants and then dismiss them to arm. Give them a few minutes and then call them to the lists:

Herald

_____ and _____, report to this list for the final bout of this Crown Tourney!

Note: they may not give you a chance!

Either way, once they're assembled, lead them through the Honours of the List, above.

Investiture of the Heirs

Herald

Their Majesties summon _____, By right
of arms Victor in today's Crown Tournament, And
_____, [his] Consort and Honorable
Companion.

The victor and his/her Consort present themselves to the Crown.

Crown or Herald

Your predecessors
Have borne in their time
The crowns and coronets of Northshield.

_____ and _____ ,
by your victory today
In these Our crown lists,
You have shown yourself
To be of high mettle
And worthy of the title
[Prince] and [Princess] of Northshield.

Now know what you have wrought
Through this victory on the field of honor.

For you will one day
Hold, protect and make prosperous
The Kingdom of Northshield.

When that time comes,
The people will look to you
For leadership and love.

From this moment forward,
You will serve as an example
Of all that is best in the Northshield.

Crown

Will you undertake this burden,
Knowing that when Our time
On the Stellar Thrones is done,
A still greater burden awaits you?

Heirs

We will!

Crown

Then take upon thy brows
These coronets,
_____ and _____
[Prince] and [Princess] of Northshield.

Know that they represent
The glorious future of Northshield,
And your obligation
To be defenders of the people
Preservers of justice,
And the highest examples of chivalry and honor.

Crown

Rise, [Prince] _____ and [Princess]
_____.

The Heirs rise and turn to face the populace.

Herald

For Their Highnesses, _____ and
_____,
[Prince] and [Princess] of Northshield: VIVANT!

Should Their Highnesses wish to swear fealty or pledge service, here is an oath.

Heirs

I swear fealty (pledge service)
To the Crown and the people of Northshield;
To defend, strengthen, and maintain
The laws, customs and traditions of the realm,
To be vigilant
as I guide her people,
To be diligent
in my service to all,
And illuminate the aims and ideals of the realm.

Here by my honor and my heart, swear I,

Crown

We accept your fealty (pledge of service),
And will rely on you to advise us wisely.

We will act toward you
Respectively in all things,
Protecting you with Our aid
And rewarding you with Our love.

May all strength fail and the world turn against
Any who break their solemn oath.

Peerage Ceremonies

Peerage ceremonies are perhaps the greatest opportunity for creativity and variation in this Boke. While nearly every peerage ceremony winds up following the outlines of the ones presented here, the bare minimum which needs to happen is:

- The candidate must be asked to accept the accolade. The candidate must accept the accolade being offered.
- The candidate must be presented with at least one token of the order. The ceremonies detail what those tokens are.
- The candidate must signify their acceptance of their fate by swearing an oath or making a pledge.

We strongly encourage candidates for peerage who are given time to do so to consider a ceremony that would be appropriate for their persona, provided it follows these basic guidelines and meets with the Crown's approval. The Heralds will attempt to accommodate almost any variation, including non-English texts, provided that sufficiently readable transliterations are provided, as well as translations so that the Herald can also explain to the populace what has been said.

Even the oath/pledge may be personalized in this manner, again provided that the Crown approves of your specific desires.

All that said, those researching to create their own ceremonies may be surprised to discover the degree to which the **structure** of our ceremonies will be similar to appropriate period ceremonies! This is also, however, why it's so easy to accommodate alternate ideas and texts.

Placing a Candidate on Vigil

The Boon

Herald

Their Majesties call forth [Master] _____.

Peer

Your Majesties, I beg a boon.¹²

Crown

Ask, and if it is a right and proper thing and within our power, it shall be yours.

Peer

[Insert spiel here as desired.] I ask that your Majesties bestow the accolade of [Order] on _____.

Then the Crown shall say to the herald

Crown

Summon the members of Our most Noble Order of [the Laurel].

Herald

[Masters and Mistresses of the Laurel], present yourselves before Their Majesties.

Crown

Call forth the candidate.

Herald

Their Majesties summon _____ before them.

Crown

Noble [Sirs] is it your judgment that _____ is worthy of this accolade.

Those members present answer "Aye."

¹² This is merely the simplest form, the minimal text. Really, the person who wishes to see a candidate join the order should use this opportunity to speak more fulsomely of the reasons why, just as members of other estates of the realm will do later, during the Attestations.

Crown

_____, having heard the counsel of your peers, we are minded to recognize you as a companion of the Order of [the Laurel]. Is it your wish to be numbered among them?

Candidate

I do.

Crown

_____, stand your vigil and at a time and place of your choosing, present yourself to us for elevation to this most noble order.

Good [Masters] and [Mistresses], please take the candidate from this court and provide your counsel.

The members of the order escort the candidate from court.

Herald

For _____, vigilant for [the Laurel], Vivat!

Creation of a Knight

The Boon

Herald

Their Majesties call forth [Sir] _____.

Knight

Your Majesties, I beg a boon.

Crown

Ask, and if it is a right and proper thing and within our power, it shall be yours.

Knight

[Insert spiel here as desired.] I ask that your Majesties enter _____ into the most noble Order of the Chivalry.¹³

Then the Crown shall say to the herald

Crown

Call forth the candidate.

Herald

Their Majesties summon _____ before them.

Crown

Summon the members of Our most Noble Order of the Chivalry.

Herald

Knights and Masters of Arms of the Society, present yourselves before Their Majesties.

Crown

Noble sirs is it your judgment that _____ is worthy of this accolade.

Those members present answer "Aye."

¹³ This is the minimum required. Ideally, the peer should speak specifically of why the candidate should be elevated

The Attestations

Most ceremonies include all five of these. Additional individuals may also speak on the candidate's behalf. Friends from out-kingdom or who cannot be in attendance might send missives to be read on their behalf. Alternatively, especially if this is not the candidate's first peerage, they may elect a shorter ceremony in which only the one who begs the boon speaks on behalf of the candidate. If so, however, they should speak at greater length than simply begging the boon!

Crown

Is there a Royal Peer to attest to _____'s nobility?

The chosen Royal Peer shall answer in their own words.

Crown

Is there a Master or Mistress of the Pelican to attest to _____'s service?

The chosen Pelican shall answer in their own words.

Crown

Is there a Master or Mistress of the Laurel to attest to _____'s talents?

The chosen Laurel shall answer in their own words.

Crown

Is there a Master or Mistress of Defense to attest to _____'s courtly grace?

The chosen Master [Mistress] of Defense shall answer in their own words.

Crown

Is there a member of the populace
Who wishes to speak of _____'s qualities
as a peer.

The chosen member of the populace shall respond in their own words.

Crown

Right mindful of your prowess on the field,
And responsive to the wishes of your peers,
We are minded to make you knight.

Know that to wear the belt and chain of a knight
Is to hold a sacred trust;
That the obligations of knighthood
Will demand your efforts
Every moment of your life¹⁴.

¹⁴ If the Admonishments, below, are being skipped, jump to “Do not restrict...”

The Admonishments

It is common to have each line of the admonishments spoken by a different member of the populace. The intended effect, when it works, is very dramatic. If the candidate chooses to do things that way, then each person chosen to read one of the admonishments should be given a strip of paper with their line and a number denoting order.

Alternatively, the herald or another single individual may be asked to read them. They can be removed entirely, especially if this is not the candidate's first peerage, or if several peerages are being done on the same day, so that everyone, including the candidate, will have already heard them!

A Knight must seek excellence in all endeavors, martial and otherwise,

Seeking strength to be used in the service of justice,
Not for their own good, but for the good of all.

A Knight must recognize that the sword of justice can be a terrible thing, so humanity and mercy must temper it

A Knight must remain loyal to the people and the ideals (s)he chooses to live by.

A Knight must love his kingdom, and fulfill most faithfully his feudal duties.

A Knight must have the courage to sacrifice for the precepts and people (s)he values.

A Knight must have faith in their beliefs,
While never diminishing the beliefs of another.

A Knight values the contributions of others,
According them the renown rightfully earned.

A Knight must be generous,
Countering the natural tendency toward gluttony .

A Knight recognizes that true nobility arises from the journey, not the destination.

Crown

Seek to emulate all of this as sincerely as possible,
Not for personal gain but because it is right¹⁵.

Enter here if the admonishments have been omitted

Crown

Do not restrict your exploration to a small world,
But seek to infuse every aspect of your life with these
qualities.

Should you succeed in even a tiny measure,
Then you will be well remembered for your quality and
virtue.

Knowing all this do you desire to accept elevation into this
Order?

Candidate

I do!

The Patent

If a scroll or promissory text has been prepared—it should be but it isn't always
done—then it should be read here, before the oath is taken.

Crown

Then let all and sundry hear our will in full.

Herald reads the Patent of Arms.

¹⁵ If the Admonishments are skipped entirely, skip this line as well and start with “Do not restrict...”

The Oath

Crown

Now swear fealty to the Crown of Northshield

Candidate

I here swear fealty and do homage
To the Crown of Northshield:

To ever be a good knight and true,
Reverent and generous,
Shield of the weak,
Obedient to my liege-lord,
Foremost in battle,
Courteous at all times,
Champion of the right and the good.

Thus swear I, _____.

Crown

We accept your gifts of fealty and homage
And will rely on you to advise us wisely.

As you light the way for Northshield
With honour and charity,
We will act toward you respectively in all things,
Protecting you with Our aid
And rewarding you with Our love.

But may all your strength fail
And the world turn against
Any who should break their solemn oath.

The Regalia

For a Knight, the belt and chain are required. The other items of regalia are at the option of the candidate.

The Belt

Crown

Is there a belt?

While the belt is being given to the knight, a Knight, the Crown, or the Herald explains the symbolism of the belt. Traditionally, the belt is put on the knight by their consort.

The knight's white belt symbolizes purity and chastity, that a knight must reign in his body steadfastly, avoiding the scandals of the body: gluttony, sloth, and lechery. Purity of purpose and a new beginning or rebirth (like baptism) to begin again the steps on the Path Chivalry.

The Sword

Crown

Is there a sword, which you will offer in service to your crown?

While the sword is being given to the knight, a Knight, the Crown, or the Herald explains the symbolism of the sword.

One edge to cut to the truth one edge to administer their majesties justice and a scabbard to counsel mercy.

The Spurs

Crown

Are there spurs?

While the spurs are being given to the knight, a Knight, the Crown, or the Herald explains the symbolism of the spurs. Traditionally, the right spur is put on first.

As knight's spurs goad the war-horse, so should they goad the knight to valor, service, diligence and swiftness. Let the spurs hasten the knight to his duty that he might maintain his order in the high honor that belongs to it. By placing precious golden spurs near his feet a knight displays disdain for worldly things. They should be worn

with honor and discretion lest they be hacked from your heels in shame and disgrace.

The Chain

Crown

Is there a chain with which to bind him in his oath of fealty?

Any legacy chains should be brought forward and presented to the Crown at this time. Traditionally, the lineage of a legacy is recited. After the recitation, the Crown places all chains on the knight. As the chain is being put on the knight, a Knight, the Crown, or the Herald explains the symbolism of the chain.

The chain is of gold, purest of the metals to signify the purity of the chain of fealty, which binds the knight and his sovereigns to one another. The chain is heavy to symbolize and remind the knight of the heavy responsibility he bears. The chain is strong and runs round the neck of the knight signifying obedience to the commands of his sovereign and the order. The chain is the unique symbol of the knights of the Society for Creative Anachronism, and as such is the badge of our order just as our forefathers have used the fleece, the garter, the star, and the cross to signify knightly orders. Pray let your behavior and deeds charge this our symbol with as great a reverence and respect as the symbols of our forbears.

The Cloak

Crown

Is there a cloak?

As the cloak is being put on the knight, a Knight, the Crown, or the Herald explains the symbolism of the cloak.

Shamefastness or fear of shame. These arms ensure that all might know this knight from afar, and judge him fair or foul, to ensure obedience to the order of knighthood. It symbolizes the hardships and travail that a knight will suffer foremost in battle and always placing his body between his Kingdom and her foes just as the surcoat

receives any blows, rain, or insult before the armor and body of the knight.

Crown

The candidate has been invested with the trappings of the office to knighthood.

The Dubbing

A knight must have their hand on the relic during the dubbing. If neither the Sovereign nor the Consort are a knight, another knight must be selected.

Crown

In remembrance of oaths given and received.

Strike the right shoulder with the relic

In remembrance of your lineage and obligations.

Strike the left shoulder with the relic

Be thou a good knight.

Strike the head with the relic

Rise, [Sir] _____.

The Buffet

The buffet must be performed by a knight. If neither the Sovereign nor the Consort are a knight, another knight must be selected.

Crown

Bear this blow as the last unanswered blow you accept for your Kingdom.

When all have recovered from the blow

Herald

For [Sir] _____, newest companion of the Order of Chivalry, Vivat!

Creation of a Laurel

The Boon

Herald

Their Majesties call forth [Master] _____,
Companion of the Laurel.

Laurel

Your Majesties, I beg a boon.

Crown

Ask, and if it is a right and proper thing and within our
power, it shall be yours.

Laurel

I ask that your Majesties enter _____ into
the most noble Order of the Laurel.¹⁶

Then the Crown shall say to the herald

Crown

Call forth the candidate.

Herald

Their Majesties summon _____ before
them.

Crown

Summon the members of the most loyal Order of the
Laurel.

Herald

Masters and Mistresses of the Laurel, present yourselves
before Their Majesties.

Crown

Noble Lords and Ladies is it your opinion that
_____ is worthy of elevation into the
Order of the Laurel?

Those members present answer "Aye."

¹⁶ This is the minimum required. Ideally, the peer should speak specifically of why the candidate should be elevated

The Attestations

Most ceremonies include all five of these. Additional individuals may also speak on the candidate's behalf. Friends from out-kingdom or who cannot be in attendance might send missives to be read on their behalf. Alternatively, especially if this is not the candidate's first peerage, they may elect a shorter ceremony in which only the one who begs the boon speaks on behalf of the candidate. If so, however, they should speak at greater length than simply begging the boon!

Crown

Is there a Royal Peer to attest to _____'s nobility?

The chosen Royal Peer shall answer in their own words.

Crown

Is there a Member of the Chivalry to attest to _____'s honor?

The chosen Knight/Master at Arms shall answer in their own words.

Crown

Is there a Master or Mistress of the Pelican to attest to _____'s service?

The chosen Pelican shall answer in their own words.

Crown

Is there a Master or Mistress of Defense to attest to _____'s courtly grace?

The chosen Master [Mistress] of Defense shall answer in their own words.

Crown

Is there a member of the populace who wishes to speak of _____'s qualities as a peer.

The chosen member of the populace shall respond in their own words.

Crown

_____, right mindful of your skills
and research in the Society
and the wishes of your peers,
We are resolved to create you
[Master] of the Laurel.

Know that to be a peer is to hold a sacred trust;
That the obligations will demand your efforts
Every moment of your life¹⁷.

¹⁷ If the Admonishments are skipped, jump to, “Do not restrict...”

The Admonishments

It is common to have each line of the admonishments spoken by a different member of the populace. The intended effect, when it works, is very dramatic. If the candidate chooses to do things that way, then each person chosen to read one of the admonishments should be given a strip of paper with their line and a number denoting order.

Alternatively, the herald or another single individual may be asked to read them. They can be removed entirely, especially if this is not the candidate's first peerage, or if several peerages are being done on the same day, so that everyone, including the candidate, will have already heard them!

A Peer must seek excellence in all endeavors, not for their own good, but for the good of others.

A Peer must always seek justice, truth tempered with mercy.

A Peer must remain loyal to the people and the ideals he/she chooses to live by.

A Peer must always defend their kingdom, their family and those who depend upon them.

A Peer must have the courage to sacrifice for the precepts and people they value.

A Peer must have faith in their beliefs.

A Peer values the contributions of others and does not boast of their own accomplishments.

A Peer must be generous as far as their resources allow.

A Peer recognizes that true nobility arises from the journey, not the destination.

Crown

Seek to emulate all of this as sincerely as possible, Not for personal gain but because it is right¹⁸.

¹⁸ If the Admonishments are skipped entirely, skip this line as well and start with "Do not restrict..."

Enter here if the admonishments have been omitted

Crown

Do not restrict your exploration to a small world,
But seek to infuse every aspect of your life with these
qualities.

Should you succeed in even a tiny measure,
Then you will be well remembered for your quality and
virtue.

Knowing all this do you desire to accept elevation into this
Order?

Candidate

I do!

Crown

Will you pledge to continue to uphold the honor of this
Order?

Candidate

I will!

Crown

Will you increase your labors and talents nobly as befits
one of your rank, and seek to extend your talents and
abilities throughout the Society?

Candidate

I will!

Crown

Will you teach and assist any dependents you may have to
serve as you have served?

Candidate

I will!

The Patent

If a scroll or promissory text has been prepared—it should be but it isn't always done—then it should be read here, before the oath is taken.

Crown

Then let all and sundry hear our will in full.

Herald reads the Patent of Arms.

The Oath

Crown

Do you wish to swear fealty or pledge service at this time?

If the candidate answers affirmatively:

Candidate

I here swear fealty (pledge service)
To the Crown of Northshield;
To ever enrich the Crown;
To be faithful and true;
To love all that they love,
And shun all that they shun;
To remember courtesy and kindness;
To prize justice above personal gain;
To keep secret any counsel They entrust to me,
Nor knowingly disclose it to Their harm;
To guide all who seek my talents and abilities;
to diligently serve where needed;
and to light the way for all your people.

Here by my honor, my hand, and my heart, swear I,

Crown

We accept the gifts of your talents and knowledge,
And will rely on you to advise us wisely.

As you light the way for Northshield
With honour and charity,
We will act toward you respectively in all things,
Protecting you with Our aid
And rewarding you with Our love.

But may all your strength fail
And the world turn against
Any who should break their solemn oath.

The Regalia

For a Laurel, a symbol of the order is required. The other items of regalia are at the option of the candidate.

The Medallion

There should always be at least one medallion, pin, or other symbol of the order available to invest the candidate. Ideally, there should be at least two: a personal one for the candidate, and the Northshield Legacy Medallion. There may be others as well.

Crown

Is there a medallion?

Any legacy medallions should be brought forward and presented to the Crown at this time. Traditionally, the lineage of a legacy is recited. After the recitation, the Crown places all medallions on the Laurel. As the medallion(s) is being put on the Laurel, a Laurel, the Crown, or the Herald explains the symbolism of the medallion.

Crown

Now take from our hands this,
The symbol of your order;
The Laurel wreath,
which has ever stood for excellence,
As we have acknowledged your excellence this day.

The Cloak

Crown

Is there a cloak?

If there are additional symbols, they should be brought forth at this time. Ideally, the Crown or the Herald will already know about them and be able to offer prompts for people to come forward.

When the candidate has been invested with all of the symbols available:

Crown

Rise _____, [Master] of the Laurel.

Herald

[Master] _____, Companion of the Order of the Laurel, VIVAT!

Creation of a Pelican

The Boon

Herald

Their Majesties call forth [Master] _____,
Companion of the Pelican.

Pelican

Your Majesties, I beg a boon.

Crown

Ask, and if it is a right and proper thing and within our
power, it shall be yours.

Pelican

I ask that your Majesties enter _____ into
the most noble Order of the Pelican.¹⁹

Then the Crown shall say to the herald

Crown

Call forth the candidate.

Herald

Their Majesties summon _____ before
them.

Crown

Summon the members of the most noble Order of the
Pelican.

Herald

Masters and Mistresses of the Pelican, present yourselves
before Their Majesties.

Crown

Noble Lords and Ladies, is it your opinion that
_____ is worthy of elevation into the
Order of the Pelican?

Those members present answer "Aye."

¹⁹ This is the minimum required. Ideally, the peer should speak specifically of why the candidate should be elevated

The Attestations

Most ceremonies include all five of these. Additional individuals may also speak on the candidate's behalf. Friends from out-kingdom or who cannot be in attendance might send missives to be read on their behalf. Alternatively, especially if this is not the candidate's first peerage, they may elect a shorter ceremony in which only the one who begs the boon speaks on behalf of the candidate. If so, however, they should speak at greater length than simply begging the boon!

Crown

Is there a Royal Peer to attest to _____'s nobility?

The chosen Royal Peer shall answer in their own words.

Crown

Is there a Member of the Chivalry to attest to _____'s chivalry?

The chosen Knight/Master at Arms shall answer in their own words.

Crown

Is there a Master or Mistress of the Laurel to attest to _____'s talents?

The chosen Laurel shall answer in their own words.

Crown

Is there a Master or Mistress of Defense to attest to _____'s courtly grace?

The chosen Master [Mistress] of Defense shall answer in their own words.

Crown

Is there a member of the populace who wishes to speak _____'s qualities as a peer.

The chosen member of the populace shall respond in their own words.

Crown

_____, right mindful of your service to the Society and the wishes of your peers, We are resolved to create you Master/Mistress of the Pelican.

Know that to be a peer is to hold a sacred trust;
That the obligations will demand your efforts
Every moment of your life.

The Admonishments

It is common to have each line of the admonishments spoken by a different member of the populace. The intended effect, when it works, is very dramatic. If the candidate chooses to do things that way, then each person chosen to read one of the admonishments should be given a strip of paper with their line and a number denoting order.

Alternatively, the herald or another single individual may be asked to read them. They can be removed entirely, especially if this is not the candidate's first peerage, or if several peerages are being done on the same day, so that everyone, including the candidate, will have already heard them!

A Peer must seek excellence in all endeavors, not for their own good, but for the good of others.

A Peer must always seek justice, truth tempered with mercy

A Peer must remain loyal to the people and the ideals he/she chooses to live by.

A Peer must always defend their kingdom, their family, and those who depend upon them.

A Peer must have the courage to sacrifice for the precepts and people they value.

A Peer must have faith in their beliefs.

A Peer values the contributions of others and does not boast of their own accomplishments.

A Peer must be generous as far as their resources allow.

A Peer recognizes that true nobility arises from the journey, not the destination.

Crown

Seek to emulate all of this as sincerely as possible,
Not for personal gain but because it is right.

Do not restrict your exploration to a small world,
But seek to infuse every aspect of your life with these
qualities.

Should you succeed in even a tiny measure
Then you will be well remembered for your quality and
virtue.

Knowing all this do you desire to accept elevation into this
Order?

Candidate

I do!

Crown

Will you pledge to continue to uphold the honor of this
Order?

Candidate

I will!

Crown

Will you increase your labors and talents nobly as befits
one of your rank,
And seek to extend your talents and abilities throughout
the Society?

Candidate

I will!

Crown

Will you teach and assist any dependents you may have to
serve as you have served?

Candidate

I will!

The Patent

If a scroll or promissory text has been prepared—it should be but it isn't always done—then it should be read here, before the oath is taken.

Crown

Then let all and sundry hear our will in full.

Herald reads the Patent of Arms.

The Oath

Crown

Do you wish to swear fealty or pledge service at this time?

If the candidate answers affirmatively:

Candidate

I here swear fealty
To the Crown of Northshield
To ever serve this Crown;
To be faithful and true;
To love all that they love,
And shun all that they shun;
To remember courtesy and kindness,
And to prize justice above personal gain;
To keep secret any counsel they entrust to me,
Nor knowingly disclose it to their harm.
To guide by my example,
All who serve Your Kingdom;
To diligently serve where needed;
And to light the way for all your people.

Here by my honor, my hand, and my heart, swear I,

Crown

We accept your offer of service and leadership
And will rely on you to advise us wisely.

As you serve and guide Northshield
with honour and charity,
We will act toward you respectively in all things,
Protecting you with our aid and rewarding you with Our
love.

But may all your strength fail
And the world turn against
Any who should break their solemn oath.

The Regalia

For a Pelican, a symbol of the order is required. The other items of regalia are at the option of the candidate.

The Medallion

There should always be at least one medallion, pin, or other symbol of the order available to invest the candidate. Ideally, there should be at least two: a personal one for the candidate, and the Northshield Legacy Medallion. There may be others as well.

Crown

Is there a medallion?

Any legacy medallions should be brought forward and presented to the Crown at this time. Traditionally, the lineage of a legacy is recited. After the recitation, the Crown places all medallions on the Pelican. As the medallion(s) is being put on the Pelican, a Pelican, the Crown, or the Herald explains the symbolism of the medallion.

Crown

Now take from our hands this,
The symbol of your order;
Which creature will nourish her young
when necessary
With the blood from her own breast.

Wear it proudly that all may recognize your service
As we have acknowledged it this day.

The Cloak

Crown

Is there a cloak?

The Cap of Maintenance

For regalia, the cap of maintenance or chapeau can be of any color. In heraldic terms, the chapeau should be “a cap of maintenance gules trimmed ermine” (red with black and white ermine trim) or “a cap of maintenance gules trimmed argent goutty de sang” (red with red and white spotted trim).

Crown

Is there a chapeau?

If there are additional symbols, they should be brought forth at this time. Ideally, the Crown or the Herald will already know about them and be able to offer prompts for people to come forward.

When the candidate has been invested with all of the symbols available:

Crown

Rise _____, [Master] of the Pelican.

Herald

[Master] _____, Companion of the Order of the Pelican, VIVAT!

Creation of a Master/Mistress of Defense

The Boon

Herald

Their Majesties call forth [Master] _____,
Companion of the Order of Defense.

Master/Mistress of Defense

Your Majesties, I beg a boon.

Crown

Ask, and if it is a right and proper thing and within our
power, it shall be yours.

Master/Mistress of Defense

I ask that your Majesties enter _____ into
the most noble Order of Defense.

Crown

Summon the members of the most loyal Order of Defense.

Herald

Masters and Mistresses of Defense, present yourselves
before Their Majesties.

Crown

Noble Lords and Ladies, is it your opinion that
_____ is worthy of elevation into the
Order of Defense?

Those members present answer "Aye."

Crown

Call forth the candidate.

Herald

Their Majesties summon _____ before
them.

The candidate, or a companion, is carrying the candidate's sheathed rapier/sword before or next to him.

Herald

Present the candidate's sword unto the Crown (Their Majesties)

Alternatively, the Candidate's companion/member of procession, or the person begging the boon will say:

I present the candidate's sword unto the Crown

The sheathed sword is ceremonially presented to the Crown, who then hands it off to an attendant or lays it next to the throne.

The Attestations

Most ceremonies include all five of these. Additional individuals may also speak on the candidate's behalf. Friends from out-kingdom or who cannot be in attendance might send missives to be read on their behalf. Alternatively, especially if this is not the candidate's first peerage, they may elect a shorter ceremony in which only the one who begs the boon speaks on behalf of the candidate. If so, however, they should speak at greater length than simply begging the boon!

Crown

Is there a Royal Peer to attest to _____'s nobility?

The chosen Royal Peer shall answer in their own words.

Crown

Is there a Member of the Chivalry to attest to _____'s chivalry?

The chosen Knight/Master at Arms shall answer in their own words.

Crown

Is there a Master or Mistress of the Laurel to attest to _____'s talents?

The chosen Laurel shall answer in their own words.

Crown

Is there a Master or Mistress of the Pelican to attest to _____'s service?

The chosen Pelican shall answer in their own words.

Crown

Is there a member of the populace who wishes to speak
_____’s qualities as a peer.

The chosen member of the populace shall respond in their own words.

The Admonishments

It is common to have each line of the admonishments spoken by a different member of the populace. The intended effect, when it works, is very dramatic. If the candidate chooses to do things that way, then each person chosen to read one of the admonishments should be given a strip of paper with their line and a number denoting order.

Alternatively, the herald or another single individual may be asked to read them. They can be removed entirely, especially if this is not the candidate's first peerage, or if several peerages are being done on the same day, so that everyone, including the candidate, will have already heard them!

Traditionally, a sword arch of rapier fighters is assembled at this time.

A Master of Defense must seek excellence in all endeavors,
Displaying courage in service to the Kingdom
Not for their own renown, but for the good of all

A Master must always seek Justice, Truth tempered with
Mercy.

A Master must remain Loyal to the people and the ideals
he/she chooses to live by.

A Master must always defend their Kingdom, their family
and those who depend upon them.

A Master must have the courage to sacrifice for the
precepts and people they value.

A Master must have faith in their beliefs, while never
diminishing the beliefs of another.

A Master values the contributions of others, According
them the renown rightfully earned.

A Master must be generous as far as their resources allow.

A Master recognizes that true nobility arises from the
journey, not the destination.

Crown

Seek to emulate all of this as sincerely as possible,
Not for personal gain but because it is right.
Do not restrict your exploration to a small world,
But seek to infuse every aspect of your life with these
qualities.
Should you succeed in even a tiny measure
Then you will be well remembered for your quality and
virtue.
Knowing all this do you desire to accept elevation into this
Order?

Candidate

I do!

Crown

Will you pledge to continue to uphold the honor of this
Order?

Candidate

I will!

Crown

Will you increase your labors and talents nobly as befits
one of your rank, and seek to extend your talents and
abilities throughout the Society?

Candidate

I will!

Crown

Will you teach and assist any dependents you may have to
serve as you have served?

Candidate

I will!

The Patent

If a scroll or promissory text has been prepared—it should be but it isn't always done—then it should be read here, before the oath is taken.

Crown

Then let all and sundry hear our will in full.

Herald reads the Patent of Arms.

The Oath

Crown

Do you wish to swear fealty or pledge service at this time?

If the candidate answers affirmatively:

Candidate

I here swear fealty/pledge service and do homage
To the Crown of Northshield,
To ever serve the kingdom by my word and sword,

Defender of the Weak . Servant of the Kingdom,
Proven in battle, Tempered by mercy,
Generous with my knowledge and ability,
An example of Courtesy, Skill, and Grace,
Guiding the people of Northshield
with Integrity and Charity.

Here by my honor and my sword,
swear I, _____

Crown

We accept your gifts of service and leadership
And will rely on you to advise us wisely.
As you light the way for Northshield
With honour and charity,
We will act toward you
Respectively in all things,
Protecting you with Our aid
And rewarding you with Our love.
But may all strength fail
And the world turn against
Any who break their solemn oath.

The Regalia

The Hanger

The Crown asks for the sword from their attendants, draws it from the hanger, and holds it up:

Crown

This sword once belonged to you alone, in pursuit of personal glory, but now defends your Crown, your Kingdom and all its people. We return it to you, sheathed in the hanger of your Order.

Crown sheathes sword in new hanger and returns to new Master.

The Cloak

Crown

Is there a cloak?

While the cloak is being given to the Master, a Master, the Crown, or the Herald explains the symbolism of the cloak.

Your actions have reflected your fame or infamy, from this point on, you wear the same cloak as your brothers and sisters of the Order and your actions, good or ill, will reflect on them.

The Collar

There should always be at least one collar available to invest the candidate. Ideally, there should be at least two: a personal one for the candidate, and the Northshield Legacy Medallion. There may be others as well.

Crown

Is there a collar?

Any legacy collars should be brought forward and presented to the Crown at this time. Traditionally, the lineage of a legacy is recited. As the collar(s) is being put on the Master, a Master, the Crown, or the Herald explains the symbolism of the collar.

Throughout history, great and noble orders have been signified by the collars that they wear, so that their members may have perpetual memory of the vows that they take and may be recognized as members of their Order and be seen to represent the ideal that they aspire to. The Masters of Defense display their symbol on a white collar which symbolizes purity of spirit with which we share our talents to all who seek guidance.

Crown

Receive from our hand the collar of the Order of Defense

Three crossed blades to show your defense of your Crown,
Your Kingdom, and your Order.

Worn from this white collar to keep it perpetually close to
your heart as a reminder so that you never contravene the
oath which you just made

Wear it proudly that all may recognize your service

As we have acknowledged it this day.

The Buffet

Consort

In remembrance of humble beginnings.

To remember the force of the oath you have taken and
the last challenge unmet.

The Consort puts the glove on their dominant hand and delivers a buffet to the chest of the Vigilant.

The Consort removes the glove, and throws them down in challenge. The Vigilant returns the glove, accepting the challenge, keeping one for himself as a reminder.

When all have recovered from the blow

Herald

For [Master] _____, newest companion of
the Order of Defense, Vivat!

Miscellaneous Ceremonies

Recognition of Branch Full Status

Herald

Their Majesties summon _____, Kingdom Seneschal.

The Kingdom Seneschal enters the Royal presence.

Seneschal

Your Stallari wishes to advise the Crown that the people of _____ have demonstrated their ability to keep and maintain that part of Your Kingdom, and therefore should be granted a charter as a _____ of Northshield.

Crown

Are there any other persons who can attest to the competence of _____?

Other people previously agreed to by the Crown will stand and advise the Crown of their support for the group, much in the same vein as different estates of the realm speaking for vigilants during a peerage ceremony. The Kingdom Seneschal will also speak for others who wish to advise the crown but are not able to attend.

The Crown acknowledges they agree with the advice given and indicate to the Herald that they wish to speak to the representatives of the group.

Herald

_____, present yourselves before Their Sovereign Majesties.

The members of the group will come forward in whatever manner that is agreed to by the Crown and the group. Once they are arranged before the presence, Their Majesties acknowledge what their decision is to the group.

Herald

The good governance of the land and its people is the chief responsibility of the Crown.

To help fulfill this responsibility, it has been known from time immemorial that the Crown needs trusted local representatives, wherever its subjects have settled. Thus it is that a kingdom is divided into baronies, shires, cantons and colleges.

Therefore do We, _____ and _____, [King] and [Queen] of the Kingdom of Northshield, wish to acknowledge that _____ have met all of the requirements to be recognized as a chapter of the Society for Creative Anachronism and by this warrant do We create _____ a _____ of Our lands.

This We do on the _____ day of _____, A.S. _____, while sitting on Our thrones in Our _____ of _____ on the occasion of _____.

The Crown presents the group a signed version of the above and they hand the Crown a box of earth which the group touch as they repeat their charter with the Crown.

Group Members

The populace of _____ here pledges:
Service unto The Crown and Kingdom
in all ways, at all times, and in all endeavors.

Loyalty to the Crown
in all of Its decrees, requirements, and commands.

Honor and Chivalry to be shown
by all _____'s members
unto each and every citizen of the Known World.

To Guide, To Serve, and To Light the Way.

Crown

We hear This Pledge
And it will be remembered for all time
By us and our descendants.

Herald

The _____ of _____:
VIVANT!

Feasts with High Tables

While the majority of feasts are not also courts, there are some ceremonial elements to feasts when Royalty attends.

Toasts

It is traditional at feasts toasts are made in the following order:

1. The Crown
2. The Heirs
3. Sitting baronage (when the event is in a barony)

Generally, the person sitting feast with the highest precedence should be asked to take responsibility for the toast to the Crown; the next highest, the toast to the Heirs. These toasts should happen whether or not the Royal Family are present.

In a barony, the highest precedence citizen of the barony should be asked to take responsibility for the toast to the baronage. Again, this should happen whether or not the baronage are present.

If visiting royalty are present, the highest ranking subject of their kingdom should be asked to take responsibility for a toast to them. Keep in mind that this may be a member of the visiting royalty's retinue and they may be relatively low in precedence in absolute terms. Be kind to them.

Historic Ceremonies

First Northshield Coronation

On the dais are the Middle Kingdom in the center, Royal Middle Prince and Princess on left and empty Principality thrones on right, with other Crowns present on either side in traditional order. The Gryphon Stone in the center before them, either on the dais or on the floor in front of them.

Song:

Shield My Kinsmen, sung by the Northshield Choir

Herald

The former Coronets of Northshield Who have guided and led her people with the light Of the Stellar Thrones.

The former coronets of Northshield process into court in reverse order.

Hroder and Guilia, 17th Prince and Princess of Northshield
Aubrey and Anne, 16th Prince and Princess of Northshield
Leif and Astrid, 15th Prince and Princess of Northshield
Robert and Isabella, 14th Prince and Princess of Northshield
Raito and Elashava, 13th Prince and Princess of Northshield
Niklos and Aramanthra, 12th Prince and Princess of Northshield
Kenneth and Leila, 11th Prince and Princess of Northshield
Saeric and Yasmin, 10th Prince and Princess of Northshield
Tristan and Eilika, 9th Prince and Princess of Northshield
Galen and Kelinda, 8th Prince and Princess of Northshield
Alasdair and Isabella, 7th Prince and Princess of Northshield
Tarrach and Fina, 6th Prince and Princess of Northshield
Belrix and Prism, 5th Prince and Princess of Northshield
Cnut and Nina, 4th Prince and Princess of Northshield
Seigfried and Therica, 3rd Prince and Princess of Northshield
Conn and Cassandra, 2nd Prince and Princess of Northshield
Dafydd and Gwyneth, 1st Prince and Princess of Northshield

Their Graces, Finn and Garlanda, first Prince and Princess of the Crown
Principality of Northshield

Dafydd and Gwyneth enter, with Ian between them, bearing the new crowns of Northshield. They are followed by Finn and Garlanda who enter carrying the Calontir Sword of State (Finn) and Gryphon's Justice (Garlanda). They all take stairs onto the stage (from Left) and stand perpendicular to the front of the stage

facing right, at the back corner of the BDR, Finn and Garlanda behind Dafydd and Gwyneth and Ian.

Felix and Madeleina walk to the right back corner of the BDR, face D and G.

Dafydd And Gwyneth

Nine years ago, Northshield took its place as the third principality of the Middle Kingdom. In the years since, We have served this kingdom proudly and with honor. Our principality has grown, and we have learned many things. Now the time has come for Northshield to go its own way , and we ask you to release Northshield from its obligations to the Midrealm so that it may take its place among the kingdoms of the Known World.

Ian takes the King's crown and hands it to Felix, and the Queen's crown to Madeleina.

Felix and/or Madeleina

Proud are we of our Principality of Northshield, and happy that they are prepared to take their place as the 18th Kingdom of the Known World, nor do we wish to stand in their path.

Therefore, be it known to the present age and to future generations, that we, in the presence of these assembled Crowns, Peers, Baronage and diverse members of the populace, hereby dissolve the dependency of the Principality of Northshield to the Middle Kingdom.

Attendants appear from the wings to replace the Northshield Principality thrones with the new Kingdom thrones. Felix and Madeleina place the crowns on the Gryphon Stone and retire to their thrones. Finn and Garlanda go to stand behind the Northshield thrones. Dafydd and Gwyneth and Ian join the other past NS Royals at the bottom of the stage.

Herald

His Excellency Viscount Siegfried von Kulmbach and Her Excellency Baroness Bridei nic Gillechattan, Heirs to the Kingdom of Northshield

Everyone turns to the back of the hall. The Past Royals retire to their seats in the first row. Siegfried and Bridei process in by different aisles, each with a personal escort. They stop at the foot of the steps.

Society Seneschal

Although a transfer of property may remain valid from the actual act of performing such transfer, and those things which are lawfully possessed cannot be wrested away by any act of force: it is, however, our duty to intervene lest there can be any doubt of the transaction. We hereby declare and proclaim: that the Middle Kingdom has agreed to relinquish any rights to the Principality of Northshield. Moreover, lest by this act the honor and glory of our most beloved Northshield may seem in any way to be diminished, by the counsel and judgment of the Board of Directors and at the request of the populace, we declare that the Principality of Northshield is hereby elevated to the status of Kingdom. We decree, further, that no person, small or great, may presume to exercise any jurisdiction in the governing of that Kingdom, other than the Board of Directors, without the consent or permission of the Crown of Northshield. The Crown of Northshield, moreover, shall not owe any other service to the Middle Kingdom from this time forward.

Siegfried and Bridei proceed up the steps and their escorts depart to join the rest of their households and sit in the second row.

Siegfried and Bridei kneel behind the stone on a cushion, facing the populace.

They pick up the crowns, and hold them in front of themselves.

Siegfried and Bridei

I swear to keep and confirm
To the people of Northshield
The laws, customs and traditions of the realm
To defend, strengthen, and maintain them
To the best of my ability.

To seek the wise counsel
Of our Peers, Baronage and people.

I shall do and keep
In all my domains and judgments
True and right in mercy and truth.

I will strive to be vigilant as I guide her people,
To be diligent in my service to all,
And to light the way
From the Stellar Throne.

May all my strength fail me
And the world turn against me
If I break this solemn oath.

Thus swear I, _____.

They rise, stand on the stone, and place the crowns on their heads.

Herald

All hail Siegfried and Bridei, King and Queen of
Northshield.

Vivant!

Siegfried and Bridei take their place on their thrones.

Herald

There being no further business, this court of the Middle
Kingdom is closed.

Principality of Northshield Ceremonies

Investiture of Prince/Princess

Royal Herald

The Crown summons <>, by right of arms Lord/Lady Heir of Northshield and <> Lady/Lord Heir of Northshield.

Lord and Lady Heir shall approach the Royal Presence.

Lord/Lady Heir

I am <Name>, Victor above all in the Coronet Tournament held in <Location> and <Name> is my Consort and Honorable Companion who was my inspiration on that day.

Royal Herald

Who bears witness to <Name> as Victor and rightful Heir to the Coronet of Northshield and to <Name> his/her Consort and Inspiration.

Northshield Seneschal

As Seneschal of Northshield, I bear witness to his/her/their right as Lord/Lady Heir of Northshield.

Northshield Earl Marshal

As Marshal of Northshield I bear witness to his/her/their right as Lord/Lady Heir of Northshield.

Finalist (or other person)

As finalist/combatant in the Coronet Tournament held in <Location> I bear witness to his/her/their right as Victor and Lord/Lady Heir of Northshield.

Royal Herald

Do the Peers of Northshield bear witness?

Peers respond.

Royal Herald

Do the Barons and Baronesses of Northshield bear witness?

Barons and Baronesses respond.

Royal Herald

Shall all of Northshield bear witness?

The Populace respond.

Crown

As Prince and/or Princess of Northshield, you hold and rule for Us this great land. You will be, by your Stewardship: Our Will, Our Words and Our Concern for Our Subjects and their well-being. You shall be Our Justice and Our Mercy and Our Love for Northshield. Mark well how you swear (what you promise) before Us and these witnesses.

The herald shall say, phrase by phrase, and the Prince and Princess shall repeat:

Herald

Here do I, <Name>
swear (pledge) before Your Sovereign Majesties and before these witnesses
to rule Your Principality of Northshield
as Prince/Princess to the very best of my ability,
and to hold these lands in fief from the Crown.
I promise ever to be a good and faithful servant of the Crown:
rewarding according to true merit,
judging with truth and mercy
and upholding the honor of the Middle Kingdom
and Our Principality.
I bind myself in Love, Honor and Loyalty
to the Crowns of the Middle Kingdom;
ever vigilant, merciful and kind
to those granted to my care,
By this oath (pledge) do I swear and so bind myself.

Crown

This do we hear
and honor that which you have given,
as true and loyal servants of the Crown.
This we will remember,
as will our heirs and their heirs,

and know that we will return thee
according to Our ancient promise:
Fealty with Love,
Service with Honor,
and Oathbreaking with Justice/Vengeance.

Taking up the Coronets and holding them over the bowed heads:

Crown

Take upon thy brow this coronet, <Name>, Prince and/or Princess of Northshield, and know that it represents to us the honor and glory of Northshield. By this you partake of Our Royal Station, so that just as We are Sovereigns of Our Middle Kingdom you are a reflection of that sovereignty in this Our Principality.

As the Coronets are placed on brows of the Prince/Princess:

Crown

By these also are you bound
by that First Oath of Northshield.
Therefore be you defenders
of the weak, preservers of justice
and highest examples of chivalry and honor.

Royal Herald

Behold, <Name> and <Name>, Prince and Princess of Northshield. Vivant!

Crown

Join us here and take your rightful place at Our side.

Appendix A

Peerage Admonishments

Many choose to have one person read each admonishment during their peerage ceremony. To make that easier and clearer, the admonishments are provided here in a numbered format. Print the page, cut it into the strips and provide one to each reader.

1. A Peer must seek excellence in all endeavors, not for their own good, but for the good of others.
2. A Peer must always seek justice, truth tempered with mercy
3. A Peer must remain loyal to the people and the ideals he/she chooses to live by.
4. A Peer must always defend their kingdom, their family, and those who depend upon them.
5. A Peer must have the courage to sacrifice for the precepts and people they value.
6. A Peer must have faith in their beliefs.
7. A Peer values the contributions of others and does not boast of their own accomplishments.
8. A Peer must be generous as far as their resources allow.
9. A Peer recognizes that true nobility arises from the journey, not the destination.