

SECTION VI -- PROTOCOL, TITLES, AWARDS AND PRECEDENCE

1) What Do I Call the Guy with the Hat?
(June XXIII, August XXXVI, April XXXVIII)

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Number of Pages: 2

Policy Level: Informational

Intended Audience: Court heralds

Abstract: Introduction to titles and forms of address.

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WHAT DO I CALL THE GUY WITH THE HAT?

(Spring, XX - Updated: Spring XXIII, August XXXVI, April XXXVIII)

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In the following pages we will discuss how to address people of various ranks.

King and Queen

First and foremost are the King and Queen of the West. The King and Queen are addressed in many ways, including: Their Majesties, Their Royal Majesties, Your Majesty, Your Royal Majesty, His Majesty, Her Majesty, My Liege (if you have sworn fealty), or King (name) and Queen (name). If there have been two Kings of the same name, the second would be King (name) II, the same for the Queen. This last form of address is only for historical writing, as there is only one King on the throne at a time. On very rare (at least in the West) occasions, the Crown will wish to be addressed by the period term Your Grace. It is discouraged, as it leads to confusion (see Dukes and Duchesses).

Crown Prince and Princess

The Heirs to the Thrones of the West are the Crown Prince and Princess. The Crown Prince and Princess are addressed as Their Royal Highnesses, Your Royal Highness, Crown Prince (name), Crown Princess (name), Prince (name) or Princess (name).

Prince and Princess

The Prince and Princess of a Principality are referred to as Their Highnesses, Your Highness, Prince (name) or Princess (name). If you have sworn fealty to Their Highnesses, They may be addressed as My Liege.

Dukes and Duchesses

Dukes and Duchesses are those who have served as King and Queen at least twice. A Duke or Duchess is addressed as Your Grace, His Grace, Her Grace, My Lord Duke, My Lady Duchess, Duke (name) or Duchess (name). (In the West, the Lady of a Duke, if not a Duchess in her own right, may be given the courtesy title of Duchess. This courtesy is given explicitly by the Duke concerned, and any one Duke may specify only one Duchess by courtesy at any time. The lady is then called by her own titles, her full name, Duchess (last name of her Duke). An example would be: Viscountess Tamsin of the Raven Tresses, Duchess Havn.)

Counts and Countesses

These are folk who have served as King and Queen once. Counts and Countesses are addressed in the following manner: Your Excellency, His Excellency, Her Excellency, My Lord Count, My Lady Countess, Count (name), Countess (name). Alternate titles include Earl, Jarl, Graf (German for Count), and Grafin (German for Countess).

Viscount and Viscountess

A Viscount or Viscountess is a person who has served as Prince or Princess of a Principality at least once. A Viscount or Viscountess may be addressed in one of the following ways: Your Excellency, His Excellency, Her Excellency, My Lord Viscount, My Lady Viscountess, Viscount (name) or Viscountess (name). Some alternate titles for Viscount/ess are Landgraf (German for Viscount) and Landgrafin (German for Viscountess) and Vicomtesse (French for Viscountess).

Note: The above (Duke/Duchess thru Viscount/ess) are the Royal Peerages.

The Orders of Peerage

There are three Orders of Peerage which are given by the Crown. These are the highest ranks within the Society a person may attain unless they become Royalty. These Orders are: The Order of Chivalry, The Order of the Laurel, and the Order of the Pelican. The Order of the Rose is another order of peerage which is given to all who have served as Queen. Each of these orders has precedence equal with the others, and two people with different peerages are considered to be equals.

The Order of Chivalry

Members of this Order are either Knights or Masters at Arms, depending on whether or not they wished to swear fealty to the Thrones of the West at the time of their recognition. A male knight is referred to as Sir (name). A female knight may be referred to in the same way as a male knight, may take on the style of Dame (name) or Domina (name), or may choose to be addressed simply as Lady (name), Knight. This is a case of personal preference. Knights may also include after their name (for purposes of correspondence) the letters KSCA (standing for Knight of the Society for Creative Anachronism). Masters at Arms are addressed as Master (name) or Mistress (name). They may use the letters MSCA (for

Master at Arms in the Society for Creative Anachronism) after their name.

The Order of the Laurel

While the Order of Chivalry is given for excellence in the martial skills, the Laurel is given for excellence in the arts and/or sciences. Members of the order are addressed as Master (name), Mistress (name) or Dame (name), and may (for purposes of correspondence) include the letters OL (for Order of the Laurel) after their name. (In other Kingdoms, Companion of the Laurel (CL) is another form of address.)

The Order of the Pelican

The Order of the Pelican is given for extraordinary service to the Kingdom, far and beyond that given by most members. Members of the Order are addressed as Master (name), Mistress (name) or Dame (name), and for the purpose of correspondence include the letters OP for Order of the Pelican after their name. (In other Kingdoms members of the Order use the abbreviation Pel. after their name in correspondence.)

The Order of the Rose

There is no special form of address for members of this Order, as they are already members of the Royal Peerage and may be addressed by the titles given for those peerages. They may place the letters OR after their names if they wish.

Grants of Arms

A holder of a Grant of Arms may be addressed as Lord (name) or Lady (name), or announced as The Honorable Lord (name), etc. There is no other recognition of this class of award by form of address.

Western Lily

This is given for arts/sciences and teaching, and like the leaves of achievement (see below) confers an Award of Arms and the title Lord (name) or Lady (name), if the recipient is not armigerous when the award is granted.

Leaves of Achievement

There are three "Leaves of Achievement" given within the Kingdom of the West. The first is the Order of the Leaf of Merit, given for service. The second is the Order of the Rose Leaf, given for contributions to the arts and sciences. The third is the Order of the Ash Leaf, given for combat skills and support. Holders of Leaves of Achievement automatically receive an Award of Arms if they do not already have one and are addressed as Lord (name) or Lady (name). Members of the Order of the Leaf of Merit may include after their name the initials OLM or CLM (Companion . . .), while members of the Order of the Rose Leaf may include the initials ORL or CRL. Members of the Order of the Ash Leaf may include the initials OAL.

Awards of Arms

An Award of Arms is the first level of "armigerous" award. (It confers the right to bear arms.) Holders of Awards of Arms are addressed as Lord (name) or Lady (name).

Territorial Baron/ess

Territorial Barons and Baronesses are the ceremonial heads of a Barony, and are the direct representatives of the King and/or Prince in their Baronies. They are addressed as Your Excellency, or are called My Lord Baron, or My Lady Baroness. In formal situations they are announced as Lord (name), Baron of (branch name) unless they are the *founding* (first) Baron/ess of the Barony, in which case the word 'of' is left out of the title, i.e., Lord (name), Baron (branch name).

Court Baron/ess

Given, as an addition to any other titles, by Their Majesties, for any reason They see fit. It is frequently given to a Territorial Baron(ess) when they retire. If the person receiving a Court Baronage is not previously armigerous, this award carries an Award of Arms. Holders of this rank are called Your Excellency, My Lord Baron, or My Lady Baroness, or Baron (name) or Baroness (name). This form continues in formal announcements, where they are called Baron or Baroness (full name).

In all cases, foreign language equivalents of the above may be used. Contact the College of Heraldry, which maintains a list of these equivalent terms and will help you to find the one that fits. And remember, that no matter what rank someone may hold, it is ALWAYS acceptable to call them "My Lord" or "My Lady" (or "Milord" or "Milady").