

General Protocol and Etiquette

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When first starting in the SCA, things can seem a bit confusing, particularly when there are some folk about who are wearing crowns, coronets and other fancy pieces of paraphernalia. What do those items mean and who gets to wear them?

What the “fancy hats or brass hats” and “doo-dads” mean will vary, depending on the type they are. But in general, it means the folk wearing them are either currently in charge of overseeing various functions of the SCA or have previously done so or have displayed an advanced degree of skill in an area of service, art, science or martial endeavor.

Following are listings of items associated with special ranks or achievements. Hopefully, it will help you to identify the rank and/or position the bearer of such objects. Realize that some specifics (such as award medallions) will vary from kingdom to kingdom, but the basics will still apply. The lists below are based on Calontir law and tradition.

Crowns, Coronets and Circlets

A. With Embellishments

1. Royalty
 - a. King/Queen - Crowns of Gold (With a Cross of Calatrava)
 - b. Prince/Princess - Crowns of Silver (With a Cross of Calatrava)
2. Nobles
 - a. Duke/Duchess - Coronets of gold with strawberry leaves
 - b. Count/Countess (Earl, Graf, etc.) - Coronets of gold with embattlements
 - c. Viscount/Viscountess - Coronets of silver with embattlements
 - d. Baron/Baroness - Coronets with six pearls or six spheroids (either above band or on band)

B. Without Embellishments

1. Peers - Circlet of gold or silver; no protrusions above/below the band; simple decoration; not to exceed 1” height
2. Champions
 - a. King’s Champion - Circlet of blackened steel; unembellished and unornamented; 1” in height
 - b. Queen’s Champion - Circlet of brushed steel; unembellished and unornamented; 1” in height
3. Populace - Circlet of any metal; no protrusions above/below the band; no decoration; not to exceed ½” height

Medallions & Other Award Items

The following descriptions of the medallions that award-bearers may wear are very general. Depictions of the awards may be seen in the article entitled “Awards of Calontir”.

A. Patent Holders (Peers)

1. Master/Mistress of the Pelican - Medallion with a Pelican; a red hat with ermine trim; red cloak with ermine trim (may have person’s device surrounded by blood drops)
2. Master/Mistress of the Laurel - Medallion with a Laurel Wreath; gold cloak with ermine trim (may have person’s device surrounded by a laurel wreath)
3. Chivalry - No medallion, but a plain unadorned gold chain, spurs and a white belt or baldric; black cloak with ermine trim (may have person’s device surrounded by a gold chain)
4. Master/ Mistress of Defense - Medallion with three rapiers in pall inverted; white livery collar; cloak to be determined

- B. Grant Holders
1. Cross of Calontir - Medallion with gold background, a purple Cross of Calatrava and a purple border.
 2. Silver Hammer - Medallion with black background, a silver hammer and a silver border.
 3. Calon Lily - Medallion with split background of purple and gold with a fleur-de-lys and a border that is counterchanged (colors flipped from the background).
 4. Boga-Hirth (Huscarl) - Medallion with the background split in an upside-down embattled "v", the top black with two crossed white archery bows and the bottom white with a purple Cross of Calatrava.
 5. Iren-Hirth (Huscarl) - Medallion with the background split in an upside-down embattled "v", the top black with two crossed white axes and the bottom white with a purple Cross of Calatrava.
 6. Eo-Hirth - Medallion with the background split in an upside-down embattled "v", the top black with two white horse's chamfrons and the bottom white with a purple Cross of Calatrava
 7. Stile-Hirth - Medallion with the background split in an upside-down embattled "v", the top black with two white swords, their tips touching, and the bottom white with a purple Cross of Calatrava
 8. Grant of Arms - No medallion; although recipient is presented with a scroll.
- C. AoA Holders
1. Torse - Medallion with a heraldic wreath/torse of gold and purple; with no set background color.
 2. Leather Mallet - Medallion with three brown mallets atop an "up and down" embattled white band on a purple background.
 3. Golden Calon Swan - Medallion with a purple background and gold swan.
 4. Boga-Fyrd (Fyrdman) - Medallion with a purple Cross of Calatrava on an embattled white "v" section between two white archery bows on a black background.
 5. Iren-Fyrd (Fyrdman) - Medallion with a purple Cross of Calatrava on an embattled white "v" section between two white spears on a black background.
 6. Eo-Fyrd - Medallion with a purple Cross of Calatrava on an embattled white "v" section between two white broken snaffle-bits on a black background
 7. Stile Fyrd - Medallion with a purple Cross of Calatrava on an embattled white "v" section between two white swords on a black background
 8. Award of Arms - No medallion; although recipient is presented with a scroll.

NOTE: Any member of the populace regardless of their rank or awards may have a cloak with their heraldic device on it. One merely cannot use symbols or other display around it that one is not entitled to.

Belts

- A. Knight - white belt of any sort
- B. Squire - plain red belt
(sometimes has the heraldic device of the Knight they are squired to upon it)
- C. Apprentice - plain green belt
(sometimes has the heraldic device of the Laurel they are apprenticed to upon it)
- D. Protégé - plain yellow belt
(sometimes has the heraldic device of the Pelican they are protégéd to upon it)

Forms of Address

There are formal means of addressing gentles, based upon their titles and rank within the SCA. Following is a list to help you know how, by custom, to address such individuals in a formal setting or when you are not personally acquainted with them.

- A. Royalty
1. King/Queen - Your/His/Her Majesty
 2. Prince/Princess - Your/His/Her Highness

B. Nobles		
1. Duke/Duchess	-	Your/His/Her Grace
2. Count/Countess (Earl, Graf, etc)	-	Your/His/Her Excellency
3. Viscount/Viscountess	-	Your/His/Her Excellency
4. Baron/Baroness	-	Your/His/Her Excellency
C. Patent Holders (Peers)		
1. Master/Mistress of the Pelican	-	Master/Mistress
2. Master/Mistress of the Laurel	-	Master/Mistress
3. Knight	-	Sir/Dame
4. Master/Mistress of Arms	-	Master/Mistress
5. Master/Mistress of Defense	-	Master/Mistress
D. Grant Holders		
1. Cross of Calontir	-	Your/His Lordship - Your/Her Ladyship (or Honorable Lord/Honorable Lady)
2. Silver Hammer	-	as above
3. Calon Lily	-	as above
4. Boga-Hirth (Huscarl)	-	as above
5. Iren-Hirth (Huscarl)	-	as above
6. Eo-Hirth (Huscarl)	-	as above
7. Stile-Hirth (Huscarl)	-	as above
8. Grant of Arms	-	as above
E. AoA Holders		
1. Torse	-	Lord/Lady
2. Leather Mallet	-	as above
3. Golden Calon Swan	-	as above
4. Boga-Fyrd (Fyrdman)	-	as above
5. Iren-Fyrd (Fyrdman)	-	as above
6. Eo-Fyrd (Fyrdman)	-	as above
7. Stile Fyrd (Fyrdman)	-	as above
8. Award of Arms	-	as above
F. Non-Award Holders		
1. SCA name	-	no title
2. Generic reference	-	milord/milady (not a title/rank)

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