

Awards of the Kingdom of Æthelmearc

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when Æthelmearc was a principality of the East. Last updated October 3, 2003.)



Etcetera - The Kingdom of Æthelmearc by Mistress Jessa d'Avondale

The Principality of Æthelmearc began as the Western Region of the East Kingdom. It was elevated to principality status in A.S. XXIV, and became the fifteenth kingdom of the SCA in A.S. XXXII. The arms of the kingdom are: Gules, an escarbuncle argent within a laurel wreath and in chief a coronet Or.

Patents of Arms

The heirs to the kingdom poll all Patent-holding royal peers in the kingdom to determine whether the departing royalty should be awarded Patents of Arms when they descend the thrones, if they do not already have them. The heirs also consult the members of the Order of the Rose to determine if the consort will be inducted into that order.

Grants of Arms

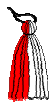
Grants of Arms are given to territorial Barons and Baronesses upon their investiture. The Royalty may choose to have Grants of Arms accompany the titles of Court Baron and Baroness. Grants of Arms also accompany the six *Kingdom Orders of High Merit*:

Orders of High Merit



Order of the Gage:- given to recognize accomplishments in the heavy lists and melee fields. Members of the Order of Chivalry are not eligible for this award. The order's badge is: (Fieldless) On a gauntlet sable, an escarbuncle Or.

{No picture} **Order of the White Scarf**:-given to recognize accomplishments of the fencers of Æthelmearc. Members of the order are entitled to wear on their left shoulder a white scarf with the badge of Æthelmearc: Gules, an escarbuncle argent within a bordure Or.



Order of the Scarlet Guard:- given to recognize accomplishments of the archers of Æthelmearc. The order's badge is: (Fieldless) A tassel per pale gules and argent.



Order of the Millrind:- given to recognize service to the kingdom. Members of the Order of the Pelican are not eligible for this award. The order's badge is: (Fieldless) A millrind argent.



Order of the Fleur of Æthelmearc:- given to recognize skill in the gentler arts. Members of the Order of the Laurel are not eligible for this award. The order's badge is: Per saltire gules and Or, four fleurs-de-lys bases to center counterchanged.



The Order of the White Horn:- given to recognize accomplishments in those martial areas not recognized by the Orders of Gage, the White Scarf, or the Scarlet Guard. The badge of the order is: (Fieldless) A hunting horn argent.

Orders of Merit - These awards convey an Award of Arms to the recipient, if they are not already armigerous (bearing arms).



Order of the Keystone:- given for service to the kingdom, including teaching and autocratting. The order's badge is: Or, on a keystone gules an escarbuncle argent.



Order of the Sycamore:- given for accomplishments in the peaceful arts and sciences, including entertaining and research. The order's badge is: (Fieldless) Three sycamore leaves conjoined in pall per pale gules and Or.



Order of the Golden Alce:- given for accomplishments in the martial arts and sciences. The order's badge is: (Fieldless) A stag's head cabossed per pale Or and gules.

Order of Merit for Martial Authenticity (name pending):- given for authenticity in appearance while performing a martial activity, including research and teaching with an emphasis in visual merit, not skill level.

Award of Arms – This is the most common award and it's the first award most people get. It can be given for service, talents in the arts and sciences, or skill in martial arts. This first level award recognizes an individual as an asset to the Society and bestows the title of Lord or Lady.*

Non-armigerous awards

Order of the Cornelian:- given to honor courtesy. The token is a carnelian gemstone.

Order of the Sigil of Æthelmearc:- given for service to the Crown. The token is the Æ (Aesch) of Æthelmearc.

Order of the Silver Buccle:- given to outstanding subjects age 14 and under. The token is a silver buckle.

Order of the Silver Alce:- given for accomplishments in the martial arts and sciences by subjects age 14 and under.

Order of the Silver Sycamore:- given for accomplishments in the peaceful arts and sciences done by subjects age 14 and under.

Order of the Jewel of Æthelmearc:- given to recognize those outstanding individuals who exemplify skill, courtesy, chivalry and service. The Crown may recognize only one new member per reign, and consults with the members of the order before bestowing the award. The newest member is presented with an escarbuncle set with a gem, dependent from a chain, which is passed on to the next recipient.

Order of the Garnet (a principality order, now closed):- given to former consorts of Æthelmearc, who displayed gentility, grace, statesmanship, courtesy and chivalry during their reign. Companions are styled "Lady of the Garnet." Their duties are to promote courtesy and chivalry, to be an example of proper etiquette, to give counsel to the Coronet, to devise quests to promote the ideals of the order, and to give tokens of favor to those who perform extremely courteous/chivalrous acts, or to those who are constantly courteous/chivalrous. They have the privilege to select a Champion of the Garnet, and to convene a council to advise the Coronet on matters of courtesy and honor. The token of the order is a garnet.

The Ladies of the Garnet retain their rank and precedence and may aid the Order of the Rose.

Other Kingdom Honors

The Champion of Æthelmearc is determined in a heavy weapons tournament. At the end of Tourney, the Crown appoints a Champion from the combatants (not necessarily the winner of the tourney). If the King and Queen are unable to complete their reign, the Champion becomes Regent.

The Shield of Chivalry:- given to the most chivalrous fighter in Crown Tournament, to hold until the next Crown Tourney. The Bearer of the Shield of Chivalry is selected by former royal consorts (including, but not exclusive to, members of the Order of the Garnet and Order of the Rose), and is charged to champion the ideals of chivalry on and off the field, use of proper etiquette, and courtesy, by example, at all times. Should none be found worthy, the shield is left in the keeping of the Crown.

This article was compiled from Æthelmearc law and the SCA Armorial. Assistance was provided by THL Giulietta da Venezia, Sir Magariki Katsuichi no Koredono, Lord Kwellend-Njal Kollskeggson, Master Fridrikr Tomasson av Knusslig Hamn, Mistress Orianna Fridrikskona, Mistress Ellisif Flakkari, and Mistress Caitlin Davies. The illustrations of award badges were provided by Mikhail of Lubelska and Maitresse Yvianne de Castel d'Avignon. Mistress Jessa d'Avondale (OP, Court Baroness, GoA, OSC, OM, OBT, QC, Terpsichore) is from the fifteenth-century Italian court, where she is studying the dance (including those peculiar ones from France and England). She resides in the East Kingdom. Marla Lecin (mlecin@optonline.net) invites anyone with updates or corrections to this article to contact her. This article has been reprinted and slightly modified (*) with the author's permission.

Use this automated form to submit your recommendations: <http://www.aethelmearc.org/onlineaward/>.

Online Award Recommendation

Submitter SCA Name:	<input type="text" value="Lord John Morgan"/>
Submitter Modern Name:	<input type="text" value="John Somebody"/>
Submitter E-mail Address:	<input type="text" value="somebody@yahoo.com"/>
Submitter Telephone Number:	<input type="text" value="304-123-4567"/>
Submitter Relevant Awards or Office(s):	<input type="text" value="Award of Arms, Keystone"/>
Recipient SCA Name:	<input type="text" value="Marie Smith"/>
Recipient Modern Name:	<input type="text" value="Jane Doe"/>
Gender:	<input type="text" value="Female"/>
Persona:	<input type="text" value="12th Century English"/>
Home Group:	<input type="text" value="Shire of Sylvan Glen"/>
Years in SCA:	<input type="text" value="3"/>
Events Attending:	<input type="text" value="Blackstone Raids, Pennsic"/>
Award Recommendation:	<input type="text" value="Award of Arms"/>
Reason for Recommendation:	<input type="text" value="Marie is a vital part of our shire. She has been the shire's for 2 years now . She organizes troll for our events and serves as reservationist. She is also very active in the shire's arts and sciences program, offering many classes in her home."/>
Other Comments:	<input type="text"/>
<input type="button" value="Submit"/> <input type="button" value="Clear"/>	

Æthelmearc is a Kingdom in the [Society for Creative Anachronism](#) (SCA), a non-profit educational society dedicated to the recreation of the Middle Ages and Renaissance.

How to Write an Award Recommendation Letter

By: Lady Hrefna Ulfvarinnsdottir

Anyone can write a letter of recommendation for an award, and, indeed, our Royals depend on each of us to do this. Even the most well traveled Royals can't be everywhere at once to see all the acts of service being performed by their loyal subjects so They rely upon us to bring deserving individuals to Their attention. Recommendation letters don't have to be long or formal but they should contain certain points:

- 1) The SCA and mundane names of the person you are recommending and their home group.
- 2) The award for which you are recommending your nominee.
- 3) An explanation of why you are recommending this gentle for an award. The explanation doesn't have to be long .Include things like past awards received, competitions won, offices held, and work done. Do you know someone who excels in a particular art or science? Do you know someone who teaches? Who holds offices in your local group? Is somebody you know the first on site to help set up or the last to leave because he stayed to help with clean up? These are just a few examples of service that you can mention in recommendation letters. There are many more examples. Just look around your local group or the next event you attend and witness the many acts of service that make our Society great.
- 4) Include a list of the events you think your nominee will be attending in your letter. The further out you can include dates the better. A list of possible events for the next year is even better.
- 5) Include your SCA and mundane names along with your contact information just in the case Their Majesties have questions or need more information on which to base Their decision.
- 6) You may also want to include some information about your nominee's persona as this helps the scribe assigned to make the award scroll come up with something appropriate.

Now that you know how to write your letter and have chosen someone to write one about, how do you find out what awards your nominee may already have? You can ask members of your local group or you can visit the Aethelmearc Order of Precedence at the link below: Names can be viewed alphabetically by first name and include a list of awards and honors for each person listed.

<http://www.aeheralds.net/precedence/aethel-op.html>.

The last thing you need to do is determine for which award you want you want to nominate your chosen gentle. For a description of the awards of Aethelmearc see the article in this newsletter on pages 15-16. The first award most people get is the Award of Arms. This would be followed by an Order of Merit award, an Order of High Merit Award, and Peerage awards (more on peerages next month).

Once you have a letter written, where do you send it? Aethelmearc has an online recommendation site that takes you through the process of recommending someone with a fill in the box form Write your letter in the form or cut and paste from your word processing program. It is easy to follow. You can find this form at: <http://www.aethelmearc.org/onlineaward/>. See the article on awards of Aethelmearc in this edition to see what the page looks like. You can also email your letters to Their Majesties, Their Highnesses, and to the clerk of any polling order you may be recommending your nominee for. Polling orders are the Orders of High Merit and it means that the members get to vote on the acceptance of new inductees. Good old fashioned snail mail works, too. Again address your letter and send it to Their Majesties, Their Highnesses, and the clerk of the appropriate polling order if applicable. Email addresses may be found on the kingdom website and in the newsletter. Snail mail addresses are found in the newsletter.

Don't get too upset if your nominee doesn't get recognized as soon as you would like. There can be lots of reasons for this. Letters get lost. Emails go astray (Believe me, I know!). Some Royals want two letters before giving an award. Others want to see three letters so get together with your friends to write lots of letters. Maybe there just wasn't enough time to get everything organized (It does take time to make scrolls after all). Ideally, a letter should be sent a minimum of eight weeks before the event where you would like to see your nominee recognized. Don't assume that letters get passed on to the Heirs. Always send copies of your letters to Their Highnesses. If your nominee wasn't recognized during one reign, send your letters to the next.

Finally, you never know when your local event might suddenly become a Royal Progress. Their Majesties usually give adequate notice to the autocrat, but not always (Ask me how I know!). It's a good idea to get your letters in often and early just for this reason alone.