

Calontir Field Heraldry by Baron Christopher Amber, OP

In most normal tournament situations, there are four announcement duties the herald will have to deal with. They are as follows:

1. **Calling To The Field:** The bringing forward of current combatants and the warning of future pairings. These calls should be made smoothly and simultaneously. At some tournaments, the herald's call will be accompanied by a visual representation, or "List Tree".
 - A. **Fighters in the immediate Combat:** "Now on the Field <or> Calling now forth to this Field of Combat <or> A & B, enter now into the List <or> Would A & B Please take the Field"
 - B. **Fighters waiting to Combat next:** "Arming should be C & D"
 - C. **Fighters two Combats away:** "Preparing to arm, E & F"
2. **Presentation Of The Fighters To The Populace:** When announcing the identity of the fighters, it is important to make clear to the populace which is which. Use terms like "left" and "right" instead of "dexter" and "sinister". Be prepared to blazon the fighters' arms on sight, even if you have to use plain language instead of "heraldese". If the fighters are using different weapons forms, you may identify them by the weapons they are carrying.

"Upon this side of the Field, A, bearing a red shield with two white wolf's heads facing each other; and Upon this side of the Field, B, fighting with glaive". If the fight is a Bye fight, it is also advisable to inform the crowd which fighter is fighting "In Earnest" and will advance further, and which is fighting as the "Bye" and merely offering a test of skill.
3. **Administering Of Honors (Or Oaths):** In some lists, the herald is responsible for the oaths. In others, the marshal may take responsibility. (Keep in mind that the field belongs to the marshal and to the master/mistress of the list, and we are there to assist them.)

"Do both Combatants Stand Ready?"

"Then Salute the Crown of Calontir <or> the Representative of the Crown of Calontir <or> the Tournament's Sponsor" (gesture in the direction of said individuals if they are not in the immediate vicinity and recognizable to the fighters).

"Salute the One whose Favor You Bear <or> Who inspires You this Day <or> the Good Gentle for Whom You fight"

"Salute the Crowd here Assembled <or> the Populace gathered to watch You fight <or> the Populace here gathered"

"Salute Your Most Noble and Worthy Opponent <or> Honorable Comrade at Arms"

"Now Attend the Words of the Marshal <or> Heed the Marshal's Commands <or> Pay Heed the Marshal"

(In Later Rounds of the Tournament it may be Requested that the Fighters only be Reminded of Their Oaths.) "Remembering those Oaths You have Sworn <or> Oaths You have Attested to <or> Honors You have Done"

4. **Announcing Of Victors:** In some cases, the populace will have no idea who won the fight. In other cases, you will be barely heard over the cheers. One thing to keep in mind is that the fighters frequently discuss blows that are in question. While the fighters are engaged in conversation, the populace is left wondering what is happening. Following a discussion, it is advisable to explain to the populace the resolution - especially if it results in the loss of a limb or in an outright victory.

“Lord Bugbear has voluntarily surrendered a leg”

“Sir Baumgartner acknowledges a previous head blow. Victory to Lord Persimmon”

For the final victory: “Victory to <or> The Victor of that Bout <or> The Victor, A” (If this was a Bye fight, it is proper to Announce who won *and* who will advance, especially if they are not the same person)

Protocol Notes:

Many newer, and some older, members of this organization are uncomfortable with how they should address other members of various ranks in the SCA. They are also concerned with who you bow to, how Brass Hats are titled, and how you treat the Crowned Heads of our Society (providing of course they didn't take the easy way out and faint).

Forms of Address

Milord, Milady: Everyone from the newest visitor to the oldest peer

Lord, Lady: Holders of Award of Arms, Award of Arms bearing Awards or higher

Your Lordship/Your Ladyship: Holders of Grants of Arms, Grant of Arms bearing Awards

Beyond This Point Reverances, or Bows, Are Very Appropriate

Your Excellency: Barons & Baronesses <both Court and Territorial> (6 pearls on their coronet), Viscounts & Viscountesses (8 to 16 pearls, or silver embattled coronets, depending on kingdom), Counts & Countesses (embattled coronets)

Your Grace: Dukes & Duchesses (strawberry leaves on their coronet)

Your Highness: Princes & Princesses, or higher (unique, but less flashy coronet)

Your Serene Highness: Princes & Princesses of Principalities (unique, but less flashy coronet)

Your Majesty: Kings & Queens Only (unique and flashy crowns)

Master/Mistress: Members of the Order of the Laurel, Order of the Pelican, or Masters at Arms (unadorned white baldric)

Sir, Dame: Knights (unadorned white belt) <at this writing, however, there are very few Female Knights wishing to be addressed as Dame>

On The Subject Of Crowned Heads

It is very good form to arise and reverence the Crowned Heads of your Kingdom (both Their Majesties and Their Highness) and await the bid to relax when Their Presence is recognized. The Crown has both a physical Presence and an Aura of Presence. This Aura is considered to be a ten foot radius around TRM, TRH and the Thrones (whether occupied or not). An individual should not violate the Aura of TRM or TRH without invitation from same.

Copyright © Dean Kinsey. Permission given for the Calontir College of Heraldry, SCA Inc. to use this article in this and in future editions of the Calontir Herald's Handbook, with updates as needed in case of rule/law changes and permission to use/print for educational purposes.