

The Northshield Boke of Ceremonies

Northshield Ministry of Protocol



Kingdom of Northshield

College of Heraldry

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Required Approvals

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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 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 of the Kingdom, Northshield has more of an improvisational mindset than some kingdoms. Many Crowns customized the ceremonies, although the "printed" Boke 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 Boke reflects the use of our ceremonies over time. Some changes sound better to the ear; others reflect Northshield's style. This is the result of over 20 reigns of experience and growth.

It is never the goal of this Boke to create a rigid canonical text. The Boke 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.

Throughout this document, the user may encounter specific gendered language to describe a role. While such usage is period and traditional, the Society recognizes that individuals may have preferences that do not conform to the language used.

The Society has developed a resource where titles and pronouns may be substituted in accordance with individual preferences. Users are strongly encouraged to be aware or request these preferences from individuals involved in various ceremonies whenever possible. Titles and pronouns in the various ceremonies are noted with [brackets] indicating the potential for alternate usage. Please be aware that not all titles and pronouns have approved or available substitutes in all cultures or genders.

The resource of approved alternate titles which includes gender neutral versions may be found at <http://heraldry.sca.org/titles.html>.

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.

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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 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 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.

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, they follow the practice of the Royal Family outlined above.

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 Antherth 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, Jararvellir to the right, Caer Antherth Mawr to the left, Nordskogen to the right, and Windhaven to the left. If anyone is absent, those behind advance into the place of the absent party or parties in order.

If foreign royalty is 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 be:

- ❖ West
- ❖ East
- ❖ Middle
- ❖ Atenveldt
- ❖ Meridies
- ❖ Caid
- ❖ Ansteorra
- ❖ Atlantia
- ❖ An Tir
- ❖ Calontir
- ❖ Trimaris
- ❖ Outlands
- ❖ Drachenwald
- ❖ Artemisia
- ❖ Æthelmearc
- ❖ Lochac
- ❖ (Northshield if in a foreign court)
 - ❖ Gleann Abhann
 - ❖ Avacal

A diagram is available for reference at the end of this handbook as Appendix B.

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 Stellar Majesties, _____ and _____, [King] and [Queen] of Northshield.

Pause

And for Their Stellar Highnesses, _____ and _____, [Prince] and [Princess], Heirs to the Griffin 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:

Herald:

And for Their 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]¹ of _____.

¹ You may also use "Lord and Lady of" which is a more period form of reference or equivalent titles from the Alternate Title listing. In English, in period, "baron" is not really a title, but a description referring to a lord who holds land directly from the Crown, especially one who isn't also an earl or a duke. Later, it refers to any lord who is entitled to a summons to Parliament, but still isn't really a title.

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, continue with the following:

Herald

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

Note that once you state the date and location of the court in the opening, it is not necessary to repeat it when reading scrolls later. This is true regardless of the type of court.

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 Stellar Majesties, _____ and _____, [King] and [Queen], this ___ of _____ Anno Sociatatis __, in the _____ of _____.

Court Business

From this point forward, most items of business, whether they're inbound presentations or honors 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 Stockenborough² 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.

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 SUPER 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.

² There once really was such a shire, but the name didn't pass heraldic muster! We will memorialize them by using them for our sample court scripts from this point forward, because all those blanks get distracting!

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*
For Noble Aelthelraed, VIVAT!

- ❖ *For an AoA-level award*
For Noble Aelfgifu, recipient of the [Award of the Wombat],
VIVAT!

- ❖ *For a GoA-level order*
Honorable Noble Aelfgifu, companion of the [Order of Brigits
Flame], 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 announced.
 - 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.
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. Some statement is made, by Crown or herald, reminding the Heirs what it’s all about.
7. The Heirs are offered a pro-forma chance to get out of it.
8. The Heirs swear their oath to the Kingdom.
9. The Heirs are either crowned, or crown themselves, or each other.

This default version assumes:

- ❖ The Heir-Combatant is male (Prince) and Heir-Consort female (Princess). Refer to the list of Alternate Titles link located in the preface for culture and gender-neutral alternatives.
- ❖ A “laying on of hands” ceremony in which the old King and Queen crown the new King and Queen.

Coronation of Sovereign and Consort

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 Earl Marshall 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 another 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 as they prefer.

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 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 now.

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

_____.

Herald

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

Individual 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 Grace may announce them.

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 honor 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.

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)*³ 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 (page 17) 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.

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.

³ Corpora protects the coronet embattled in all tinctures for Comital rank; Kingdom law, however, reserves the coronet embattled or (gold) for County. Longstanding Northshield tradition recognizes the coronet embattled argent (silver) for Viscounty.

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 so now.*

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 honor 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.

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

Herald

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

Individual Recognition of Comital Rank

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

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 Their Excellency, 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 honor 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!

Order of the Rose Ceremony

The following ceremony is adapted from the Middle Kingdom Boke of Ceremonies:

Herald:

[Countess/Duchess] _____ is called before this Court of Their Royal Majesties. Their Majesties also summon the Companions of the Orders of the Rose and of Persephone's Circle.

[Countess/Duchess] approaches accompanied by Nobles of the Order of the Rose and the Order of Persephone's Circle.

Queen: The Rose stands as a symbol of one who has set an example of courteous and noble behavior; they have supported the aims and ideals of the Society, and have consistently shown respect for the Crown of Northshield. They have willingly shared their knowledge and hospitality with others. Receive this rose as a symbol of your graceful service to this Kingdom.

Herald reads scroll.

The Nobles of the Rose may also choose to offer flowers, a medallion and a lineage cloak.

Herald:

For [Countess/Duchess] _____, newest Companion of the Order of the Rose, VIVAT!

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 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)].⁴

Herald

For [Their Excellencies] _____ and _____,
Vivant!

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

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.

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.

⁴ Actually, Corpora protects the six pearled coronet in all tinctures for Baronage; Kingdom law, however, reserves the six pearled coronet Or (gold) for Landed Baronage. Longstanding Northshield tradition recognizes the six pearled coronet argent (silver) for Court Baronage.

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. (optional)
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 honor 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.

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,
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 honor 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 honor and charity.

Here by my honor 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 honor 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 honor and charity
In a way which will guide by my example
The people of Northshield.

Here by my honor 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 honor 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 Defense

Herald

Their Majesties now invite before them any companions of the Order of Defense 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 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.

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 honor 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 honor 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/Baroness

I am willing.

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 honor 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 honor 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!

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:

Herald

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 honor 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 the Combatants and their Consorts have been gathered together before the Crown

Seneschal

Good Gentles, 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

Good Gentles, 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!

Earl Marshall

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 gentle
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?

Honors 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 honorable and worthy opponent!

[In the final round only:]

Salute the people of Northshield!

For honor, 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 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 honorable 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 honor and privilege to present to you,
_____, fighting for the honor of _____;
and _____ fighting for the honor 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 Honors of the List, above.*

Investiture of the Heirs

Herald

Their Majesties summon _____, By right of arms Victor in today's Crown Tournament, And _____, their Inspiration 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 follows 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.⁵

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 Order is it your judgment that _____ is worthy of this accolade.

Those members present answer "Aye."

⁵ 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 Order of [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

I ask that your Majesties enter _____ into the most noble Order of the Chivalry.⁶

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 Order, is it your judgment that _____ is worthy of this accolade.

Those members present answer "Aye."

⁶ This is the minimum required. Ideally, the peer should speak specifically of why the candidate should be elevated.

The Attestations

Most ceremonies include all four 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 life.⁷

⁷ If the Admonishments (listed on next page) are being skipped, jump ahead 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. A printable page that can be cut and distributed is found at the end of this handbook.

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 they value.

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 right¹³.

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.

The Oath of Fealty

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,
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 honor 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 their 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 of 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 cuts 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 their duty that he might maintain their order in the high honor that belongs to it. By placing precious golden spurs near their 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 them in their 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 their 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 around the neck of the knight signifying obedience to the commands of their 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 forebears.

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 their body between their Kingdom and its 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.⁸

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 Order is it your opinion that
_____ is worthy of elevation into the Order of
the Laurel?

Those members present answer "Aye."

⁸ This is the minimum required. Ideally, the peer should speak specifically of why the candidate should be elevated.

The Attestations

Most ceremonies include all four 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 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. A printable page that can be cut and distributed is found at the end of this handbook.

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 they choose 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.⁹

⁹ If the Admonishments are skipped entirely, skip this line as well and jump ahead to "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 of Fealty

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 honor 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?

As the cloak is being put on the Laurel, a Laurel, the Crown, or the herald explains the symbolism of the cloak.

Crown

The cloak is a reminder of the responsibility of the Peer to shelter and give aid to those who come to them in need or seeking knowledge. Let the weight of the cloak help remind you of this duty.

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.¹⁰

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 Order, is it your opinion that _____ is worthy of elevation into the Order of the Pelican?

Those members present answer "Aye."

¹⁰ This is the minimum required. Ideally, the peer should speak specifically of why the candidate should be elevated.

The Attestations

Most ceremonies include all four 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. A printable page that can be cut and distributed is found at the end of this handbook.

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 they choose 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 of Fealty

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 honor 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 its young when necessary
With the blood from its 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?

As the cloak is being put on the Pelican, a Pelican, the Crown, or the herald explains the symbolism of the cloak.

Crown

The cloak is a reminder of the responsibility of the Peer to shelter and give aid to those who come to them in need or seeking knowledge. Let the weight of the cloak help remind you of this duty.

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?

As the chapeau is being put on the Pelican, a Pelican, the Crown, or the herald explains the symbolism of the chapeau.

Crown

The cap of maintenance is the symbol of the Pelican, for just as the cap of maintenance supports the crown and makes it easier to bear, so the Pelican supports the Kingdom and eases the burdens of its rulers.

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 Order, 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 four 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 of _____'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. A printable page that can be cut and distributed is found at the end of this handbook.

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 they choose 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 of Fealty

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 honor 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 is 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.

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 they choose 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.

Appendix B: Standard Court Layout and Order of Precedence

