

## ***On Being White Hawk*** ***by HE Ermenrich von Duisburg***

White Hawk has the interesting responsibility of being “Their Majesties’ Herald” during Their reign. What this entails has never been set in stone. This article is here not to define the duties for permanency, but rather to outline what someone coming into the position of White Hawk Herald can expect based on my time in the position. These include what I feel I did right and what I would change if given the chance to do it again. No two reigns are the same, so be prepared to make the position fit the Crown.

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Some duties of White Hawk might include:

- 1) **Whatever the Crown assigns.** In the end your job is to do what They want. If your job involves juggling three anvils during court while reading a text in Swahili, start cracking the language books and building up your arm strength. Make sure to sit down with Them and figure out what is expected of you during Their time as Crown. This can also be a good opportunity to figure out what tone They want to set for court and their feelings on what events They want you at and who else They want to see heralding Their courts.
- 2) **Keep the Crown informed.** If you have someone else heralding an event, let the Crown and Their Chamberlain know. Don’t surprise them with who will be running court or (worse yet) with last minute news that you will not be there.
- 3) **Make sure every court is covered for Their reign.** This does not mean that you must herald every court. Far from it. I suggest printing off a list of the events that They will be at and begin finding heralds a month in advance. You should make sure to be at all Kingdom Level events (Coronation, Crown Tourney, etc). Even events you are at do not need to be heralded by you. Your position puts you in the seat of controlling who does court for approximately six months. Make sure that others get the opportunity to do one of the greatest jobs there is in the Society. (OK so I am a little biased.)
- 4) **Train new court heralds.** As stated above, White Hawk can control who heralds courts. Getting new people involved is vital to what we do. You should also avoid shoving a new person into the role. I suggest having new heralds assist you. Allow them to sit in on court prep so they can see the behind the scenes preparation and then have them stand up in court with you. If the person feels pretty confident, you can also have them take over for a bit by reading a scroll or making an announcement. This gives them the opportunity to test out their voice and it saves yours for later. I also found battlefield courts at events are a great learning tool. The new vocal herald gets to practice opening, running and closing a ten minute court.
- 5) **Court reports.** If there is one bane to my heraldic existence it is paperwork. How I hate paperwork. While White Hawk is not a paperwork intensive position, what little that exists is **vital**. If you can make it all six months without TRMs asking for an overdue court report, you can consider your time as White Hawk a resounding success. If someone else heralded a court have them send you the court report and then you can forward it on to the proper people. Make sure anyone who heralds a court knows that a court report is expected within a reasonable time frame (a week is more than enough). A copy of the report should be sent to TRMs, Their Chamberlain, Blue Hawk Herald, Gold Falcon Herald and the Kingdom Exchequer (the amount of money given to the Crown during court needs to be reported, so make sure to get this figure following court). If you hear no response, assume no mistakes and post it on the Calon List. Those on the list usually enjoy knowing what awards they

missed and it also allows one last major fact check. More information on doing court reports (and the form itself) can be found at <http://www.modaruniversity.org/CourtReports.htm>

- 6) **Coordinate with the Royal Scribe.** Knowing what scrolls are needed/available will help make sure that the Crown always has the scrolls They need. White Hawk gives you the perfect opportunity to find new scribes among your local group and get them involved in pre-prints. You may also be asked to help write or find people willing to write GoA and Peerage scrolls.
- 7) **Check the OP.** Every now and again a person will get an award they have already received. This can be avoided by White Hawk double-checking potential award recipients on the OP (Order of Precedence) or by making discreet calls to people who would know. This involves some foreknowledge from the Crown in advance, but can help in making sure that people receive the accolades they earned...but not the same one twice!

Things to avoid. So now that I have filled your mind with things to do, here is a handy list of things not to do:

#### DO NOT

- 1) Do every court at Lilies! Calontir has several great and wonderful vocal heralds. Lilies War is (in my humble opinion) the greatest place to be the court herald. It is also one of the most taxing. You are almost guaranteed every court to be over an hour. That is a long time to be standing and projecting. Add that to the half dozen or so battlefield courts that can happen and you will have one pooped out White Hawk. If the Crown insists that you do them all, you can politely ask that you add one more herald to the rotation.
- 2) Not wear pants to court...I know it's a double negative, but there you have it. Bare knees are not fashionable for a herald. (Or so I have been told after Lilies XXII)

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