

A Field Spotters Guide to Rank and Regalia in the SCA

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First things first.....a little information to make this guide make sense.

The SCA has laws and policies that are Society wide and then each Kingdom has laws and policies that hold true for that Kingdom only. The same is true with our traditions. If you are interested in Society wide rules, laws, policies, you should read the Organizational Handbook available on the SCA home page. This book explains the structure and policies of the SCA as a whole. Information on Atlantia can be found on its homepage.

Now when we each join the SCA, we start out with no titles, ranks, or awards. These are all earned during a person's time in the Society and are given out by Territorial Royalty. There are some titles or ranks that are Society wide, but most are Kingdom specific. For the purposes of this guide, we will start with Society wide titles/ranks and move to Atlantian specific ones.

In the Middle Ages, sumptuary laws were very popular. The Crown and the Rich liked to tell people what to wear. That sometimes happens in the Modern Middle Ages. Some kingdoms regulate what can and cannot be worn, some don't. All generally refer to traditions. Atlantia does not have sumptuary laws but does follow traditions.

One side note - Heraldry:

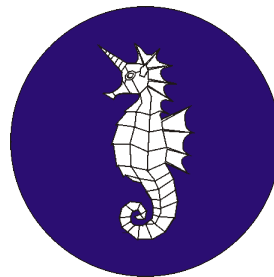
Every member of the Society has the right (and is highly encouraged to) to register their name and heraldry with their Kingdom College of Heraldry and the SCA College of Arms. Once your heraldry and name are passed at a Kingdom level and a Society level no one can use them without your permission. Registering your name, heraldry, device, badge, or arms is the best way to protect its individuality. Once registered, using your heraldry is a great way to help create atmosphere at an event; tell people where you are and what is your stuff; and also show off your creativity. Heraldic display is a great connection we have with the history we are recreating. Go wild! We will see some great examples of heraldic display later in our handbook.

Last side note: Courtesy is an expectation of the SCA. It is part of creating the mood of the event. All people should be treated respectfully, no matter what their rank or title is. Everyone starts out as M'Lord or M'Lady. Once they receive an award of arms they can officially be called Lord or Lady. Then so on depending on the award. However, you can never go wrong by assuming the best and treating everyone the way you would treat the most important person in the group.

Now, on with the show!



Atlantia's heraldry



Spike, the populace badge for Atlantia

Society-Wide Personal Awards and their titles:

There are a few awards that are recognized across the society, these are the Patent Orders or our Peerages. These include the Order of the Chivalry (Knights); the Order of the Laurel (Laurels); the Order of the Pelican (Pels); and the Order of Defense. People in these orders are called Peers of the Realm or Society. They can be addressed in different ways, depending on person preference. Most Knights like to be called Sir (male or female). Laurels and Pelicans are often called Master or Mistresses. The Order of Defense is so new, they have not really sorted out their preferential titles, but Master or Mistress is a nice, deferential way of showing you know they are a peer.

Each order has certain regalia that they wear to show they are a member of the order. This is recognized as a symbol of the peerage across the Society. In Kingdoms without sumptuary laws (like Atlantia), order regalia or rank regalia are the only items considered taboo to wear.



The Knights wear a white belt, an unadorned gold chain, and spurs.

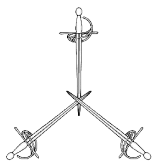


The Laurels use a laurel wreath.

The Pelicans use the image of a pelican in piety (cutting her breast to feed her young blood to keep them alive).



The Order of Defense is still being worked on. Many of the Atlantian order members are wearing collars of state but again, this Order is so new, that these items are still fluid. This is the official image being used online for the order:



Field spotting note: Often Peers take on people (squires for knights, apprentices for laurels, and protoges for Pels) that they believe are worthy. Those people often wear a symbol of that relationship, often heraldry and a belt. This regalia is traditional but not in law and policy. Squires often wear red belts, apprentices wear green belts and protoges wear yellow belts. These terms are job titles and not ranks. You can find this elusive breed of Peer helpers engaged in work everywhere in the society.

Society Wide Ranks and Titles:

Outside of the Peerages, there are a few titles that are also recognized across the Society. These titles often come with coronets. The County and Duchy coronets have very particular looks. The Kingdoms with sumptuary laws often regulate Baronial coronets to differentiate rank. See the picture glossary for examples of the crowns.

Kings and Queens: The King or Queen of a Kingdom is the current ruler of that area. The King and Queen rule for a limited term before they step down and a new couple step up. The correct way to address your ruling royal is with “Your Majesty”. They often wear the heraldry of the kingdom they represent. They also wear the crowns of state or the crowns that are owned by their Kingdom.

Prince and Princess: This is the couple who will step up next as King and Queen. One of them has won the tourney and now they have a little bit of time to learn the job from the current rulers. They are often called “Your Highness” or “Your Royal Highness”. They also wear crowns of state and can wear the heraldry of their kingdom.

Count and Countesses: These are people who have been King or Queen once. They are allowed to wear a coronet with embattlements. (Think of the crenellations at the top of a turret). They are often addressed as “Your Excellency”.

Dukes and Duchess: These are people who have been King or Queen at least two times. They are allowed to wear coronets with strawberry leaves. They are addressed as “Your Grace”.

The Order of The Rose: This is an order for the prior Queens of the Society. It can be similar to a peerage order or it can be non-precedence according to each Kingdom’s preference and tradition. Depending on how many times they have sat on the throne, “Your Excellency” or “Your Grace” is the way to address them.

There are two types of Barons and Baronesses:

The Territorial Baron/Baroness is a person or couple that is currently the royal representative of the crown for that area. They are given power by the king and queen and are allowed to give Baronial awards and titles. They wear the Baronial heraldry and generally wear the coronet owned by the barony they represent. They are often called landed Barons or Baronesses.

A Court Baron or Baroness is a person who has been awarded that title by the Crown. This is purely an honorary title and gives no rights to hand out awards. People who have served as Territorial Barons and Baronesses are often awarded this title when they step down but anyone can be awarded this title as the Crown see fit. Both groups are referred to as “Your Excellency”. Both are allowed to wear coronets.

Sumptuary note: In some Kingdoms they regulate what coronets are allowed to look like. Atlantia does not have laws in reference to how many pearls or points a baronial coronet may have; though you still must have earned the title before you can wear a coronet.

If you are confused as to how to address someone in a crown, you may always fall back on “Your Excellency”. That is a polite way to show respect even if you do not know the actual title of the person you are speaking with.

Field Spotting note: You can identify ruling royals by their entourage. They almost always have attendants and helpers with them carrying stuff and organizing things for them. A great way to get to see your Kingdom and help your Crown is to volunteer to retain. Though some of the royals can be skittish, it is always worth getting to know them. Chocolate often helps.

Atlantian Awards and Titles:

The Orders of High Merit:

These are polling orders. If the person given this award does not already have a Grant of Arms, they receive one with the inclusion to the order.



The Order of the Pearl: rewards continued and distinguished participation in the arts and sciences.



The Order of the Sea Stag: rewards continued and distinguished teaching of armored or rapier combat.



The Order of the Golden Dolphin: rewards continued and distinguished service to the Kingdom.



The Order of the Yew Bow: rewards excellence in archery, thrown weapons, and/or siege craft.



The Order of the White Scarf: rewards those you have excelled in and furthered the art of fencing.



The Order of the Kraken: rewards non-Knights (unbelted) fighters who show prowess and excellence in the field.

The Order of the Golden Lance (no badge yet): rewards those who excel in the equestrian arts.

Field spotting notes: *The members of these orders generally wear medallions from the order. You can often find them often doing what they were rewarded for. Look for the martial orders on the fields, the golden dolphins organizing, and the pearls in the AnS halls. If you spend too much time with a member of one of these orders, be prepared to listen to lots of enthusiastic talk and to be offered a chance to do or try something....they are a friendly and talkative breed.*

The Orders of Merit:

Orders of Merit are non-polling orders. If a person receiving this award does not already have an AoA, then they are given that as well.



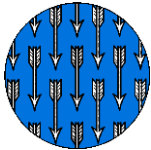
The Order of the Opal: rewards a person for their excellent service to Atlantia.



The Order of the Coral Branch: rewards a person for their artistic skill and excellence.



The Order of the Silver Osprey: rewards a person for their skill in heavy fighting (non-belted fighters).



The Order of the King's Missiliers: rewards a person for their skill in archery, thrown weapon, or siege craft.



The Order of the Sea Dragon: rewards a person for their skill in rapier.



The Order of the Quintain: rewards a person for their skill and excellence in equestrian activities.

Non-Precedence Orders

These orders do not convey a rank or title, so they do not affect the Order of Precedence.

The Queens Order of Courtesy: This award is given by the Queen to a person who is an example of courtesy and kindness to all.

The Order of the Nonpareil: This award is given to a person who truly defines what it means to be an Atlantian. They are an example of all that we aspire to be.

Atlantian Awards:

Sharks Tooth: given for acts of valor and honor on the field.

Silver Nautilus: given for a wonderful act of art or a skill in a science.

Fountain: given for an act of great service.

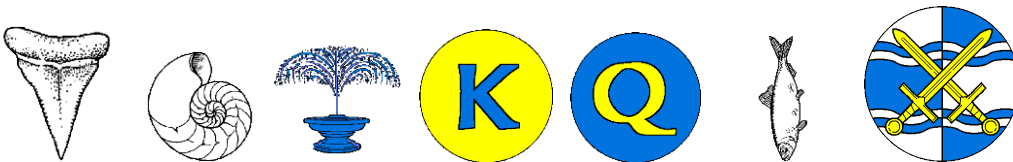
King's Award of Excellence: given by the King to reward a great act. A person given this award can wear a pendant with the badge of the King on a gold circle.

Undine: given by the Queen to reward service to the Queen. A person given this award can wear a pendant with the badge of the Queen on a blue circle.

Herring: given to reward skillful autocrattig.

Vexillum Atlaniae: given to a fighting group to reward bravery and ferocity. Groups who receive this award can carry the banner of the award into battle.

Sea Star: given to those who help encourage the youth and ensure healthy growth and education of our young.



Youth Awards:

Sea Urchin: for children 12 and under to reward service, skill in the arts and sciences, or martial skill.

Hippocampus: for teens 13-17 to reward service and contributions to Atlantia.

Sea Tyger: to reward under 17s for their courtesy, bravery, and honor on the field of combat.

Alcyon: to reward under 17s for their work and excellence in the arts and sciences.

Arielle: to reward under 17s for their courtesy.



Field spotting notes: *Let's face it. People in the SCA love the SCA. They like to talk. Getting to know one of us is easy. Ask us about what we love. We will talk to you and encourage you try it until you run away screaming.*

The Heraldry of the Baronies of Atlantia:



Black Diamond



Bright Hills



Caer Maer



Dun Carraig



Hawkwood



Hidden Mountain



Highland Forde



Lochmere



Marinus



Nottinghill Coil



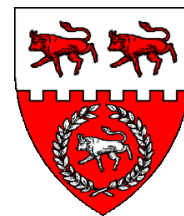
Ponte Alto



Raven's Cove



Sacred Stone



Stierbach



Storvik



Tir-y-don



Windmasters Hill

Field spotting guide: If you see someone wearing the heraldry of a barony and they have a coronet, you have found the landed baron or baroness. If they are wearing just the heraldry, it might be a champion for that Barony. Talk to them. Ask them questions. They will know something interesting.