

# Midrealm Landed Baronial Handbook



May 2010

This book has been written with the purpose to assist those who have been appointed and have assumed the responsibility of a Landed Baron or Landed Baroness. Within this handbook you will find compiled all of the appropriate Corpora and Kingdom laws, as well as polling information and ceremonies that may be important for your term. It is the hope of this author to give you not only the laws which we must follow, but also some suggested wisdom by which you can be more successful. Each Barony (and Baronial needs) are different, but it is this author's hope that you will find this a starting point at your great adventure. Never feel that you are alone in these travels, and look to your Cousins and others within the Society to continue to help guide and assist you.

Congratulations!

Prepared by Baronessa Giovanna Adimari, March 2008

We are all greatly indebted to Baronessa Giovanna's insight and dedication in creating this manual. I have attempted to add some additional content and detail in hopes of embellishing her prior and most worthy effort, and I hope that I have been at least somewhat successful.

In service to these Current Middle Ages I remain the Honorable Lady Milesent Vibert, Third Baroness of the Cleftlands, May 2010.

## Table of Contents

Corpora of the Society for Creative Anachronism .....	1
V. TERRITORIAL BARONS AND BARONESSES .....	1
A. Appointment and Removal.....	1
B. Responsibilities.....	1
Midrealm Laws .....	2
ARTICLE XV - Territorial Barons and Baronesses .....	2
Baronies of the Middle Kingdom.....	4
Baronial Order of Precedence .....	4
Changeover Procedures .....	7
Ceremonies: .....	7
Creation of a Territorial Baron/Baroness .....	7
Creation of a Territorial Baron/Baroness of a new Barony .....	8
The Basic Job Description .....	9
Awards and Ceremonies .....	12
Baronial Court .....	12
Baronial Awards.....	12
Concerning Theatrics.....	13
Leadership Techniques .....	15
Qualities of a Leader.....	15
Suggested Reading .....	16
Lead by Example .....	16
Baronial Etiquette .....	17
Correct Terms of Address.....	17
Hosting Royalty at your Local Event.....	18
Recommended Reading.....	19
Baronial Polling.....	20
Citations .....	20
Understanding the Law.....	20
Polling Process .....	20
Sample Poll .....	23
Miscellaneous Words of Wisdom .....	24
Acknowledgements .....	25

# Corpora of the Society for Creative Anachronism

First and foremost, we are bound by the laws that have been determined by the SCA Inc. Whenever there is a discrepancy between these rules and any local customs, these take precedence.

## V. TERRITORIAL BARONS AND BARONESSES

### A. Appointment and Removal

1. The Crown shall appoint a territorial Baron and/or Baroness according to the laws and customs of the kingdom when a branch is granted baronial status, or whenever a new Baron and/or Baroness is required. The barony's opinion on the matter must be requested and received in writing, and the appointments must not be substantively opposed by the populace of the barony. Territorial Barons and Baronesses are officers and must maintain appropriate membership status.
2. The Crown may suspend a territorial Baron and/or Baroness for the duration of a reign, for just cause stated in writing and presented only to the Baron and/or Baroness. Suspension would prohibit the use of the baronial titles and arms, the conduct of baronial courts, and the presentation of baronial awards.
3. The Crown may remove a territorial Baron and/or Baroness for just cause stated in writing and presented only to the Baron and/or Baroness; however, the Crown must request a written opinion from the populace of the barony before taking such action.

### B. Responsibilities

1. The basic duties of the Baron and/or Baroness are ceremonial in nature in reflecting the Royal presence in the barony. The Crown may assign additional duties and responsibilities, according to the laws and customs of the kingdom. Territorial Barons and/or Baronesses are responsible to the Crown and (if the barony is within a principality) to the Coronet. The Baron and/or Baroness shall work with the baronial officers as circumstances dictate, and shall keep these officers informed as necessary for the efficient performance of their duties and effective liaison within the barony.
2. The privileges, duties, and rights, ceremonial and otherwise, of the office of territorial Baron and/or Baroness are established by the laws and customs of the kingdom, and shall include the right to make such awards as the Crown (or the Coronet, if applicable) shall specifically delegate, and to establish and present non-armigerous awards specific to the barony.
3. A territorial Baron or Baroness may hold any other Society office for which he or she is fitted and qualified, save only those of Baronial Seneschal and Baronial Exchequer, but must not allow the duties and responsibilities of such office and the office of Baron or Baroness to conflict.



## Midrealm Laws

More specific to us, as Barons/Baronesses of the Middle Kingdom, are the Midrealm Laws. It should be noted that term for Landed Barons and Baronesses within the Midrealm is currently five years. However, Baronies may individually decide on a shorter amount of time, if desired.

Here are the sections of Kingdom Law that describe the ceremonies, responsibilities, and rights of Territorial Barons and Baronesses.

### **ARTICLE XV - Territorial Barons and Baronesses**

XV-100 A letter of request from the populace and polling information from the Kingdom Seneschal's office shall be forwarded to the Crown for consideration of any appointment of a Territorial Baron and Baroness. The letter and polling must reflect the consensus of the members of the Society within the proposed Barony. The populace of a Barony and the resigning Baron/Baroness (if a Baron and Baroness are currently in place) shall in this way advise the Crown regarding the appointment of a new Baron/Baroness. Consideration of the letter and polling requires that the selection of the Baron and Baroness must not be substantively opposed by the members resident in the Barony.

XV-200 Pursuant to these considerations, the Crown shall appoint as Baron and/or Baroness those individual(s) deemed most fit to represent the Royal presence in the Barony.

XV-210 The term baron refers to the male gender. The term baroness refers to the female gender. No two members of the same gender shall be appointed as baron and baroness.

XV-300 Territorial (Landed) Barons and/or Baronesses may not also hold the offices of Baronial Seneschal or Baronial Exchequer. In addition, a Territorial Baron and/or Baroness may not be a signatory on any Baronial bank account.

XV-301 Territorial (Landed) Barons and Baronesses must reaffirm their fealty in person to the Crown of the Middle Kingdom (or the Crown's appointed representative) at least once per reign.

XV-302 Territorial (Landed) Barons and Baronesses must report, in writing, to the Crown of the Middle Kingdom (or the Crown's appointed representative) at least once per reign. This report shall be due at each Coronation.

This report shall include:

- contact information for both the Baron and Baroness (including address of residence, telephone and e-mail contact information, if applicable)
- copy of current, valid Society membership, information regarding the state of the Barony,



- summary of events and meetings attended by the Baron and Baroness, and
- changes to any existing Baronial Charter.

The first report shall include a copy of the Baronial Charter, if one exists.

XV-303 All Baronies will have established a term of office of five (5) years for the Baron and Baroness. At the end of the term shall have conducted within their barony [sic], a polling of the populace for a new Baron and/or Baroness. The current Baron/ess may be nominated for the polling. This polling shall be conducted through the office of the Kingdom Seneschal, following the Kingdom Seneschallate policies. The polling shall be conducted in all regions of the kingdom following the Coronation schedule, as established in Kingdom Law VI-101.

XV-304 Territorial Barons and Baronesses, once titled, shall retain said title until such time as they leave their Barony to become a resident of another place so as to preclude their continued active participation in the affairs of the Barony. Upon leaving their Barony, they shall resign their territorial title and, at the discretion of the Crown, may be styled Baron/Baroness of the Court.

XV-305 The populace of the Barony and the resigning Baron/Baroness shall advise the Crown regarding the appointment of a new Baron/Baroness by a written petition reflecting the consensus of the members within the Barony. Consideration of this petition requires that it must not be substantively opposed by the members resident in the Barony.

XV-400 In the case of an extended, but temporary, absence of the Baron/Baroness, he/she may request that the Crown appoint a Vicar to fulfill the duties of Baron/Baroness until their return.

XV-410 The vicar may fulfill the duties of the Baron/Baroness for up to one year. The Crown may choose to extend the period of time that the vicar serves up to a maximum of eighteen months.

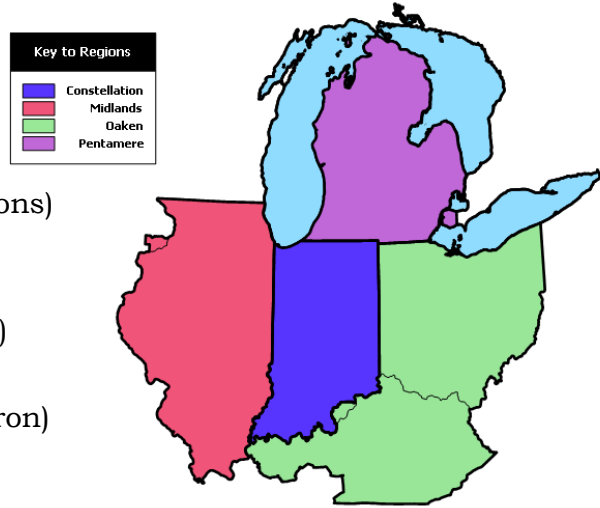
XV-420 If a Baron/Baroness is not active for one year without the appointment of a vicar, the crown [sic] shall appoint a new Baron/Baroness. *Not active* is defined as no participation in the resident Barony at events and/or meetings.



## Baronies of the Middle Kingdom

These are the current Baronies of the Middle Kingdom, listed with state, region and major cities. It is helpful to get to know your “Cousins” and keep in contact with them throughout your tenure. At the time of this publication, an email list, maintained by Baroness Milesent of the Cleftlands, exists to keep Landed Seats in contact with one another.

- Constellation
  - Rivenstar - IN (Lafayette)
  - Sternfeld - IN (Indianapolis)
  - White Waters - IN (South Bend)
- Midlands
  - Ayreton – IL (Chicago and environs)
  - Carraig Ban – IL (DeKalab)
  - Illiton – IL (Peoria)
  - Shattered Crystal - IL (Belleville)
- Oaken
  - Brendoken - OH (Mansfield, Akron)
  - Cleftlands - OH (Cleveland)
  - Fenix - OH (Cincinnati)
  - Flame - KY (Louisville)
  - Flaming Gryphon - OH (Dayton)
  - Middle Marches - OH (Columbus, Portsmouth)
  - Red Spears - OH (Toledo, Findley)
- Pentamere
  - Andelcrag - MI (Grand Rapids, Muskegeon)
  - Cynnabar - MI (Ann Arbor)
  - Donnershafen - MI (Traverse City, Cadillac)
  - Northwoods - MI (Lansing, Pontiac)
  - Roaring Wastes - MI (Detroit, Monroe)



### Baronial Order of Precedence:

Barony	Date Created	AS
Northwoods	October 31, 1970	5
Middle Marches	Date Unknown 1970 or 71?	Position estimated
Andelcrag	October 4, 1975	10
Rivenstar	October 25, 1975	10
Cleftlands	May 6, 1978	13
Carraig Ban	January 6, 1979	13
Flaming Gryphon	October 13, 1979	14
Flame	December 10, 1981	16



Illiton	June 25, 1983	18
Sternfeld	May 27, 1984	19
Shattered Crystal	November 19, 1988	23
Red Spears	October 13, 1990	25
Roaring Wastes	September 23, 1995	30
Fenix	1995 or 1996?	Position estimated
White Waters	January 31, 1998	32
Cynnabar	June 6, 1998	33
Brendoken	February 21, 2004	38
Donnershafen	September, 2006	40
Ayreton	September, 2010	45

The Baronial Order of Precedence is used to determine the Order of March and the placement of thrones in Kingdom Court.

The Order of March is self-evident.

In the placement of Thrones, the highest ranking position gets to be center stage. Assuming this is Their Majesties, then the second ranking position is seated to the right (stage right) of Their Majesties.

If this is the Prince and Princess, then the hosting Baron and Baroness will sit on the left (stage left) of Their Majesties.

If Their Highness are not present, then the local Baron and Baroness (if asked into Court) will sit on the right of Their Majesties.

If more Landed Baronial seats are invited into Kingdom Court, they will use the Baronial Order of Precedence to determine (after the local Baron and Baroness) the placement of Thrones.

For a complete and comprehensive description, including diagrams, see the Middle Kingdom Protocol Handbook.

Of course, with all this said, Their Majesties may decide to do things differently, and They should be given the final say. Some Royalty invite only the local Baron and Baronesses into Court, some opt to have more.

## Former Baronies

Murye Holt was made a barony on August 12, 1981 and dissolved in 1984. The former Barony of Wurm Wald is now a Shire.



Midrealm Baronial Handbook

May 2010

## Baronial Devices

				
Northwoods	Middle Marches	Andlecrag	Rivenstar	Cleftlands
				
Carraig Ban	Flaming Gryphon	The Flame	Illiton	Sternfeld
				
Shattered Crystal	Red Spears	Roaring Wastes	White Waters	Cynnabar
				
Fenix	Brendoken	Donnershafan	Ayreton	



## Changeover Procedures

Once the Crown has polled the Barony (or Shire), and a new Baron and/or Baroness have been identified, an event must be organized to invest the incoming Baron and/or Baroness, as well as (in the case of an existing Barony) release the previous Baron and Baroness from their obligations. The actual ceremony may vary greatly in terms of pomp and circumstance. Certainly you can work with the Crown and your Barony to create something special and personalized, but realize that the investiture ceremony may not always be held within your own boundaries, and so you may have to work with the hosting group as well.

### **Ceremonies:**

The following have been taken from both the Great Book of Ceremonies as well as the Book of Ceremonies in the possession of the Kingdom Heralds. They are here to help you get a feel for the type of language and structure used in the investiture ceremony. Also included in the first ceremony is the oath of Fealty expected to be given by the Landed Nobility once per reign.

### **Creation of a Territorial Baron/Baroness:**

The Herald shall call forth the Baronial candidate and members of the affected Barony, and when they have presented themselves before the Thrones, the Crown shall say: “Lord A., it has well pleased Us that the diligence of your efforts has offered Us such a noble and illustrious addition to the prestige of Our Realm. That the people of this Kingdom may know the worth of these efforts, let the Herald read forth the Proclamation of Investiture.

The Herald shall read the proclamation.

Then shall the Crown continue: “Most noble Baron A., approach the Throne.” Thereupon will the King place upon the head of the Baron a coronet of gold bearing six pearls and the Crown will say: “Wear this coronet in token of your new station. Now swear fealty to the Crown.”

The Herald shall say, and the Baron shall repeat<sup>1</sup>: “I hear swear fealty and do homage to the Crown of the Middle Kingdom: to hold the Barony of (Barony). in fief from the Crown, to loyally uphold and enforce your laws in those lands and give wise counsel to the Crown according to my knowledge and ability. Thus swear I, Baron A.

And the King shall reply, “This do We hear and will never forget nor fail to reward that which is given: fealty with love, service with honor and oath-breaking with vengeance. Rise good Baron and be presented to your people.”

The Herald shall say, “All hail Baron A of (Barony).”

---

<sup>1</sup> Or the new Baron and/or Baroness can recite their oath from memory without prompting; it is one of the shortest and easiest to memorize fealty oaths in the Book of Ceremonies!



<http://www.midrealm.org/mkgb/78.html>

### **Swearing fealty:**

The herald shall call forward those Landed Barons and Baronesses wishing to swear fealty at this time.

The Herald shall say, and the Baron shall repeat (or recite from memory): “I hear swear fealty and do homage to the Crown of the Middle Kingdom: to hold the Barony of (Barony). in fief from the Crown, to loyally uphold and enforce your laws in those lands and give wise counsel to the Crown according to my knowledge and ability. Thus swear I, Baron A.

And the King shall reply, “This do We hear and will never forget nor fail to reward that which is given: fealty with love, service with honor and oath-breaking with vengeance.

### **Creation of a Territorial Baron/Baroness of a new Barony:**

The Herald shall address the Crown in this way, “May it please Your Majesties, but it has been brought to our attention within Your Realm, there has recently been acknowledged a new Barony, called the Barony of G. and as the nobility of that Barony of G. have yet to be created and acknowledged, may I have the honor of calling forth the candidates?

The King shall reply, “That is Our wish.”

Thereupon shall the Herald call forth the candidate or candidates and when they have presented themselves before the Crown and made due obeisance, the King shall say, “It has well pleased Us that the diligence of your efforts have offered us such a noble and illustrious augmentation to the prestige of Our realm. That the people of this, Our Realm, may know the worth of their efforts, let the Herald read forth the Proclamation of Investiture.”

Here shall the Herald read out the proclamation.

The King shall continue. “Most noble Baron and Baroness, approach the Throne.” Thereupon will the King place upon the head of the Baron a coronet of the proper style and likewise, upon the head of the Baroness a coronet of similar make and after this has been done, the Herald shall cry, All hail: Baron A. and Baroness B!

Thereafter may the Crown present private gifts to the pair if desired, and the Baron and Baroness shall make their thanks unto the Crown.

After this has been done, the Baron and Baroness shall make their obeisance and retire from the *Sanctorum Mediterram*.

<http://www.midrealm.org/mkgb/74-75.html>



## The Basic Job Description

Congratulations! You have survived the polling of your populace and been appointed by the Crown as the new Baron and Baroness of your Barony. But after reading both Corpora and the Midrealm Laws regarding this position, what exactly is the job you've been selected for?

The job is, often times, what you make it and put into it. Every Barony is unique and it is your choice and privilege to interpret for yourself the laws included above. This is just one interpretation which will hopefully be helpful to you.

- As Baron and Baroness, you are the **Representatives of the Crown** within your Barony. You are the role models for your Barony on how you treat and speak about Royalty. Try to make sure your thoughts and deeds are worthy of the station you hold. The litany of the Crown says much about what it means to be a King and it is helpful to keep what you are representing in mind. "A King has no right to the common joys of living, no freedom to indulge his personal interests, tastes and biases. He is a sacrifice to the common people... in the time of famine or leanness... he must wear the finest raiment and laugh the heartiest at the lightest board..." etc.
- Part of your job to "**give wise counsel** to the Crown" can be done through award recommendations or communications of Baronial concerns or opinions. Sometimes the Crown will solicit your opinion, though if there is an important issue there is no reason to wait to be asked. You swore to give Them counsel! Listen to your Barony, collect their opinions on matters relating to the condition and status of Baronial health and the health of the Kingdom. Sometimes it is useful to keep a book of some sort to write these thoughts down.
- **Report once per Reign to the Crown** (at Coronation). The requirements are listed in the Midrealm Laws, but essentially you want to make your introductions to the new Monarchs, give Them the ability to get a hold of you, and let Them know the status of the Barony.
- **Swear Fealty once per Reign**
- **Be a Leader for your Barony** - Leadership may not be the reason you stepped into this role, or even something you're comfortable doing, but your populace will expect it from you. They will also expect you to make decisions.
- **Support the Crown's agenda** within your Barony (such as through the War and army, law changes and special events or fundraisers).
- **Support and attend Baronial events** - This is dependent partially on what your schedule and finances allow. Obviously if you live within a geographically large Barony, this may be more difficult, but being an active participant encourages others to do likewise. Again, you are a role model that others within the Barony will look to.



- **Regency Courts.** Acting in the name of and following the express wishes of Their Majesties. You may be required to sign and give scrolls in Their absence.
- **Presenting Awards** that were previously given in Royal courts where the recipient was not in attendance. This is different from a Regency court as the award has already been read into court and is just being presented. It is one of the few privileges of Landed Nobility to speak for the Crown.
- **Baronial Champions** - As Baron/ess you have the privilege to lead your troops upon the martial fields. However, you also have the opportunity to appoint champions to these positions. Sometimes this appointment is made by tournament, sometimes by the whim of the Baron/ess, or however you decide to choose them.
- **Baronial Device and Badge** - You have the right to wear the heraldry of the Barony, as well as grant permission to others within your boundaries to do so. Note: wearing the baronial device is generally reserved to the Baron and Baroness themselves (and occasionally, their Herald). Baronial Champions often wear the Baronial arms in their role as champion. It is suggested that Baronial members show their allegiance by wearing the Baronial badge instead of the device on surcotes, favors, etc., as well as using the badge on furniture (except the Baronial Thrones, of course), wall coverings, awnings, etc.
- **Supporting Baronial officers** - Stay in touch with your officers, both Baronial and within your Cantons, even through a phone call or an email. Encourage reports to be submitted and counsel officers as needed. It is a good idea to keep a calendar of when reports are due. Some Barons/Baronesses ask officers to “cc” them on all reports, so that they know the reports have been submitted and it also provides another avenue of knowing what is going on in the Barony. Sometimes an officer may need you to intercede on their behalf.
- **Support and encourage your populace** - It is not your job to do everything and be everywhere, but it is important to know your populace and what is important to them. The easiest way to do that is to be active and attend various meetings, guild meetings and practices. Recognize the people who are doing good and helping the Barony with praise, awards, prizes or other tokens.
- **Assisting with recruitment of new members** and maintaining of existing members. You are much like a Chatelaine: members of the populace are likely to bring newcomers to you, giving you an opportunity to welcome them and encourage them!

## Finer Points

There are sometimes additional common or customary duties for a Baron and Baroness. As always, it is up to you as Landed Nobility to choose your own interpretation of the role.



Midrealm Baronial Handbook

May 2010

- **Wearing garb** - You don't actually have to always wear the colors of your Barony, just as the King and Queen aren't always wearing red and white. Some Barons and Baronesses do try to wear their Baronial colors as much as possible, and this can be very cool. Certainly the Baronial colors are your favorite! Also at events or meetings where garb is optional, I (Milesent) always wear garb. I see it as part of representing the Crown and the SCA and that way there is always at least one person in garb if a newcomer shows up.
- **Accepting Awards** in court if the recipient is not present. This is a tradition, not anything that's ever been written down, but many will expect you to attend courts and accept awards for members of your populace who are not there. It makes sense since you will be the one to present them with their award later in a Baronial Court.
- **Cheerleader** - It takes a lot of energy and enthusiasm to be a constant cheerleader; but it is important to encourage your populace and let them know they're doing good and that you're proud of them. Always emphasize the positive.
- **Travel** - Some will say that it is important to travel to events that the Crown attends, for how can you represent Them to your people if you do not know Them? The amount or distance of travel involved in that can be prohibitive, especially if the Crown is from a part of the kingdom distant from your barony, but still it remains to make yourself available to the Crown as you can. Also it is important to maintain ties to your neighboring Baronies and Shires and support them by attending their events (as you would like them to attend yours!)

### **Tax-deductible expenses:**

Certain expenses you incur are tax deductible as a donation to a non-profit organization. These include mileage, tolls, event site fees and possibly food. Check with your exchequer or tax preparer about which expenses are tax deductible.



## Awards and Ceremonies

Part of the responsibility and honor of your position is the creation and distribution of Baronial awards and the holding of Regency and Baronial courts.

### Baronial Court:

One of the greatest honors and joys of being a Landed Baron or Baroness is the opportunity to hold Baronial Courts. Like many aspects of your position, Baronial Court can be very individualized and personal, not only to your Barony and its traditions, but also to you as the new incoming Baron/ess. This author would suggest taking some time to think about what types of Courts you have witnessed, and what qualities they possessed that you found you enjoyed or disliked. How might you be able to incorporate these qualities into your own Court?

It can be intimidating to hold court for the first time. An experienced court herald helps! Make sure you and your herald are on the same page about how the court will be handled, the order of business and what to do if an award recipient is not there, etc. A good court herald is like a chauffer; s/he is driving, but it's still *your* car.

To be official, all courts must have three things:

1. The representative of the Crown (that's you ☺)
2. A warranted Seneschal (Does not have to be *your* seneschal)
3. A Herald

### Baronial Awards:

Of all the participants in the Society, only Royalty and Landed Barons and Baronesses are empowered to create and present awards. This is a great privilege. Although other groups, such as Cantons and Households, can and do recognize contributions by their members, those awards are not in any way recognized by the Society.

Baronial awards hold no precedence outside the Barony of which they are given, but can be created by the Baron and Baroness to acknowledge the works or deeds of members of their populace. The spirit of your Baronial awards can be unique to the Barony. If you choose to model your Baronial Awards off of the Kingdom structure, your awards might acknowledge talents from the various areas: service, arts, science, martial skills. You could also have awards acknowledging the various levels of these talents: low, mid and high. This varies a lot Barony to Barony; Cleftlands has only one Baronial award while their neighbor Red Spears has many awards. Northwoods has an award of the Northern Star which is given in three different colors (red for service, yellow for arts and white for the arts martial.) As the reigning Baron and Baroness you can create new awards and also modify or close old ones.

In addition to Baronial awards, there are times when the Crown acknowledges a member of your Barony with a Kingdom award, but regrettably the person is not in attendance to accept. You have the option of accepting such an award on their behalf and then



Midrealm Baronial Handbook

May 2010

presenting it, again, as representatives of the Crown. You may do so within Baronial Court, but are not necessarily held to this.

### **Other forms of Recognition:**

Sometimes someone does something good, that doesn't fit well into your Baronial Award (or awards) or maybe they already have your award(s). A well presented token can mean more to them than an award. Not all awards need to be codified. You may always bestow upon those deserving of recognition with a token of your favor, banners representing specific guilds within the Barony, or unofficial "positions" such as Baronial Baker, Baronial Brewer and so forth. The main purpose of course of all of these suggestions is to assist you in finding ways to recognize and publicly acknowledge the hard work and many talents that your Barony possesses and have fun doing it.

### **Other Business:**

Other things which might be done in Baronial Courts include the induction of Champions, presentation of regalia, prizes or gifts and the change of Office for Baronial Officers.

### **Regalia:**

Most Baronies have some regalia: coronets, thrones, capes, banners, etc. Properly used they can add to the atmosphere of an event, court or procession. Some may be Baronial property. Other times regalia is a gift from the previous Baron and Baroness to the incoming Baron and Baroness and is therefore personal property. It is important to know which is which (and what needs to be on your homeowners insurance!) Your Barony may also have unique traditions (or you may want to start a tradition) for its regalia. In general, even the finest regalia is still just stuff that needs to be kept track of, stored, dusted, repaired and transported. Keep this in mind when thinking about new regalia, and whether you *really* need it.

### **Concerning Theatrics:**

If it works with your personality, consider planning and arranging for lively interplay with your fellow Barons and Baronesses at events and in court. A spirited "challenge" to a cousin, a presentation of gifts, or other such interactions are a part of the sparkle of the Society, if used judiciously.

Some words of caution:

1. Keep it light! The point is usually to provide amusement and interest. Serious business should **never** be handled with theatrics unless it's carefully planned out with **all** the participants well informed beforehand.
2. If anything is planned for Royal Court, make sure that Their Majesties and the court herald are aware of it in advance, and given plenty of time to veto it as needed. A surprised Royal is rarely a happy person.



- a. There may be business planned for court that would make the interplay inappropriate.
3. For court, make sure that the interplay is brief, loud, and understandable; otherwise it can just make court longer rather than providing a welcome interlude.



## Leadership Techniques

Running and supporting a Barony is, at times, far from easy. With so many different personality types and leadership abilities, it can certainly feel like a diplomatic juggling act. On top of that, each Barony is different, and demands different things from each of its leaders. Try to take a moment to think about your Barony. Some questions you might think about include:

- What is the geographical size of my Barony? How easily will I be able to travel within my borders? How many Cantons, guilds, and/or households does my Barony have?
- What type of meeting/practice schedules have my Barony and my Cantons been maintaining?
- What type of personalities and group dynamics are already in play in my Barony?
- What leaders do I already have within my Barony? How can I tap into these people's talents and skills to assist me?
- What type of leadership skills work for me? What type of leaders do I admire?
- When I am done with my tenure, what type of leader do I want to be remembered as?
- How can I not only lead my Barony, but encourage others to lead as well?

### Qualities of a Leader:

There are the suggestions of the author and are obviously not complete, but they are a starting point for consideration.

- Charismatic
- Goal Oriented
- Optimistic
- Enthusiastic
- Able to encourage others
- Supportive
- Patient
- Self-aware and self-reflective
- Cooperative
- Empathetic
- Knowledgeable



- Inspirational

### **Suggested Reading:**

- 21 Indispensable Qualities of a Leader by John Maxwell
- Becoming a Person of Influence by John Maxwell
- Tribal Leadership by Dave Logan
- How to Win Friends and Influence People by Dale Carnegie
- Leadership by Rudolph Giuliani

### **Lead by Example:**

Personally, this author thinks that one of the most important leadership tools that one can possess is to lead by example. Be the first to step forward and enter the dance set. Pick up a chair or push a broom at the end of the event. You will be surprised how much more motivated people are to help when they see their Baroness lugging a heavy box! If you want to encourage fighting, and are able, take up fighting. Or, if you are unable to fight, find other ways to support your army, herald the tournament, mind the list table or water-bear. If you wish to encourage the arts, choose an artisan skill you can dabble in (illumination, sewing, fiber arts, and the list goes on!) etc.

Most importantly, lead by example when it comes to courtesy, diplomacy and patience. Show excitement about your Barony and its members, and chances are others will too!



# Baronial Etiquette

There are many small customs and traditions that fall under etiquette. Some are unique to the Baronage or to a particular Barony.

- A Baronial Presence should NEVER be larger and grander than the Royal Presence. If the King only has one champion for court, I will ask only one of our champions attend us as well.
- It is a Coronet, not a “hat.” You can wear your coronet over a hat, but that doesn’t make it a hat.
- Baronial ceremonial chairs or seats may be called thrones, however some take offense to this practice feeling that the word throne should be reserved for the Royal Thrones alone.

## Correct Terms of Address:

- King/Queen: Your Majesty, His/Her Majesty, Sire, My Lord King, My Lady Queen, My Liege
  - Gold Crown
- Prince/Princess (Tanist): Your Highness, His/Her Highness
  - Silver Crown
- Duke/Duchess: Your Grace, His/Her Grace, My Lord Duke, My Lady Duchess
  - Coronet with strawberry leaves
- Count/Countess: Your Excellency, His/Her Excellency, Count/Countess, Jarl, Earl
  - Coronet with embattlements
- Baron/Baroness: Your Excellency, His/Her Excellency, My Lord Baron, My Lady Baroness, For Landed Barons, cousin or the name of their Barony (for example, you could approach the Baroness of Red Spears and address her “Good morning, Red Spears!”) An elegant derivation of that is “Lady Red Spears” or in Baroness Helewyse’s case, “Mistress Red Spears” as she is a Mistress of the Laurel. Note: It was the tradition that only the premiere Baron or Baroness would be referred to as “Baron Placename” where any later Barons would be “Baron of Placename” a subtle distinction that has fallen out of use in many areas of the Kingdom but still held dear in others.
  - Referring to your fellow Barons and Baronesses as cousin has become common place in the Kingdom but was very controversial when it first came into use and some royal peers were offended that Barons and Baronesses



would use a term of address for each other that had been previously reserved to them.

- Coronet with six pearls (gold – Landed, silver – of the Court)
- Knight: Sir, My Good Knight
  - White belt
- Master at Arms: Master/Mistress
  - White baldric
- Laurels/Pelicans: Master/Mistress, Master of the Laurel, Mistress of the Pelican
  - Sometimes decorated with Laurel leaves or with a Pelican (on clothing, a medallion or so forth) but not always. Pelican's can wear a 'cap of maintenance' which is a red cap with ermine trim.

### **Hosting Royalty at your Local Event:**

Occasionally the position of Royalty Liaison for an event is granted to the Baron or Baroness of the hosting group. If this is the case, and you are planning to arrange for a Royalty Room and comforts for Their Majesties or Their Highnesses, here are a few suggestions:

- Arrange for a Royalty Room that is private and away from the general flow of traffic. If you have the space it is preferable to place scribes in a separate area as well, to allow for the privacy and focus of both groups.
- If Baronial funds allow and the Royalty are traveling a long distance, it is considerate to provide lodging or crash space for Them. Contact the Chamberlain or head retainers to inform them of the location and reservation information for the hotel/lodging. (Hotel lodging counts as a donation to the Royal Travel fund, and your exchequer should be able to qualify the expense as such.)
- Arrange for Baronial members to assist the Royalty with the loading and unloading of Regalia and personal belongings.
- See if you can provide the Royalty with local retainers and local guards. This is a great opportunity for newer members in particular to see a fascinating side of an SCA event!
- Do not forget to introduce yourself to the Royalty. Make sure that They know your name and your willingness to assist Them during the day.
- In the Royalty Room, it is a fantastic idea to have food available for the Royalty during the day. This may be something that you can delegate to another member of the Barony, or something you may wish to provide yourself. Check on food regularly and cover it if needed.



- A point of etiquette: when a Landed Noble or Peer of the realm serves Royalty they are considered to be “Attending” Them, rather than “Retaining.” A small difference in semantics, but important to some.

### **Recommended Reading:**

Middle Kingdom Protocol Handbook –

<http://www.midrealm.org/heraldry/forms/MKProtocolHandbook.pdf>



Midrealm Baronial Handbook

May 2010

# Baronial Polling

(Taken from Kingdom Seneschal webpage)

## Citations:

Corpora V.A.1.: “The Crown shall appoint a territorial Baron and/or Baroness according to the laws and customs of the kingdom when a branch is granted baronial status, or whenever a new Baron and/or Baroness is required. The barony’s opinion on the matter must be requested and received in writing, and the appointments must not be substantively opposed by the populace of the barony. Territorial Barons and Baronesses are officers and must maintain appropriate membership status.”

Middle Kingdom Law XV-100: “A letter of request from the populace and polling information from the Kingdom Seneschal’s office shall be forwarded to the Crown for consideration of any appointment of a Territorial Baron and Baroness. The letter and polling must reflect the consensus of the members of the Society within the proposed Barony. The populace of a Barony and the resigning Baron/Baroness (if a Baron and Baroness are currently in place) shall in this way advise the Crown regarding the appointment of a new Baron/Baroness. Consideration of the letter and polling requires that the selection of the Baron and Baroness must not be substantively opposed by members resident in the Barony.”

Middle Kingdom Law XV-200: “Pursuant to these considerations, the Crown shall appoint as Baron and/or Baroness those individual(s) deemed most fit to represent the Royal presence in the Barony.”

## Understanding the Law:

Simply put, the Crown is required to obtain written counsel from the paid members of the Barony. By corporate definition, ‘paid members of the Barony’ are those members who appear in the corporate database as residing within the zip codes that define the territory the Barony is responsible for. There are no specific requirements on what form that counsel must take save that it must be in writing. Subsequent to the required counsel and barring any ‘substantive’ opposition to a candidate, the Crown may pick any of the candidates at will. For this reason I counsel members of the populace that they are not ‘voting’ for a Baron and Baroness, more they are giving their opinion about which candidates they do not want! It is ultimately the Crown’s choice, though the Crown cannot pick a candidate that is substantially opposed.

## Polling Process:

1. When it becomes necessary for a Barony to select a new Baron/Baroness the group’s Seneschal will, in writing, contact the Kingdom Seneschal’s Office (Group Transitions Deputy) and notify that office of the need.
2. The Group Transitions Deputy will, by e-mail or post, notify the Kingdom Seneschal and the Crown of the pending action.



The Group Transitions Office will then contact the group's seneschal and determine a time, not to exceed 30 days, for those interested in becoming Baron and/or Baroness to submit their intentions in writing to the group's seneschal. Letters of intent will be accompanied by proof of membership.

- a. The Transitions Deputy will coordinate with the group's seneschal to determine the zip codes of the area claimed by the group so that mailing labels for the paid members of the group can be obtained from Society.
  - b. During this 30 day period, the Group Transition's Office will contact the corporate offices and obtain mailing labels for the paid members of the Barony. The Group Transitions Office will coordinate with the group seneschal and the Editor of the Pale and ensure that the next edition of the Pale carries 'official notification' to the populace that a Baronial Transition in Barony "X" will be taking place.
3. At the end of the submissions period the group's Seneschal will forward to the Group Transitions Office a list of all those who had given Letters of Intent and will attest that the candidates meet Society requirements to hold that office as set forth in Corpora and in Kingdom Law.
  4. A copy of a standard poll will be prepared listing the names of the candidates and sent to each paid member of the Barony. A sample poll follows on page23.
    - a. The poll shall contain, at a minimum, the following:
      - The name of the Barony being polled
      - A list of the candidates
      - A method for indicating preference/opinion
      - A space for comment
      - A statement of the purpose of the poll
      - A clearly printed 'return address' and the closing date of the poll
    - b. Returned polls must contain the following to be considered valid:
      - The name, address and membership number of the member.
      - The signature of the member
  5. The Group Transition's Deputy shall also prepare and forward to the group seneschal a copy of the poll that contains all of the information contained in paragraph 5a but distinct from that poll in form sufficient to be readily identified as a 'non-member poll'. These polls will be available to any who ask for them whether they reside inside our outside of the barony. Electronic copies of these polls will be available at [www.midrealm.org/seneschallorum/sheneschal.html](http://www.midrealm.org/seneschallorum/sheneschal.html) in a clearly marked area of the web site. Copies may also be obtained by an individual sending a SASE and a request to the Group Transitions Office.
    - a. Returned 'non-member' polls must contain the following to be considered valid:
      - The name, address and signature of the sender



- The group and region of the sender

6. At the closing date of the poll the Group Transitions Officer will tabulate the returned polls and submit this information to the Crown and the Kingdom Seneschal. The original of the polls will be sent to the Kingdom Seneschal for review of any written comments and forwarded to the Crown for their review of the written comments. Polls will be tabulated by the following categories:

- Paid members within the barony
- Other counsel

Tabulation will also include an average of the 'desirability number' for each candidate/pair of candidates.

7. Based on the Crown's good judgment and the counsel received, the Crown will then make their appointment.



## Sample Poll

Baronial Poll for the Barony of \_\_\_\_\_

In accordance with Corpora V.A.1., Middle Kingdom Law XV-100 and current Kingdom Policy, the counsel of the members of the society residing within the boundaries of the barony is being sought regarding the baronial transition currently underway. Please indicate your choices on this poll and return it prior to the established closing date for this polling. Space is provided below for any additional comments you may have.

This poll will close on: \_\_\_\_\_ (date)\_\_\_\_\_

**Candidates:** *(Please indicate how well you feel each candidate would represent the Crown and your Barony. Circle one number for each candidate/pair of candidates)*

	<b>High</b>	_____	<b>Low</b>		
Candidate 1:	5	4	3	2	1
Candidate 2:	5	4	3	2	1
Candidate 3:	5	4	3	2	1
Candidate 4:	5	4	3	2	1
Candidate 5:	5	4	3	2	1
Candidate 6:	5	4	3	2	1
Candidate 7:	5	4	3	2	1

Comments: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

SCA Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
(MKA): \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
Member #: \_\_\_\_\_ Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

*(Polls not returned will be considered to be an 'abstention' by the member.)*



## Miscellaneous Words of Wisdom

*"You can not solve everyone's problems and you can not make everyone happy -!"Sean, Baroness of Carraig Ban*

*"You are the 'Scout master/Den Mother' for your Barony. This means that occasionally people will come to you with personal problems. Help them as best as you can, but do not become embroiled in their politics. You may have to occasionally remind people that you have a full time job outside the SCA and that it is time for you to get off the phone and go to bed." – Gregoire, Baron of Cynnabar*

*"Remember, when someone in your Barony offers to help you, even with the simplest of tasks, to accept and thank them for all their help. This may be their way of helping the Barony and doing service towards it. If you say no, then you are taking away that chance to serve. These words came from one of my Barony members and rang true to me." –Charles Morton , Baron of Illiton*

*"Lead by Example!" –Lamorak of Dunsinane, Baron of the Middle Marches*

*"I have found that with every decision you make you will always have those that disagree. Weigh each decision and try to do what is best for the majority of your Barony". – Edward Brackenburye, Baron of the Cleftlands*

*"You can't please everyone; someone is going to disagree with any decision you make. That's part of being a leader." – Milesent Vibert, Baroness of the Cleftlands*

*"There are two of you for a reason; lean on each other, trust each other's instincts, be partners in this, let each other know what you are thinking, talk to each other before you act independently." – Helewyse, Baroness of Red Spears*

*"Remember - words hurt. Written words can hurt for a very long time - both you and the person you wrote them about." – Gregoire, Baron of Cynnabar*

*"Enjoy this once in a lifetime opportunity! Make friends, grow and really have fun!" – Giovanna, Baroness of Cynnabar.*

*"Countess Alys Katherine observed that, when someone is on the throne, he or she inevitably is going to be someone's first king or queen. By the same token, remember that you are someone's first baron or baroness, and try to make it special for them." – Catherine Aimee, Baroness Roaring Wastes*

*"Don't wait for volunteers when officer positions or needed jobs become vacant; go seek out people and ask them to volunteer. Take an active role in the selection of your officers; good officers make your job easier and officers you cannot work with will make your job very difficult." – Milesent Vibert, Baroness of the Cleftlands*

*"The baron/ess should know all the loonies that like to swoop down on new members and frequently scare them [new members] away" – Duchess Ithriliel, premiere Baroness Cleftlands*



## **Acknowledgements**

I would like to take this moment to acknowledge the following persons and resources used to compile this handbook:

- Past, current and future Landed Barons and Baronesses of the Midrealm for their wisdom, dedication and assistance.
- Baroness Catherine Aimee of Roaring Wastes, for her insight, additions and editing of this handbook.
- To Master Thorvald, whose work with the Boke of Ceremonies and the Protocol Handbook has been used in this document.
- Baronessa Giovanna Adimari
- Baron Gregoire
- Duchess Ithriliel of Silverlake
- Sir Ephraim ben Schlomo and Baroness Madelaine Bouvier, who thwarted many of my attempts at run-on-sentences and misplaced semi-colons, as well as providing excellent advice.

