

ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF THE TITLE AND ESTATE OF A DUKE

Ceremony for the Acknowledgment/Investiture of a Duke

PREPARATION: Before the ceremony, the Herald should discover the blazon of the arms of the new Duke, if there is no scroll. The new Duke should prepare his escort and stand ready at the back of Court.

Scroll/Promissory: Scroll of Arms, if prepared.

Token: Circlet, if prepared, Ducal Mantle (optional)



(At the Investiture of a Duke, there will be a procession composed of those whom the new Duke wishes to participate. The members should include as many Dukes as possible, and may include Counts, Earls, and other worthy Knights. The Great Officers of State may be included to bear witness. One possible form for this procession is as follows:

Great Officers of State

SC

MB

BB

CB

D

SB

Ducal Party/Household

SC: Sword Carrier, bearing the Duke's Sword

MB: Mantle Bearer (optional)

BB: Banner Bearer

CB: Coronet Bearer

SB: Scroll Bearer

D: New Duke

The Procession shall form at the back of Court and wait for the beginning of the ceremony.)

Herald: Your Majesties, the Most Noble His Grace Duke _____ (*name of Sword Carrier*) has business before Your Court.



King: **By all means, We welcome His Grace into Our Court.**

(The Great Officers precede the Sword Carrier. They enter robed as befits their Offices, bow to the Thrones, and kneel along the sides to bear witness.)

(The Sword Carrier and the rest of the procession enter and halt a respectful distance from the Thrones. The Sword Carrier should hold the sheathed sword in two hands, with the hilt upright and his right hand just below the quillions. When the procession halts, all in it make a reference toward the Thrones.)

Sword Carrier: May it please Your Majesties: Your loyal subject, the most noble Duke _____ has by his valor, skill, and strength of arms twice won the Crown [of this Kingdom]. And further he has reigned twice [over this Kingdom]. Thus,

(Acknowledgement of the Title and Estate of a Duke, Continued.)

by his own ability he has earned the title of a Duke of this realm, and he makes bold to approach You that he may receive the Ducal Accolade, and be invested with the dignities of his noble station. In token of Duke _____'s loyalty to the Crown and Thrones of the West, he here yields this, his sword, into Your Majesties' keeping.

(The Sword Carrier steps forward, bows, and gives the sword to the King, who places it across the arms of the Throne. He then bows and moves to the right of the Herald, where he kneels.)

 King:

**Your Grace,
you have Our leave to approach Us,
as it is Our honor
to confirm the title, style, rank,
and privileges of your new estate.**

(The procession composed of the Bearers and the Duke enter the center of the Court. Any other attendants kneel in place. The Duke and Bearers approach the Thrones and bow. The Banner Bearer moves to the left of the Queen, and kneels holding the banner outward. All others in the party kneel, with the Duke, immediately before the King.)

★ **FEALTY - if the new Duke is not already a Peer of the Realm, he should be offered a chance to swear fealty at this time.**

 King:

Do you wish to swear fealty at this time?

(If the new Duke wishes to swear fealty at this time, do the following fealty oath:)

Herald:

To your Liege and before your peers swear your oath:
Here do I swear
by mouth and hand
fealty and service
to the Crown and Kingdom of the West
to speak and to be silent
to come and to go
to strike and to spare
to do and to let be
in matters as concern the Kingdom
on my honor
and the lawful commands of the Crown
in need or in plenty
in peace or in war
in living or in dying
from this hour henceforth
until the King depart from His Throne
or death take me
or the world end
so say I _____.

 **King:** **This do We hear, nor fail to remember,
and We for Our part do swear fealty to you,
_____, and to all your household,
to protect and defend you with all Our power,
until We depart from Our Throne,
death take us, or the world end.
So say We, _____, King of the West.**

 **Queen:** **So also say We, _____, Queen of the West.**

★ **OPTIONAL - Ducal Mantle**

 **King:** **Let my Lord Duke be vested with the Ducal Mantle,
in token of his new estate
and as becomes his noble station.**

(The Mantle Bearer approaches, bows, and places the mantle on the Duke's shoulders. He then moves to the right of the Sword Carrier and kneels.)

 **King:** **Let the Scroll of Arms be read.**

(The Scroll Bearer approaches, bows, and hands the scroll to the herald. He then moves to the left of the Banner Bearer and kneels. The Herald shall read it and then return it. If no scroll is present, the Herald shall read the text below:)

★ NO SCROLL PRESENT

This box is a place for the herald to place a Post-it with the arms of the new Duke.

Herald: Know by these presents that We, _____ and _____, King and Queen of the West, in recognition that Our subject _____ has twice reigned as King [in Our realm], do hereby acknowledge him Duke, and do confirm to him the rank, style, title, and privileges of that estate. And We do affirm his sole and exclusive right to bear the following Arms by Letters Patent, to wit: Blazon. By Our word and hand this ___ day of _____, Anno Societatis _____.
_____, Rex
_____, Regina.

(The Coronet Bearer approaches, bows, and kneels slightly behind and to the left (King's side) of the Duke.)

 **King:** **My Lord Duke,
it pleases me greatly
that you should receive
the Ducal Accolade from My hand.**

Duke: My Liege, from Your hand I am most heartily pleased to receive it.

 **King:** ***(The King unsheathes the sword and touches the flat of the blade first to the left shoulder, then to the right shoulder, then to the top of the head of the Duke. As the blade touches the top of the head, the Coronet Bearer should raise up the Ducal Coronet in both hands.)***

(The King sheathes the sword and hands it to the Queen. He takes the coronet from the Coronet Bearer, who rises and kneels to the right of the Mantle Bearer.)

(Then the King shall place the coronet over the head of the new Duke, saying:)

 **King:** _____, now do We, _____,
King of the West,
acknowledge your right to the style
and title of Duke,
and We place upon your head
this coronet
bearing the Strawberry leaves
which are a symbol of your new estate.

(The King places the coronet on the Duke's head and takes the sword from the Queen, holding it with the hilt upright.)

 **King:** **Your Grace,**
We return this sword into your keeping,
charging you to use it henceforth
as you have heretofore,
in a noble, knightly and honorable manner.

(The King hands the sword to the Duke, who holds it hilt upright.)

Duke: My Liege, upon my honor I pledge to do so.

(The Duke draws his sword, salutes the King with it, and sheathes the sword.)

(If the King is a Duke, he will say the following. Otherwise, it will be said by the most senior Duke in the party.)

 **King/
Duke:** **Rise, Your Grace. We welcome you to our most noble
Ranks**

(Dukes greet their newest comrade.)

Herald: For Duke _____, Hip, hip!

(The new Duke shall thank the King, and the Dukes in his honor guard shall congratulate him. Then the new Duke and his honor guard shall stand to the side, if the person who reigned with him is being made a Duchess. Otherwise, they leave.)

Hic Nihil Deficit

ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF THE TITLE AND ESTATE OF A DUCHESS

Ceremony for the Acknowledgment/Investiture of a Duchess

PREPARATION: The Duchess should have a Rose. Before the ceremony, the Herald should discover the blazon of the arms of the new Duchess, if there is no scroll. The Duchess should have her escort prepared and standing ready at the back of Court.

Scroll/Promissory: Scroll of Arms, if prepared.

Token: Cirlet, if prepared, Ducal Mantle (optional)



(At the Investiture of a Duchess, there will be a procession composed of those whom the new Duchess wishes to participate. The members should include as many Duchesses as possible, and may include Countesses and other worthy Ladies. The Great Officers of State may be included to bear witness if they are not already up front to witness the acknowledgment of a Duke. One possible form for this procession is as follows:

Great Officers of State

RC

MB

BB

CB

D

SB

Ducal Party/Household

SC: Rose Carrier, bearing a Red Rose

MB: Mantle Bearer (optional)

BB: Banner Bearer

CB: Coronet Bearer

SB: Scroll Bearer

D: New Duchess

The Procession shall form at the back of Court and wait for the beginning of the ceremony.)

Herald: Your Majesties, the Most Noble Her Grace Duchess _____ (name of Rose Carrier) has business before Your Court.



King:

By all means, We welcome Her Grace into Our Court.

(The Great Officers precede the Rose Carrier. They enter robed as befits their Offices, bow to the Thrones, and kneel along the sides to bear witness. If the Investiture of a Duke has just taken place, they will already be in their positions.)

(Acknowledgement of the Title and Estate of a Duchess, Continued.)

(The Rose Carrier and the rest of the procession enter and halt a respectful distance from the Thrones. When the procession halts, all in it make a reference toward the Thrones.)

Rose Carrier: May it please Your Majesties: Your loyal subject, the most noble Duchess _____ has by her beauty, grace, and virtues inspired her champion to win her the Crown [of this Kingdom], and further she has twice reigned [over this Kingdom]. Thus by her own ability she has earned the title and rank of a Duchess of this realm, and she makes bold to approach You that she may receive the Ducal Accolade and be invested with the dignities of her noble station. In token of Duchess _____'s loyalty to the Crown and Thrones of the West, she here yields this rose, symbol of her station as a Lady of the Rose, into Your Majesties' keeping.

(The Rose Carrier steps forward, bows, and gives the rose to the Queen. She then bows and moves to the left of the Queen, where she kneels.)

 **King:** **Your Grace,
you have Our leave to approach Us,
as it is Our honor
to confirm the title, style, rank,
and privileges of your new estate.**

(The procession composed of the Bearers and the Duchess enter the center of the Court. Any other attendants kneel in place. The Duchess and Bearers approach the Thrones and bow. The Banner Bearer moves to the left of the Queen, and kneels holding the banner outward. All others in the party kneel, with the Duchess, immediately before the King.)

★ **FEALTY - if the new Duchess is not already a Peer of the Realm, she should be offered a chance to swear fealty at this time.**

 **King:** **Do you wish to swear fealty at this time?**

(If the new Duchess wishes to swear fealty at this time, do the following fealty oath:)

Herald: To your Liege and before your peers swear your oath:
Here do I swear
by mouth and hand
fealty and service
to the Crown and Kingdom of the West
to speak and to be silent
to come and to go
to strike and to spare
to do and to let be
in matters as concern the Kingdom
on my honor
and the lawful commands of the Crown
in need or in plenty
in peace or in war
in living or in dying

from this hour henceforth
until the King depart from His Throne
or death take me
or the world end
so say I _____.



King:

**This do We hear, nor fail to remember,
and We for Our part do swear fealty to you,
_____, and to all your household,
to protect and defend you with all Our power,
until We depart from Our Throne,
death take us, or the world end.
So say We, _____, King of the West.**



Queen:

So also say We, _____, Queen of the West.

★ **OPTIONAL - Ducal Mantle**



King:

**Let my Lady Duchess be vested with the Ducal Mantle,
in token of her new estate
and as becomes her noble station.**

(The Mantle Bearer approaches, bows, and places the mantle on the Duchess' shoulders. She then moves to the right of the Rose Carrier and kneels.)



King:

Let the Scroll of Arms be read.

(The Scroll Bearer approaches, bows, and hands the scroll to the herald. She then moves to the left of the Banner Bearer and kneels. The Herald shall read it and then return it. If no scroll is present, the Herald shall read the text below.)

★ NO SCROLL PRESENT

This box is a place for the herald to place a Post-it with the arms of the new Duchess.

Herald: Know by these presents that We, _____ and _____, King and Queen of the West, in recognition that Our subject _____ has twice reigned as Queen [in Our Realm], do hereby acknowledge her Duchess, and do confirm to her the rank, style, title, and privileges of that estate. And We do affirm her sole and exclusive right to bear the following Arms by Letters Patent, to wit: Blazon. By Our word and hand this ___ day of _____, Anno Societatis _____.
_____, Rex
_____, Regina.

(The Coronet Bearer approaches, bows, and kneels slightly behind and to the left (King's side) of the Duke.)

 **King:** **My Lady Duchess,
it pleases me greatly
that you should receive
the Ducal Accolade from My hand.**

Duchess: My Liege, from Your hand I am most heartily pleased to receive it.

 **King:** ***(The King kisses the Duchess on the left cheek, then the right, then to the top of the head. As the King kisses the top of her head, the Coronet Bearer should raise up the Ducal Coronet in both hands.)***

(The King takes the coronet from the Coronet Bearer, who rises and kneels to the right of the Mantle Bearer.)

 **Queen:** **[Duke | Count] _____,**
as it was your honor
to [twice] name Her Grace as Queen
of this Realm,
let it be your further honor
to place upon her head
her coronet of rank.

(Duke/Count _____ comes forward and bows, then stands before the Queen and takes the coronet from the Coronet Bearer, who rises and kneels to the right of the Mantle Bearer.)

Duke: As it was my joy to crown you Queen with a wreath of roses, it is also my joy and my honor to place this coronet of strawberry leaves upon your head.

(The Duke/Count places the coronet on the Duchess' head, bows, and moves to stand beside the Scroll Bearer.)

 **King:** **_____, now do We, _____,**
King of the West,
acknowledge your right
to the style and title of Duchess,
and We confirm your rights
to the dignities and privileges
of that estate.

 **Queen:** **Your Grace, We return this rose,**
symbol of Queens in this
and in all other realms,
to your keeping.
Bear it henceforth as you have heretofore,
with grace and dignity.

(Queen hands rose to Duchess.)

Duchess: My Lady Queen, upon my honor I pledge to do so.

(If the Queen is a Duchess, she will say the following. Otherwise, it will be said by the most senior Duchess in the party.)

(Acknowledgement of the Title and Estate of a Duchess, Continued.)

 **Queen/
Duchess:** **Rise, Your Grace. We welcome you to our most noble
Ranks.**

(Duchesses greet their newest comrade.)

Herald: For Duchess _____, Hip, hip!

*(The Duchess and her entourage, as well as the Count/Duke, if he is there,
and his entourage, leave.)*