



# **Meridies Kingdom Law**

2022 Version (with revisions/changes up to 2 April, 2022)

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## **ARTICLE I THE RIGHTS, DUTIES AND PRIVILEGES OF THE LANDED NOBILITY OF MERIDIES**

### **I.100 DEFINITION OF THE CROWN**

The Crown consists of the Sovereign and the Consort of Meridies. All rights, duties, and powers rest with both, equally and separately, unless otherwise specified by Corpora or Kingdom Law.

### **I.101 ADMINISTRATION OF MERIDIAN LAW**

- A. The Laws of Meridies are the publicly proclaimed and published Word of the Crown; subject to the authority of the Board of Directors and the Laws of the United States of America.
- B. Within the Society, if there is any conflict among the provisions of the following types of rules, those higher on the list will govern those lower:
  - 1. The By-Laws of the appropriate organization
  - 2. The Corporate Policies of the appropriate organization
  - 3. The Corpora of the Society
  - 4. Society Officers' Policies approved by the Board
  - 5. Meridian Kingdom Law
  - 6. Decision of the Crown (for the duration of the current reign)
  - 7. Principality Law (if applicable, within the principality that enacts it)
  - 8. Decision of the Coronet (if applicable, within the principality and for the duration of the current reign)
- C. The Crown will seek the counsel of the Kingdom Seneschal, the Kingdom Law Committee, and any Greater Kingdom Officer relevant to the proposed law change before the creation, amendment, or repeal of any Kingdom Law.
  - 1. Statue is the continuing body of law in the Kingdom.
  - 2. Charters are administrative tools that Patent Orders and Orders of High Merit (OHM) use to define structure and procedure.
    - a. Unless written into Kingdom or Principality law, organizational charters do not have the force of law.
    - b. Branch charters are not written into law.
  - 3. Heraldic law
    - a. Prior to the creation of any new Kingdom (or Baronial) award, the Crown or Heirs (or Baronage) must consult with the Beacon Herald regarding the name and badge of the proposed new award.
    - b. New awards, including Baronial awards, cannot be written into Kingdom Law until the proposed name and badge have been

researched for conflict by the Beacon Herald and submitted to the College of Heraldry.

- c. The Crown or Heirs (or Baronage) should consult with the Beacon Herald and staff with regard to award description and precedence.
  - d. The Crown or Heirs (or Baronage) should consult with Batgatelle for regalia.
4. Kingdom Law changes must be signed by the Sovereign, Consort, and the Kingdom Seneschal.
  5. No new laws or amendments will be in effect until there is both a proclamation by the Crown and publication as defined by section I.101.D.1.
  6. No new statute law, or amendments to statute law will take effect until the end of the reign in which the law or amendment is approved.
  7. Edicts are the lawful command of the Crown.
    - a. Edicts have the force of law and last for the period of time proclaimed, but do not exceed the duration of the reign in which they are proclaimed.
    - b. Edicts may not conflict with existing Kingdom Law.
    - c. Edicts of more than 30 days must be proclaimed at a sanctioned event and published in the official Kingdom social media.

#### D. Publication

1. All proclamations of amendments, additions, and deletions to Kingdom Law must be published in the Kingdom newsletter within 30 days of issuance.
2. The Kingdom website is the repository of Kingdom Law.

### **I.102 PUBLICATION**

All amendments, deletions, additions, and proclamations of Kingdom Law must be published in the Kingdom newsletter or in a special supplemental publication within 90 days of issuance and must be signed by the Sovereign, the Consort, and the Kingdom Seneschal. If a supplemental publication is used, an announcement must be made in the Kingdom newsletter. Publication may be in printed or electronic format.

### **I.103 SOVEREIGN'S PRESENCE**

The Sovereign's Presence is defined as the ten-foot area around Their body, and no person, including the Consort, may enter this Presence without rendering proper courtesy to the Sovereign. No persons save armigers may bear arms in the Sovereign's Presence.

#### **I.104 CONSORT'S PRESENCE**

The Consort's Presence is defined as the ten-foot area around Their body, and no person, including the Sovereign, may enter this Presence without rendering proper courtesy to the Consort. No one save armigers may bear arms in the Consort's Presence.

#### **I.105 SOVEREIGN HEIR'S PRESENCE**

The Sovereign Heir's Presence is defined as the ten-foot area around Their body, and no person, excluding the Crown, including the Consort Heir, may enter this Presence without rendering proper courtesy to the Sovereign Heir. No persons save armigers may bear arms in the Sovereign Heir's Presence.

#### **I.106 CONSORT HEIR'S PRESENCE**

The Consort Heir's Presence is defined as the ten-foot area around Their body, and no person, excluding the Crown, including the Sovereign Heir, may enter this Presence without rendering proper courtesy to the Consort Heir. No persons save armigers may bear arms in the Consort Heir's Presence.

#### **I.107 SOVEREIGN AND CONSORT**

- A. The Crown has the right to bestow titles, ennoblements, awards, grants, etc., as They see fit and as outlined in Corpora and Kingdom Law. Prior to the creation of any new order, the Crown must consult the Beacon Herald regarding the name and regalia of the proposed order.
- B. The Crown is the Protector of all Orders within the Kingdom and enjoys all rights, privileges, and responsibilities of the Companions of the Orders of Meridies.
- C. The rights and honors accorded to the Orders of Meridies (e.g., March and precedence, election, associates, display and maintenance of arms and insignia, bearing arms in the Royal Presence, etc.) stem from the Crown, and as such, are subject to regulation by the Crown. The Crown may delegate these rights to the Orders for their internal maintenance.
- D. The Crown may, under certain circumstances and in adherence to Corpora, delegate the authority to bestow Peerages, and any other awards, to a special representative. This delegation must be in writing for each specific award.
- E. The Crown will not hold any other office during the time of Their Reign; but will find a suitable successor for any vacancy They leave. This will not include custodial care of territorial baronages, unless the Crown deems it necessary.
- F. The Crown has the right to designate sites and hosting branches for Kingdom level events. When deciding on bids, the Crown should consult the appropriate Kingdom officers on events relating to their offices. The Crown should consult the Heirs on any bids for Kingdom events held during the next reign.
- G. The Crown will give the Heirs copies of any Kingdom law changes.
- H. The Crown is responsible for all Royal regalia used during Their reign. They are monetarily liable for any damages done to items while in Their possession due



to avoidable negligence. Kingdom property will be checked at the end of each reign. The Sovereign and Consort will work with the Kingdom Regalia Coordinator (or designated representative) to transfer Royal regalia at each Coronation and Crown List.

**I.108 THE HEIRS**

- A. The Sovereign Heir and Consort Heir may act as regents of the Crown whenever the Sovereign and Consort are both absent, subject to the provisions in Item I-109.
- B. The Heirs will not hold any other office during Their Reign and will find a suitable successor for any vacancy They leave. This shall not include the custodial care of territorial baronages, unless the Crown deems it necessary.
- C. It is the duty of the Heirs to oversee the Crown List held during Their reign.
- D. The Heirs are responsible for all Royal regalia used during Their tenure. They are monetarily liable for any damages done to items while in Their possession due to avoidable negligence. Kingdom property will be checked at the end of their tenure. They are to work with the Kingdom Regalia Coordinator (or designated representative) to transfer Royal regalia at Coronation and Crown List.

**I.109 TERRITORIAL BARON AND BARONESS**

- A. The Territorial Baron and/or Baroness (Baronage) is the representative of the Crown within the boundaries of their Territory and will be responsible for the establishment and maintenance of such procedures and customs as are necessary for the internal peace and orderly continuance of that Barony.
- B. The Baronage will be afforded such courtesies, as is its right as a representative of the Crown.
- C. The Baronage must swear fealty to the Crown. Should it not be able to attend the Crown in person, it must submit a written Oath of Fealty within thirty (30) days of Coronation. It will be considered inactive by the Crown until the Fealty Oath is sworn.
- D. The Baronage has the right to preside over its Barony's events and may hold a Baronial Court at its pleasure.
- E. The Baronage has the right to bestow the Baronial Service Order specific to its Barony. At its request and with the Crown's discretion, the bestowal may carry with it an Award of Arms for the recipient.
- F. The Baronage may establish non-armigerous awards specific to its Barony.
- G. The Crown may remove a Baron/Baroness for failure of office or other cause, or after receiving the advice and petition of the Baronial populace. The Crown and Kingdom Seneschal will follow the Baronial selection process as defined in the Society Seneschal's handbook for finding a suitable replacement.

- H. When a Barony has no Baron/Baroness, the rights, duties, and titles granted to this office revert to the Crown. The Crown may appoint a Vicar to oversee the Barony in Their stead.
- I. The Vicar will have all powers, privileges, rights, and duties of the Baronage, save that they cannot assume the title, nor will they have the right to bear the arms in canton.
- J. The Baron/Baroness has the privilege of bearing the Baronial Arms in canton upon their own arms while in office.
- K. The title of Territorial Baron/Baroness may be accompanied by a Grant of Arms and will process ahead of the Bestowed Peerages in a March of Precedence.

**I.110 TERRITORIAL SOVEREIGN AND CONSORT**

The Sovereigns and Consorts of Principalities (Coronets) within Meridies will be honored as appropriate to Their station, and in a manner similar to the Sovereign and Consort of Meridies. They will swear fealty to the Crown of Meridies.

**I.111 ROYAL ARMS OF MERIDIES**

- A. The Royal Arms of Meridies may only be displayed in the Presence of the Arms bearer or the symbols (i.e., the thrones or crowns) of Their Presence.
- B. The Royal Arms of the Sovereign are: Argent, on a pale sable a crown of three points; above each point a mullet argent, overall a laurel wreath counterchanged.
- C. The Royal Arms of the Consort are: Argent, on a pale sable a crown of three points, above each point a mullet argent, overall a chaplet of roses counterchanged.
- D. The Royal Arms of the Sovereign Heir are: Argent, on a pale sable a crown of three points, above each point a mullet argent, overall a laurel wreath and in chief a label counterchanged.
- E. The Royal Arms of the Consort Heir are: Argent, on a pale sable a crown of three points, above each point a mullet argent, overall a chaplet of roses and in chief a label counterchanged.

**ARTICLE II COURTS**

**II.100 THE ROYAL COURTS OF MERIDIES**

- A. The Crowns' Personal Courts consist of the Crown and Their entourage.
- B. The Heirs' Personal Courts consist of the Heirs and Their entourage.
- C. A Royal Court is presided over by the Sovereign and Consort for the purpose of award presentations, presentations by the populace, proclamations of the State, and/or processions.
- D. A Coronet Court is presided over by the Sovereign and Consort of a Principality for the purpose of presentations, proclamations, and/or processions specific to that Principality.

- E. A Baronial Court is presided over by the Territorial Baron and/or Baroness for the purpose of award presentations, presentations by the populace, proclamations of State, and/or processions specific to that Barony.
- F. Branches below Baronial level may request to recognize outstanding individuals within their group during a court. The recognition of tourney or other group-sponsored competition winners may also be part of the court business. These presentations are at the discretion of the Crown and time for them should be requested before court.

## **II.101 COURTS OF INQUIRY**

### **A. Purpose of the Court**

1. The primary purpose of a Court of Inquiry (COI) is to determine if there is sufficient cause to convene a Court of Chivalry (COC, see II.102).
2. Any subject of Meridies may seek redress against another subject who they believe has behaved in a manner contrary to the Society's rules for courtly and chivalrous conduct as referenced in the SCA "Code of Conduct."
3. Under no circumstances will the COI examine matters that belong rightfully in civil or criminal courts of the nation. Only those aspects of the matter that pertain solely to the Society may be examined.
4. The COI *does not* cover matters pertaining to the SCA, Inc. Bullying and Harassment policy.
5. A COI is not an official event of the Kingdom.

### **B. Composition of the Court**

1. The Kingdom Seneschal shall designate a deputy, hereafter referred to as Counselor, to convene COI proceedings.
2. Should the Kingdom Seneschal have a conflict of interest, a committee of the Earl Marshall, the Beacon Principal Herald, and the Kingdom Exchequer shall empanel the COI and appoint the Counselor.
3. A committee of five (5) residents of Meridies will be empaneled to act as the COI and review the documentation provided by the Counselor.
  - a. The five (5) members must be paid members of SCA, Inc.
  - b. Four (4) members of the panel will be chosen from the bestowed peerages and/or a Territorial Baron(ess).
  - c. One (1) member will be chosen from the populace at large and shall not be a Peer.
  - d. The members of the COI cannot serve in the COC, should it convene.
4. A recorder will be appointed to make detailed record/minutes of the COI's proceedings
  - a. The recorder will have no voice in the COI.

- b. The recorder cannot serve in the COC, should it convene.

C. Conduct of the Court

1. The Kingdom Seneschal shall inform the Crown of a COI request
2. The Counselor shall empanel a COI to investigate the stated allegations.
3. The Counselor is responsible for directing the conduct of the COI. It is the purview of the Counselor to gather documents and/or statements from witnesses to present to the COI.
4. Evidence and statements must be limited to information directly bearing on the allegations of the complainant.
5. Any investigation must be conducted in accordance with the governing documents of the Society, Kingdom Law, and the Society Sanction Guide.
6. The Complainant and the Defendant will provide written statements to the Counselor thirty (30) days prior to the proceedings.
7. The Complainant and the defendant may also provide to the Counselor a list of witnesses with contact information.
8. The Counselor will notify the Complainant and the Defendant of the acceptance of the complaint with the time, place, and nature of the COI by registered mail.
9. The Counselor will notify witnesses of the time and place of the COI.
10. The COI may be conducted in a private meeting or in a public forum.

D. Findings of the Court

1. The COI will be polled to determine if there is a majority recommendation.
2. The Counselor will compile a summary report from the COI and attach evidential documentation.
3. The COI may recommend a COC.
  - a. If a COC is recommended, the Kingdom Seneschal will follow the procedure as outlined in COC (section II.102).
  - b. The Kingdom Seneschal will inform the Crown of the outcome of the COI.
  - c. The Kingdom Seneschal shall inform the Complainant and Defendant of the decision of the COI, in writing by registered mail, within five (5) days of the COI findings.
4. The record of the proceedings, all statements, witness lists, and any other documentation will be held with the confidential records of the Kingdom Seneschal's office for a period of seven (7) years.

## II.102 COURTS OF CHIVALRY

- A. A Court of Chivalry (COC) is convened to hear the findings and evidence concerning the disposition of the subject of a Court of Inquiry (COI). A COC must take place during an event published in the Kingdom newsletter.
- B. Under no circumstances will the COC examine matters that belong rightfully in civil or criminal courts of the nation. Only those aspects of the matter that pertain solely to the Society may be examined.
- C. Any investigation must be conducted in accordance with the governing documents of the Society, Kingdom Law, and the Society Sanction Guide.
- D. Composition of the COC:
  - 1. The Kingdom Seneschal, Earl Marshal, or Beacon, referred to hereafter as Chair, organizes and presides over its sessions.
  - 2. The COC must take place within thirty (30) days of the delivery of the findings of the COI.
  - 3. Notification of the COC must be sent to the involved parties by certified mail within five (5) days. *This notification will include:*
    - a. The findings of the COI, and
    - b. The summary of the evidence.
  - 4. The Chair of the COC must consult with all parties and make all reasonable accommodations to set the time and location of the COC.
  - 5. The Beacon Herald or an authorized representative will record the proceedings, which is defined as the substance of all testimony presented and the recommendations of the Court.
  - 6. The Kingdom Seneschal will provide a written copy of the Kingdom Law, marking the pertinent laws on COC, to the defendants(s), the complainant(s), the jury, and the members of the Court.
  - 7. Neither the defendant(s) nor complainant(s), or any individuals appointed by the Kingdom Seneschal, the Earl Marshal, or the Crown may be a member of the Court.
- E. Representation:
  - 1. The Chair will appoint a prosecutor prior to the proposed date for the Court to convene. The complainant may act as their own prosecutor or may elect for the Chair to appoint representation. If the Kingdom is the complainant, the Chair will appoint a prosecutor.
  - 2. The defendant may choose to represent themselves, or be represented by another member at the Court, and may not be forced to speak for himself/herself.

F. Composition of the Jury:

1. The Chair will appoint a jury of residents of Meridies.
2. The jury must be selected prior to the date of the COC.
3. The jury is made up of five (5) or seven (7) persons, and two (2) alternates, chosen by the Chair. The defendant may reject two (2) members of the jury.
4. Once selected and finalized, the jury of five (5) or seven (7) will select a foreperson to speak for the jury and announce its findings.

If the defendant is the Sovereign or Consort, the matter is taken directly to the Board, as the Board reserves to itself the discipline of members for actions taken while serving as Sovereign or Consort of a Kingdom. See *SCA, Inc. Organizational Handbook*, "Reservations to the Board," IV.G.10. rev 8/2018.

G. Conduct of the COC:

1. The Chair is responsible for directing the conduct of the COC.
2. The Court, the prosecutor, and the defense may call witnesses.
3. Witnesses, by their attendance, agree to full participation in the process.
4. Evidence and testimony must be limited to information directly bearing on the charges as found by the COI and as presented by the prosecutor.
5. Hearsay is inadmissible.

H. Findings of the Court:

1. The COC jury will determine a verdict.
2. The Chair of the COC will deliver the verdict of the jury to the Kingdom Seneschal and the Crown within ten (10) days of rendering.
3. The Crown has ten (10) days from receipt of that verdict to determine judgement, and justification, for that judgement.
4. At the end of ten (10) days, the Crown must send written notification of Their judgement, Their justification for the judgement, and the verdict of the jury to the Kingdom Seneschal, and both the complainant and defendant, via certified mail.
5. The Crown may issue reprimands or Sanctions. If the Crown issues a Sanction, it must be in accordance with the governing documents of the Society, Kingdom Law, and the Society Sanction Guide.

## **II.103 CURIA**

The Curia is a gathering of the populace by the Crown for the purpose of communication between the Crown and Their subjects, usually in the form of a question and answer session. The Curia is held at the pleasure of the Crown at any official event and open to all members of the populace.

## **ARTICLE III SUCCESSION OF THE CROWN**

The succession of the Crown is determined by victory in an armored combat tournament known as Crown List. The tournament is governed by the Rules of the List in Corpora and Kingdom laws, policies, and traditions. Notification of the Crown List must be published in the Kingdom newsletter, providing details about any Royal prerogative regarding eligibility or manner of the List, and stating a deadline for letters of Intent.

### **III.100 REQUIREMENTS FOR ENTERING A CROWN LIST**

#### **A. Acceptance**

1. The Crown will choose those entrants They find acceptable after consultation with the Kingdom Seneschal, Earl Marshal, and the Kingdom Exchequer. The Crown may disqualify a competitor or consort for cause.
  - a. These Kingdom Officers have the right to disqualify a competitor or consort for documented violation(s) of Society policy and/or Kingdom law; specifically, concerning the Kingdom Requirements covered in III.100.C.
  - b. The refusing officer must submit the reason for the disqualification to the Crown in writing.
2. A Kingdom officer who wishes to participate in Crown List as a competitor or consort must have a replacement deputy with all proper warrants and other requirements fully in place prior to submitting a letter of intent. The officer must include this information in the letter of intent.
3. The Crown may waive any of the requirements covered in III.100.C. Any such waiver is considered a Royal Prerogative and must be announced in an official SCA outlet. The waiver will apply equally to all applicants.
4. It is the Crown's right to post a list of the competitors and consorts if They choose to do so.

#### **B. General Requirements**

1. All participants must meet the requirements established in Corpora. They must also meet any additional requirements set by Kingdom Law or specified by the Crown prior to the list.
2. Each competitor and consort will submit a letter of Intent to the Crown, Kingdom Seneschal, Kingdom Exchequer, and Earl Marshal on or before the published deadline. The letter of Intent must include, at a bare minimum, the following:
  - a. A statement that it is the intent of the competitor and consort to participate.
  - b. A statement that each person has read Corpora and Kingdom Law and meets the respective requirements of each.

- c. Proof of membership for both the competitor and consort.
  - d. A copy of the competitor's authorization card.
  - e. The competitor and the consort must sign the letter.
3. No competitor or consort will have any outstanding financial obligation to the Kingdom or the SCA.

#### C. Kingdom Requirements

1. Each competitor must compete for only one (1) person who has consented to serve as the Consort of Meridies. Each consort will have only one (1) champion competing in the List.
2. Each competitor and consort must take the traditional Sword Oath affirming they are able to fulfill the duties of the Crown should they prove victorious.
3. Each competitor and consort must have lived within the Kingdom, maintained a Society membership for the full twelve (12) months preceding Crown List, and provide assurances they will continue to reside within the Kingdom for the duration of their reign, if they prove victorious.
4. Each competitor and consort must be at least nineteen (19) years of age on or before the date of Crown List.
5. The consort must attend the list unless the Crown grants special dispensation.
6. Competitors must fight using their own equipment unless their equipment is damaged during combat in the List.
7. Within seven (7) days of Crown List, the Sovereign Heir and Consort Heir must provide to the Kingdom Seneschal proof that Their memberships extend through the end of Their reign as Sovereign and Consort if They have not done so already.

### **III.101 SUCCESSION, ABDICATION, OR FAILURE OF THE CROWN**

- A. A Sovereign or Consort's reign will be considered 'failed' if any event occurs which precludes the completion of the reign.
- B. In the event a Consort abdicates or fails, the Sovereign will continue to rule. The Sovereign may choose another Consort who will reign with the Sovereign until the next Coronation.
- C. In the event a Sovereign abdicates or fails, the Consort will continue to rule alone for the remainder of the reign. The Consort has all powers and prerogatives of the Sovereign with the exception of choosing a new Consort.
- D. Should both Sovereign and Consort abdicate or fail, their Heirs may rule as Regents until Their properly scheduled Coronation date or, after consultation with the Kingdom Seneschal, call for a Coronation to be held as soon as possible.



- E. If the Kingdom does not have Heirs, the most recent past Sovereign available (excluding the Sovereign who abdicated or failed) will serve as Regent until a new Sovereign and Consort can be selected. The Regent, Kingdom Seneschal, and Earl Marshal will hold a new Crown List within 8 weeks. The winner and consort will be crowned immediately as Sovereign and Consort.
- F. The Crown or Regent and Kingdom Seneschal will change the calendar, if necessary, to satisfy Kingdom Law regarding dates for future Crown Lists and Coronations.

## **ARTICLE IV DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF OFFICERS**

### **IV.100 REQUIREMENTS TO HOLD OFFICE**

(See Corpora)

- A. All officers, at all levels, must be paid members and have access to the Kingdom newsletter.
- B. All deputies must also meet the membership requirement of IV-100.A.
- C. All officers at all levels are appointed and removed at the pleasure of the Crown within the directives of Corpora and the advice of the corresponding Society officer or their Kingdom superior.
- D. All officers are subject to the governing documents and policies of the Society, Corporate Officer Handbooks, their Society counterpart, Kingdom Law, the Kingdom Officer Handbooks, and the decision of the Crown.
- E. All officers must have phone and internet access with an email address to facilitate Kingdom business. The phone number and email address will be published in the Kingdom newsletter.
- F. No Kingdom-level officer may hold the corresponding local position at any time during their time in office; holding other major branch offices is discouraged unless minimal branch membership creates a need.
- G. All Kingdom officers must reside within the Kingdom of Meridies for the entire tenure of their office unless an exception is approved by the Crown, the Kingdom Seneschal, and their Society counterpart.

### **IV.101 WARRANTS AND ROSTER OF OFFICE**

- A. All Kingdom Officers of state must have a Warrant of Appointment signed by the Crown, or their designate, and the corresponding Kingdom/Society officer, to be considered an active officer.
- B. All other officers at all levels may have either a Warrant of Appointment or exist on a roster signed by the Crown or their designate, and the responsible superior officer to be considered an active officer. The roster must contain a statement that it is the current roster of (office) for the Kingdom of Meridies as of (date).
- C. All Warrants expire at the end of two years and are renewable at the end of this period at the pleasure of the crown and the corresponding Kingdom/Society Officer.

#### **IV.102 KINGDOM OFFICERS OF STATE**

- A. The Great Officers of State are the warranted holders of the following offices: Seneschal, Earl Marshal, Beacon Herald, Minister of Arts and Sciences, Chronicler, Chancellor of the Exchequer, Chatelaine, Kingdom Webminister, Kingdom Communications Officer, and Parchment Clerk.
- B. The Lesser Officers of State are the warranted holders of the following offices: Historian, Minister of Children, and the Kingdom Regalia Coordinator.
- C. All Officers of State are responsible directly to the Crown, but also report to a corresponding Society/Kingdom officer, if such a Society officer exists.
- D. The Officers of State must copy the Crown, Heirs, and Kingdom Seneschal on their regular written reports to their corresponding Society/Kingdom officers, giving the state of their particular office.
- E. Each Officer of State is responsible for ensuring the administrative handbooks of their office are compliant with Society policies and the current needs of the Kingdom by reviewing the handbook every two years. Each officer will provide verification of the review to the Kingdom Seneschal.
- F. No Officer of State will make decisions affecting a branch that has asked for intervention in solving a problem without first consulting with the Crown and the Kingdom Seneschal.
- G. The Officers of State, in addition to their specific duties, serve in the Crown's cabinet of advisors.
- H. The Officers of State will meet at Crown List and, given notice, at the pleasure of the Crown or the Kingdom Seneschal.
- I. All Officers of State should maintain an active Kingdom-wide presence. This includes regular travel to assist branches as needed, within their area of expertise.
- J. The Crown reserves the right to create new Officers of State for their reign.
- K. All Kingdom Officers must advertise for applicants to be their replacement deputy in the Kingdom newsletter.

#### **IV.103 PRIVY COUNCIL**

- A. Appointed by the Crown, the Royal Chancellor is the head of their Privy Council for the duration of Their Reign.
- B. Appointed by the Heirs, the High Chancellor is the head of their Privy Council for the duration of Their Reign.
- C. The Royal Chancellor and the High Chancellor are charged to assist the Crown, Heirs and Royal Regalia Coordinator to inventory the royal regalia at Coronations and Crown Lists.

#### **IV.104 LEGAL AUTHORITY**

- A. The chain of mundane legal authority and responsibility is
  - 1. The Kingdom Seneschal and
  - 2. The Earl Marshal.
- B. No other Kingdom officer will have any civil legal power with the exception of the Chancellor of the Exchequer in matters regarding Kingdom funds.

#### **IV.105 KINGDOM SENESCHAL**

- A. The Kingdom Seneschal, as the chief representative of the Board of Directors, is the supreme legal authority within the Kingdom.
- B. The Kingdom Seneschal has the authority to withdraw the Society's sanction from an event when the activities of the branch or individuals violates or conflicts with mundane law, the governing documents of the Society, rules of the site, and/or Kingdom Law. Sanction should be withdrawn only as a last resort.
- C. The Kingdom Seneschal, as supreme autocrat, oversees the planning and running of Kingdom events.
- D. The Kingdom Seneschal is responsible for ensuring that Kingdom Law is compliant with the governing documents of the Society in the event that one or the other does change.
- E. The Kingdom Seneschal coordinates the activities of other Kingdom officers including scheduling meetings and requiring additional reports of other Kingdom officers as needed for the operation of the Kingdom.
- F. The Kingdom Seneschal must be a signatory on all Kingdom money accounts.
- G. The Kingdom Seneschal is responsible for and has authority over all other seneschals in the various branches of the Kingdom.
- H. The Kingdom Seneschal may appoint deputies as necessary to aid in the administration of their office.

#### **IV.105.1 KINGDOM LAW CLERK**

- A. The Kingdom Law Clerk (referred to hereafter as The Clerk) is a deputy of the Kingdom Seneschal and will maintain the laws of the Kingdom of Meridies.
- B. The Clerk will maintain a record of when laws are published and proclaimed in Royal Court.
- C. The Clerk will be responsible for maintaining the Online Law Library to ensure availability of the proclamation packet for all law changes to the populace. The packet will include the signed proclamation, a record of the date and event where the law was announced, and a PDF of the publication in the Kingdom newsletter.
- D. The Clerk will monitor Corporate and Board communications for changes to any corporate policy that may impact Meridian Kingdom Law (MKL). The Clerk will

advise the Kingdom Seneschal regarding changes that may be needed to bring Kingdom Law into compliance with Corporate policy.

- E. Once per reign, the Clerk will review Meridian Kingdom Law for conformance to Corporate policies. This shall include consulting with other Kingdom Officers to verify that Meridian Kingdom Law is in compliance with their respective Society and Kingdom handbooks.
- F. The Clerk will advise the Royal Family, Kingdom Seneschal, and the Law Committee on any changes that need to be made to bring Kingdom Law into compliance with Corporate policy.
- G. The Clerk will serve as secretary for the Kingdom Law Committee, as defined in Section IV.105.2.

#### **IV.105.2 KINGDOM LAW COMMITTEE**

- A. The Law Committee will act as advisors to the Royal Family, Kingdom Seneschal, and other Kingdom Officers on the creation or modification of Kingdom laws.
- B. The Law Committee may propose new language for Kingdom laws at the request of the Crown, the Kingdom Seneschal, or other Kingdom Officers.
- C. The governance and selection of members of the Law Committee is outlined in the Law Committee Handbook, maintained within the Kingdom Law library.
- D. The Law Committee will consist of one member of each Patent order: the Chivalry, Laurel, Pelican, Defense, a Royal Peer, and two non-peer members of the populace for a total of seven.
- E. The Kingdom Law Clerk, as a deputy of the Kingdom Seneschal, will serve as secretary for the Kingdom Law Committee and does not vote.
- F. All Committee members must be paid members of SCA, Inc., and in good standing.
- G. All Statute Law changes to Kingdom Law will be presented to the Law Committee for review.
- H. Royal Edicts are not the purview of the Law Committee.
- I. The Law Committee will not address items that fall under the purview of the SCA College of Heraldry (i.e., award structure, names, devices, badges, and sumptuary law).
- J. Proposed law changes will be presented to the Law Committee, and they shall have two weeks to review and respond.
- K. Should the review process reveal conflict with governing documents (see I.101 Laws of Meridies), the Law Clerk will alert the Kingdom Seneschal.
- L. Minutes from the previous meeting of the Law Committee will be presented in approval at the next Law Committee meeting for approval by those in attendance.

#### **IV.106 BRANCH SENESCHALS**

- A. The duties of a branch seneschal are similar to those of the Kingdom Seneschal but are under the authority of the Kingdom Seneschal as well as the Crown.
- B. Branch seneschals may require copies of the reports the other branch officers send to their Kingdom superiors.
- C. Branch seneschals have the right to recommend a replacement for any branch officer to the appropriate Kingdom officer. The Crown and the Kingdom officer make the ultimate decision on the replacement officer.

#### **IV.107 EARL MARSHALL**

- A. The Earl Marshal acts as the Crown's representative on the field to ensure the adherence to the Rules of the Lists and the Society and Meridian Marshals handbooks, promoting the safety of all Society combat, and for the correct training of combatants.
- B. The Earl Marshal, or an appointed representative, oversees all fighting at all Kingdom level events.
  - 1. To facilitate the administration of the List, the Earl Marshall shall appoint the master/mistress of the Lists (MoL).
  - 2. The MoL shall report directly to the Kingdom Earl Marshal.
  - 3. The MoL shall work in conjunction with the Lighthouse Herald for Crown Tournaments.
- C. The Earl Marshal has the right to withdraw the sanction of any official combat for reasons of safety.
- D. The Earl Marshal is responsible for and has authority over all other marshals in the various branches of the Kingdom.
- E. The Earl Marshal may appoint deputies as necessary to aid in the administration of their office.

#### **IV.108 BEACON HERALD**

- A. The Beacon Herald is responsible for fostering the study and practice of heraldic arts in the Kingdom including all aspects of heraldic consultation and submissions, education of list, field, and court heraldry, and maintenance of Precedence.
- B. The Beacon Herald is responsible for and has authority over the College of Heralds, all branch heralds, pursuivants.
- C. The Beacon Herald may appoint, in addition to the College of Heralds, those deputies necessary to aid in the administration of their office.

#### **IV.109 MINISTER OF ARTS AND SCIENCES**

- A. The Minister of Arts and Sciences is responsible for fostering the arts and sciences and encouraging Royal and other Noble patronage.

- B. The Minister of Arts and Sciences should regularly sponsor classes, symposia, and other educational opportunities to acquaint the populace with the basic knowledge and skills vital to the continuing growth and life of the arts and sciences within the Kingdom.
- C. The Minister of Arts and Sciences is responsible for coordinating the Kingdom Arts and Science Faire.
- D. The Minister of Arts and Sciences is responsible for and has authority over all other Arts and Sciences Ministers in the various branches of the Kingdom.
- E. The Minister of Arts and Sciences may appoint deputies as necessary to aid in the administration of their office.

**IV.110 PARCHMENT CLERK**

- A. The Parchment Clerk is responsible for the management and reporting of the scribal activities in the Kingdom of Meridies. These activities may include the production of scrolls, court preparation, scribal roster, and maintenance of the online scribal presence.
- B. The Parchment Clerk may appoint those deputies necessary to aid in the administration of their office.
- C. The Parchment Clerk reports quarterly through the Kingdom Arts & Sciences Officer.

**IV.111 CHRONICLER**

- A. The Chronicler is responsible for the regular publication of the Kingdom newsletter and any other Kingdom publications or documents as necessary.
- B. The Chronicler is responsible for reviewing event flyers for compliance to Society and Kingdom guidelines.
- C. The Chronicler is responsible for and has authority over all other chroniclers in the various branches of the Kingdom.
- D. The Chronicler may appoint deputies as necessary to aid in the administration of their office.

**IV.112 CHANCELLOR OF THE EXCHEQUER**

- A. The Chancellor of the Exchequer is responsible for all withdrawals, collections, and usage of Kingdom monies and must keep records of all financial transactions.
- B. The Chancellor of the Exchequer will require financial reports from the individuals or branches responsible for hosting events and activities using Kingdom monies.
- C. The Chancellor of the Exchequer must review and make available Kingdom Financial Policy every three years via the Kingdom website.
- D. The Chancellor of the Exchequer must submit a notice of all expenditures of \$300.00 or more to the Kingdom newsletter within 60 days.

- E. The Chancellor of the Exchequer must submit a summary of the Domesday Report to the Kingdom newsletter within 30 days of Society approval.
- F. Funds dispersal will follow the process defined in Kingdom Financial Policy.
- G. The Chancellor of the Exchequer is responsible for holding in trust monies of all Kingdom level offices and guilds.
- H. The Chancellor of the Exchequer is responsible for and has authority over all other exchequers in the various branches of the Kingdom.
- I. The Chancellor of the Exchequer may appoint deputies as necessary to aid in the administration of their office.

#### **IV.113 KINGDOM CHATELAINE**

- A. The Kingdom Chatelaine acts as a liaison to newcomers in the Kingdom and the Society and provides the services and information necessary to introduce and acclimate newcomers to Kingdom and Society culture.
- B. The Kingdom Chatelaine oversees the publication of newcomer's handbooks designed to introduce the Society to newcomers and the public at large. These handbooks are subject to final approval by the Kingdom Seneschal and the Society Chatelaine.
- C. The Kingdom Chatelaine is responsible for and has authority over all other chatelaines in the various branches of the Kingdom.
- D. The Kingdom Chatelaine may appoint deputies as necessary to aid in the administration of their office.

#### **IV.114 KINGDOM WEBMINISTER**

- A. The Kingdom Webminister is responsible for ensuring Kingdom and branch compliance with the Society's Electronic Publication policies and oversees the administration of the Kingdom website.
- B. The Kingdom Webminister is responsible for reviewing online event flyers linked from the Kingdom and other official websites and for ensuring that the flyers meet the appropriate Society and Kingdom standards.
- C. The Kingdom Webminister is responsible for and has authority over all other webministers in the various branches of the Kingdom.
- D. The Kingdom Webminister may appoint deputies as necessary to aid in the administration of their office.

#### **IV.115 MINISTER OF CHILDREN**

- A. The Minister of Children fosters the education of the children of Meridies (between the ages of 5 to 16) on medieval activities and the Society. This position is a deputy to the Kingdom Seneschal.
- B. The Minister of Children will ensure, but not necessarily run, children's activities that occur at Kingdom-level events.

- C. The Minister of Children administers and develops curriculum for the Page School or assigns a deputy to oversee this administration and curriculum development.
- D. The Minister of Children is responsible for and has authority over all other ministers of children in the various branches of the Kingdom.
- E. The Minister of Children may appoint deputies as necessary to aid in the administration of their office.

**IV.116 KINGDOM REGALIA COORDINATOR**

- A. The Kingdom Regalia Coordinator is responsible for ensuring that the Crown and the Heirs complete and sign a Lease Agreement before they may check out Kingdom property. This position is a deputy to the Kingdom Exchequer.
- B. The Kingdom Regalia Coordinator is responsible for the accuracy of the inventory of the Kingdom's property and regalia.
- C. The Kingdom Regalia Coordinator should attend Coronations and Crown Lists to oversee the transfer of Kingdom regalia and property or have a designee prepared to transport the property and handle these responsibilities.

**IV.117 KINGDOM HISTORIAN**

- A. The Kingdom Historian is charged with the custody of the history of Meridies and is responsible for maintaining records of all events of note, including but not exclusive to Kingdom level events, and any activities of historical importance to the Kingdom. This position is a deputy to the Kingdom Seneschal.
- B. The Kingdom Historian maintains the genealogy of the Royal House of Meridies.
- C. The Kingdom Historian maintains retired regalia of historical significance.
- D. The Kingdom Historian is responsible for the coordination of branch historians to maintain a good record of the history of all branches within the Kingdom.

**ARTICLE V SUBSIDIARY BRANCHES**

**V.100 ESTABLISHMENT AND ADVANCEMENT OF SUBSIDIARY BRANCHES**

The Kingdom Seneschal will follow the process outlined in Corpora III.D for the establishment and advancement of subsidiary branches. The Crown must approve all petitions for either branch establishment or advancement before submission to the Society Seneschal.

- A. A petition for a change of Branch status must include proof that all requirements are met or the petition will not be considered.
- B. New branches are incipient and are restricted in areas of greatest potential for financial and legal liability. They must have sponsorship of an established branch in these areas.



1. Incipient branches must have an established branch sponsor any event so that the legal and insurance needs of the Society are covered. This does not mean that the sponsoring branch must provide labor, but it does not preclude such.
  2. Incipient branches may not have a bank account and must arrange with a neighboring branch for the banking and disbursement of branch monies until the new branch advances to permanent status.
- C. A canton/march may petition to become a shire, or a shire may petition to become a canton/march, with the approval of the baronial/provincial Seneschal, the Kingdom Seneschal, and the Crown before submission to the Society Seneschal and, if applicable, the approval of the Baron or Baroness.

#### **V.101 BRANCH REQUIREMENTS**

- A. Each branch must fulfill these Kingdom-specific requirements in addition to the minimum requirements set by Corpora.
1. Each branch will hold regular and frequent local meetings, including, but not limited to, business meetings, fighter practices, Arts & Science meetings, and the like. The times and locations of these meetings will be made known to all members.
- B. Each Barony must also fulfill these requirements in addition to V-101.A.-B and the minimum requirements set by Corpora
1. Baronies will develop and maintain written guidelines for the responsibilities of the Baronial Seat and the Baronial Officers. A current version of these procedures and guidelines is held by the Kingdom Seneschal's office.
  2. Each Barony must hold at least 1 official published event per calendar year.
  3. Each barony will submit at least one Kingdom level event bid each calendar year.
  4. A barony must continuously maintain a level of excellence in the Arts & Sciences, and the Martial Arts through classes and practices.

#### **V.102 REDUCTION OF BRANCH STATUS**

- A. When a branch is not meeting the minimum requirements of its status, the Kingdom Seneschal will discuss remedial procedures with the Seneschal of the branch. The branch seneschal will receive a letter outlining these procedures, including a time-period to show improvement, following this meeting.
- B. After that time-period, the Kingdom Seneschal will request an evaluation of the branch from all Great Officers of State. The Great Officers and the Kingdom Seneschal will determine if the branch made significant growth, recovered or is still failing to meet the minimum requirements.
- C. If the evaluation shows that the branch is failing, the Kingdom Seneschal may require the branch Seneschal to explain why the branch should remain active.

If a branch continues to fail; then the Kingdom Seneschal, with the Crown's approval, may petition the Board of Directors to dissolve the branch.

#### **V.103    ADVANCEMENT OF PRINCIPALITY TO KINGDOM STATUS**

When a Principality is approved for advancement to Kingdom status, the next scheduled Coronet List will become the first Crown List of the incipient Kingdom. The Crown of Meridies supervises this List. Participants must conform to the following qualifications:

- A. The competitor and consort must reside within the borders of the incipient Kingdom.
- B. Neither the competitor nor consort can be the Sovereign, Consort, Sovereign Heir, or Consort Heir of Meridies, or the reigning Coronet of the Principality.
- C. The competitor and consort must meet all other standards as set down in Meridies Kingdom Law and the Laws of the Principality.

The elevation of the first Crown of the incipient Kingdom is done in the following manner:

- A. The Coronet will present their coronets to the Crown of Meridies and take their rightful places with the Viscounty.
- B. The Crown of Meridies will crown the first monarchs of the new Kingdom.

### **ARTICLE VI KINGDOM EVENTS**

#### **VI.100    THE KINGDOM CALENDAR**

The Kingdom Seneschal, upon consultation with the Crown, is responsible for making any necessary adjustments to the Kingdom Calendar to ensure the success of all Kingdom Events.

- A. In order to hold space on the Kingdom Calendar, all events must have the name and contact information of the hosting group seneschal and the event name.
- B. The Kingdom Calendar must record the dates for Kingdom and Regional Events (KE and RE) no less than two years in advance, so branches can schedule their events. The entire calendar must be available on the Kingdom Website.
  - 1. Kingdom Events (KE) are Coronation, Crown List, Kingdom Arts and Sciences Faire (KA&S), Royal University of Meridies (RUM), Fighters Collegium/War College (FC/WC), Meridian Grand Tournament (MGT), Gulf Wars, and Meridian Challenge of Arms (MCA).
  - 2. No event, regardless of location, may conflict with a KE.
  - 3. The Crown may designate any Kingdom Anniversary celebration to be a KE.
- C. Regional Events (RE) are protected on the calendar from local events out to a distance of 350 miles.

1. Local events, regardless of location, may only conflict with a RE with the express approval of the Kingdom Seneschal.
  2. Regional Events (RE) are Panhandle Skirmishes and Turf Wars.
- D. The distance of separation between local events held on the same weekend is to be 200 miles between hosting groups.

#### **VI.101 KINGDOM AND REGIONAL EVENTS**

- A. The Kingdom Event Deputy's (KED) office maintains the delineated guidelines for running each KE.
- B. Bid forms for all KE and RE should be sent to: The Crown, the Kingdom Seneschal, the Kingdom Exchequer, the KED, and any relevant Kingdom officer. Event bids can be submitted as early as one (1) year prior to the scheduled event.
- C. The Crown must consult with the Kingdom Seneschal and the Kingdom officers who bear responsibility for the KE and RE.
  1. Crown Lists—Kingdom Earl Marshall
  2. Coronation—KED
  3. Kingdom Arts and Sciences Faire—Kingdom A&S Minister
  4. RUM—RUM Chancellor
  5. War College/Fighters Collegium—Kingdom Earl Marshal
  6. MGT—Tourney Coordinator
  7. MCA—Kingdom Deputy Earl Marshal-Rapier
  8. Panhandle Skirmishes—KED
  9. Turf Wars—KED
- D. The Crown may award bids as early as one year, but no later than six (^) months, prior to the scheduled event. The Kingdom Seneschal will officially notify all bidding groups of the bid outcome.
- E. The Kingdom and the hosting group(s) will equally divide any event profits unless other agreements are in place.
- F. Any official fundraisers held at KE or RE must advertise the designated recipient/purpose of the fundraiser with all profits going to the recipient.

#### **VI.102 CORONATION**

The dates for Coronation are: Autumn Coronation is the second Saturday in October of each year; Spring Coronation is the first Saturday in April of each year, unless that weekend is Easter. For those years, Coronation will occur on the second Saturday in April.

**VI.103 CROWN LIST**

The dates for Crown List are: Autumn Crown List is the second Saturday in November of each year; Spring Crown List is Memorial Day weekend, in conjunction with Kingdom Arts and Sciences Faire.

**VI.104 KINGDOM ARTS AND SCIENCES FAIRE**

Kingdom Arts and Sciences Faire is on Memorial Day weekend, in conjunction with Spring Crown List. The Kingdom Minister of Arts and sciences should consult the Order of the Laurel in an effort to better the Faire through their knowledge and experience.

**VI.105 WAR COLLEGE/FIGHTERS COLLEGIUM**

Meridian War College/Fighters Collegium is held on the last weekend of January of each year. The Earl Marshal shall consult with their respective deputies, and the General of the Meridian Army on suitable curriculums of training. The Earl Marshal should also consult with the order of the Chivalry and the Order of Defense for their knowledge and experience.

**VI.106 ROYAL UNIVERSITY OF MERIDIES COLLEGIUM (RUM)**

The Royal University of Meridies Collegium is the third weekend of July. The chancellor of the Royal University and the Deans will schedule classes to encourage general education and to help further the pursuits of University degree candidates.

**VI.107 MERIDIAN GRAND TOURNEY (MGT)**

Meridian Grand Tournament is the last weekend of September each year. The Tournament Coordinator should consult with the Order of the Chivalry and the College of Heralds in an effort to better the Tournament through their knowledge and experience.

**VI.108 GULF WARS**

Gulf Wars is the third weekend of March. Meridies is a principal Kingdom and has responsibilities for the War. Gulf Wars is a designated KE.

**VI.109 MERIDIAN CHALLENGE OF ARMS (MCA)**

Meridian Challenge of Arms is the last weekend of February each year. The Deputy Earl Marshal-Rapier should consult with the Order of Defense in an effort to better the Tournament through their knowledge and experience.

**VI.110 REGIONAL EVENTS (RE)**

The current RE are Panhandle Skirmishes and Turf Wars: A Family Tradition.

- A. Panhandle Skirmishes is the second weekend of January of each year by Treaty with the Kingdom of Trimaris. Meridies sponsors this event every even year
- B. Turf Wars: A Family Tradition is the third weekend of February of each year by Treaty with the Kingdom of Gleann Abhann. Meridies sponsors this event every odd year.

## **ARTICLE VII RIGHTS AND DUTIES OF THE POPULACE**

### **VII.100 CODE OF CONDUCT**

- A. The privacy and private property of all persons is inviolate and will not be infringed upon by any other person without the prior express permission of that individual.
- B. The Populace should be safe from hate speech or symbols, these can be subjective, and incidents should be reported through your seneshcalate. Certain symbols while historically acceptable, are because of actions in recent history considered beyond redemption. To wit the Swastika is banned in all forms within the bounds of the Kingdom of Meridies.

### **VII.101 MEMBERSHIP BENEFITS**

The Kingdom offers the following benefits to members of the populace, who contribute to the greater weal of the Society and the Kingdom by holding a paid membership. All membership types are equal for the purposes of the benefits.

- A. Holding a branch, regional or Kingdom office,
- B. Participation in Crown List,
- C. Free combat and combat-related authorization cards,
- D. Eligibility for Armigerous awards.
- E. Heraldic Submissions: The College of Heraldry will offer a cost reduction per action.

### **VII.102 EVENT FEE STRUCTURING**

- A. Events must offer a price structure that includes food and non-food options. This is referred to as an On-Board (with food) or Off-Board (without food) price.
- B. The Society has established membership discount when attending SCA events. The discount is not available to those individuals without proof-of-membership.
- C. Flyers and announcements must include a statement that non-members must add the NMS to the event price.
- D. Proof-of-membership is one of the following:
  - 1. The regular membership card, or
  - 2. Proof of membership letter issued from the Registry office.
- E. No event sponsored by the Kingdom of Meridies or a group within the Kingdom will charge event fees for children 17 & under. The following exceptions do apply:
  - 1. If the event offers an On-Board/Off-Board option, and if the child intends to eat event provided food option, they may be charged the 'on-board' fee.
  - 2. If an event site charges on a "per head" structure, this cost may be passed on to the child.

3. If the child uses bed space which is limited in nature, the child may be charged for that bed space.

#### **VII.103 RECEIPTS FOR CASH PAYMENTS OR DONATIONS**

- A. Any individual paying Society-related fees in cash (event fees, etc.) will receive a numbered two-part receipt.
- B. Any individual making a cash donation in excess of \$5.00 to a Society sanctioned fundraiser will receive a numbered two-part receipt.
- C. Hosting or sponsoring groups will retain one of the two-part receipts for accounting and income reconciliation purposes.

#### **VII.104 BADGES OF MERIDIES**

All Meridian subjects are entitled to bear or display the badges of Meridies.

- A. "Sable, the Lombardic uppercase letter M, and in base a comet fesswise argent."
- B. "Sable, a horse salient regardant contourney between in chief two mullets argent."
- C. "Argent, on a pale between in base two mullets sable, in chief a mullet argent."

#### **VII.105 MERIDIES FLAG**

All Kingdom branches are entitled to display the Flag of Meridies at any official event. "Argent, on a fess sable, a crown of three points between two mullets argent."

#### **VII.106 COMMUNICATIONS**

All official communication, as defined in Corpora, must be dated and have sender and all recipients clearly identified. Unofficial electronic forums, such as discussion groups and newsgroups, are excluded.

#### **VII.107 WEAPONS**

All subjects have the privilege to bear weapons at any Society event, except in the Presence of the Crown or any of the Coronets, or unless deemed:

- A. Unlawful by mundane law, or
- B. Prohibited by event site regulations, or
- C. Unsafe by the ruling noble, Knight Marshal, or the Crown's representative.

This privilege will not otherwise be infringed upon.

- A. No person will draw a weapon at a Society event, except for the purpose of ceremony or display. The person drawing the weapon will say "Clear" to warn everyone within weapon's reach.
- B. No person will draw a weapon in an offensive manner or in a manner that could be interpreted as such. Appropriate action will be taken on any individual found doing so.

- C. All weapons termed edged by their construction must be sheathed while being worn at events or demonstrations.
- D. A peace tie may be required on non-edged weapons by the ruling noble, Knight Marshal, or the event autocrat.
- E. Any person bearing a weapon will take full responsibility for any injury inflicted by that weapon.
- F. All persons bringing weapons to an event must keep their weapons out of the reach of small children and animals at all times.

#### **VII.108 CLOTHING**

Attendees at all Society events should attempt to wear pre 17th century historical clothing. Branches may choose the manner of dress for their local business meetings.

#### **VII.109 MINORS**

- A. Minors must attend any Society event in the company of a parent/legal guardian or a designated adult with the appropriate Society approved waivers.
- B. Parents/legal guardians or the designated adult, are responsible for any, and all, acts of the minor.
- C. Children must not be left unattended at events.
- D. Children under the age of 12 must be within the sight or voice range of a responsible adult or teenager at all times.
- E. Children under the age of 5 cannot be left unsupervised by the parent/legal guardian or designated adult at events. Failure to comply with these rules may result in sanctions ranging from expulsion from site to notification of mundane authorities depending on the circumstances.
- F. Waivers
  - 1. The designated adult of a minor child must present 2 sets of properly executed Society waivers at the registration table before the minor(s) enters the event.
  - 2. Each waiver includes instructions for completion; failure to follow the instructions may result in a denial of admittance to the event.
  - 3. The branch must retain one set of the waivers and the other set retained by the Designated Adult.
  - 4. Waiver forms are on the Society or the Kingdom websites. The branch Seneschal can also provide them.
- G. For any official Society sponsored children's activities, there must be 2 unrelated (non- married, non-dating, non-kin) adults in charge for the duration of the activity; at least one of which must have an active valid background check on file with the Society.

## **VII.110 ANIMALS**

- A. The presence of animals at an event is subject to the rules of the site, the type of activities taking place, and the appropriateness of their presence. This judgment will be made by:
  - 1. The steward or autocrat
  - 2. The branch seneschal
  - 3. The Knight Marshal
  - 4. Kingdom Equestrian Marshal (for horses)
- B. Proof of a vaccination, when required, is considered to be the actual certification and not a collar tag. The owner must present the proof at the registration table or to the Equestrian Marshal (for horses) before an animal enters the event.
- C. The person who brought the animal to the event is responsible for any, and all, acts of that animal.
- D. All animals must be supervised at all times or appropriately restrained. No animal may roam free at any Society event.
- E. The use of horses while under the influence of alcohol or other intoxicants is expressly forbidden.
- F. Horses may not be ridden or driven at a gait greater than a walk in areas of public concourse.

## **ARTICLE VIII AWARDS AND ORDERS**

### **VIII.100 ARMIGEROUS AWARDS**

The three levels of armigerous (rank-bearing) awards are an Award of Arms, Grant of Arms, and Patent of Arms. These awards enhance the armiger's precedence and convey the right and privilege of heraldic arms.

### **VIII.101 ARMIGERS**

All individuals receiving armigerous awards in the Kingdom of Meridies or any individual invested with a Territorial Baronage are required to be paid members of the Society at the time of award.

### **VIII.102 AWARDS OF ARMS**

Awards of Arms are given at the pleasure of the Crown. In the case of a Principality, the Coronet, with the permission of the reigning Crown, may also bestow Awards of Arms.

### **VIII.103 GRANTS OF ARMS**

Grants of Arms are given to those persons for outstanding achievement to the Kingdom. This is an award of special dignity and is not bestowed lightly.



## VIII.104 PATENT OF ARMS

The Crown may elevate subjects to the Peerage by granting membership in one of the Orders (The Order of Chivalry, the Order of the Laurel, the Order of the Pelican, and Order of Defense), conferring a Patent of Arms, after consultation with the members of the Order and in accordance with the laws and traditions of Meridies.

- A. In the Kingdom of Meridies, consultation is defined as:
  - 1. Taking place at an Official Meeting of the Order
  - 2. Nomination of Candidates
  - 3. Discussion, which includes the distribution of all proxy commentary from Order members in good standing
  - 4. Polling of the Order members, including proxy polling
  - 5. Summary of the polling of the Order shall be presented to the Crown within fourteen (14) business days of the meeting conclusion.
- B. By custom and tradition in the Kingdom of Meridies, candidates are elevated to any Order Patent upon consultation with and recommendation by the Order in question.
- C. By custom and tradition, Meridies does not confer a Patent of Arms to members of the Order of the Rose.
- D. By custom and tradition, Peers of Meridies may swear or affirm their support of the Crown of Meridies each reign.
- E. It is the right of the members of the Order present to participate in the elevation process.
- F. Candidates for any Order conferring a Patent of Arms must meet the criteria defined in Corpora.
- G. Each of the Peerage Orders will create and maintain a charter for its own self-governance and name a secretary to facilitate the business of the order.
  - 1. Each Peerage Order must have a copy of their Charter present to conduct business.
  - 2. The charters will include but are not limited to:
    - a. Each charter shall address how to nominate and discuss candidates.
    - b. Each charter shall address how to poll candidates.
    - c. Each charter shall addresses what constitutes a favorable recommendation to the Crown.
    - d. Each charter shall address how the secretary communicates agendas, minutes, and other administrative needs of the Order.
    - e. Each charter shall have a policy to address transgressors of the Confidentiality of the Order.

- f. Members, in lieu of attendance, may send a proxy to the Order's meetings to provide their consultation for candidates for the Order. The process for distribution shall be addressed in the charter.
  - g. Changes to Charter must follow the process as defined in each Charter.
  - h. Charters must be reviewed every two (2) years and approved by the Crown and Order.
  - i. Each charter shall define the process for assuming emeritus status.
  - j. Each charter shall define the process for Resignation, in accordance with Corpora.
  - k. Degradation from Peerage:
    - 1. The Board reserves the right to degrade a person from the Peerage.
    - 2. Each charter will include a process by which the Order can request the degradation of members from Patent Status.
    - 3. If the Order decides to recommend degradation, the Kingdom Seneschal begins the COI process.
- H. Each Order will meet at least twice in each Reign, as determined by the Crown and the Order.
- 1. The Crown or the Order may request additional meetings.
  - 2. Peerage Orders are permitted to conduct official business online, providing the process is established in the charter.
  - 3. After each meeting, the secretary must submit the written minutes and recommendations to the Crown and Order.

#### **VIII.105 AUGMENTATION OF ARMS**

An Augmentation of Arms may be bestowed by the Crown upon the arms of any individual or branch for exceptional service to the Kingdom of a nature not normally recognized through Society Awards; e.g., actions of a particularly honorable or charitable nature.

- A. The augmentation will be of the form: three mullets argent, 1 and 2 may be placed upon said arms where appropriate.
- B. Those Augmentations bestowed prior to AS XXXVI (May 2001) may be formed: three mullets argent, fesswise. However, all future Augmentations may adopt the current form.

#### **VIII.106 COURT BARON/BARONESS**

The Crown may give the title of Court Baron/Baroness at their pleasure. The title Court Baron or Baroness does bear an Award of Arms.

### **VIII.107 ROYAL PEERAGE**

A Royal Peer is any individual who has successfully reigned as King or Queen or as a Territorial Prince or Princess.

### **VIII.108 SCROLLS OF ARMS**

All official Scrolls of Arms will bear the signatures of the Sovereign and Consort and the seal or signature of the Beacon Herald. In the case of a Principality, official scrolls of arms may bear the signatures of the reigning Coronet at the pleasure of the Crown.

### **VIII.109 ROSE, ORDER OF THE**

- A. The Order of the Rose may be given, at the Crown's discretion, to any subject who successfully served as Consort for the Kingdom of Meridies.
- B. Companions of the order are entitled to place after their names the initials "C.R." and are styled and announced in processional as Companions of the Order of the Rose. This award is non-armigerous.
- C. The privileges of membership in the Order are also extended, while they are in Meridies, to those who served as Royal Consort for any SCA Principality or Kingdom.

### **VIII.200 MERIDIAN ORDERS**

- A. The populace of Meridies has the right to make an award recommendation directly to the Crown for any subject they feel merits induction into any order.
- B. The power to induct into an order rests solely with the Crown, although the individual companions of all orders have the right of consultation and recommendation directly to the Crown.
- C. The Crown may bestow an award to a non-Meridian provided They follow the procedure outlined in Corpora IV.E.4.
- D. Companions:
  - 1. The number of companions in Meridian orders is not limited.
  - 2. All awards are non-armigerous and carry no precedence unless the award description states otherwise.
  - 3. Companions of a Meridian order remain within that order despite any subsequent change in Kingdom residence. (exception - see Legio Ursi, the Order of)
  - 4. The Crown, at their pleasure and with the request of an Order, may petition the Board of Directors to denigrate a Companion if that Companion fails to display continuous dedication to the ideals and mission of the Order.
  - 5. Companions of an order are entitled to wear the regalia customary to that order and as allowed by Sumptuary Law.

## VIII.201 ORDERS OF HIGH MERIT

The Orders of High Merit (OHM) are those non-Peerage orders in Meridies that represent excellent in specific areas of interest. They are the Orders of the Bough, the Velvet Owl, the Sable Sword, Legio Ursi, Split Arrow, Meridian Blade, and Scarlet Star. Orders of High Merit shall carry a Grant of Arms if the member does not already have a GOA.

### A. Orders

#### 1. Blade, Order of the Meridian

- a. The Crown may induct into this order those subjects who have shown longtime excellence, quality, leadership, courtesy, and chivalry in the pursuit of the art of rapier. These individuals have imparted those skills to the populace of Meridies by regular teaching and in the training of new fighters and have distinguished themselves either in war, on the tournament field, or both.
- b. Companions are entitled to place after their names the initials “M.O.B.”
- c. Companions are styled and announced in procession as Companions of the Order of the Meridian Blade.

#### 2. Bough, Meridies, Order of the

- a. The Crown may induct into this order those subjects who have served the Kingdom well and faithfully, above and beyond normal expectation for subjects of Meridies, and who have consistently displayed courtesy and chivalry in an exemplary manner.
- b. Companions are entitled to place after their names the initials “C.B.M.”
- c. Companions are styled and announced in processional as Companions of the Order of the Bough, Meridies.
- d. Companions may wear an oval of cypress wood, bearing a silver-colored letter M (uncial alphabet) pendant.

#### 3. Legio Ursi, Order of the

- a. The Crown may induct into this order those subjects who have exemplified and furthered the art of soldiering in heavy combat and heavy weapons. Those who have shown outstanding skill upon the field of war in heavy combat, have imparted those skills to others by teaching and training, and have consistently displayed leadership, courtesy, and chivalry in an exemplary manner, above and beyond that normally expected of the subjects of Meridies.
- b. Companions are entitled to place after their names the initials “M.L.U.”
- c. Companions are styled and announced in procession as “Praetorians of the Legio Ursi,” or Companions of the Legion of the Bear.
- d. Induction into this order requires an oath sworn by the recipient.

- e. Companions become honorary and released from their oath upon a residence change outside of Meridies.
  - f. The principal is titled “Primus Pilus.”
4. Sable Sword, Order of the
- a. The Crown may induct into this order those subjects who have served Meridies with longtime excellence, quality, and chivalry in the fulfillment of duties of a martial nature. These individuals have shown outstanding skill and accomplishment in the Martial Arts and have imparted those skills to the populace of Meridies through regular teaching and sharing of ability, and have distinguished themselves through courtesy and prowess on the tournament field. Furthermore, they maintain armor that is of a period style.
  - b. Companions are entitled to place after their names the initials “C.S.S.”
  - c. Companions are styled and announced in procession as Companions of the Order of the Sable Sword.
  - d. Companions may wear a white garter bearing the words “Corona Vult” and/or a cloak bearing the badge of the order.
5. Split Arrow, Order of the
- a. The Crown may induct into this order those subjects who have served Meridies with longtime excellence, quality, and chivalry in the pursuit of Archery. These gentles have imparted those skills to the populace of Meridies by regular teaching and sharing of ability in their particular specialty, and will have distinguished themselves either on the field of battle or at the target, or both.
  - b. Companions are entitled to place after their names the initials “C.S.A.”
  - c. Companions are styled and announced in procession as Companions of the Order of the Split Arrow.
  - d. Companions are entitled to wear regalia: a hood of mingled black and white, with the badge of the order clearly displayed on the front and back as befits the bearer’s persona.
6. Scarlet Star, Order of the
- a. The Crown may induct into this order those subjects who have served Meridies well and faithfully, over and above normal expectation from subjects of Meridies. This service specifically takes the form of consistent and successful administration of Society events, and/or consistent and successful preparation of Society feasts.
  - b. Companions of the order are entitled to place after their names the initials “C.S.R.”

- c. Companions are styled and announced in procession as the Companions of the Order of the Scarlet Star

7. Velvet Owl, Order of the

- a. The Consort may induct into this order those subjects who have shown outstanding skill and accomplishment in the arts and sciences. Those who have gone above and beyond normal expectation for subjects of Meridies, who have passed on those skills to the populace through regular teaching and sharing of ability in their particular specialty, and who have consistently displayed courtesy and chivalry in an exemplary manner.
- b. The power of induction into the order rests solely with the Consort of Meridies.
- c. Companions of the order are entitled to place after their names the initials "C.V.O."
- d. Companions are styled and announced in procession as Companions of the Order of the Velvet Owl.

B. Procedures

- 1. The Companions may advise and make recommendations to the Crown regarding the election of their Companions.
- 2. OHM must adopt guidelines for internal governance and name a secretary to facilitate the business of the order. These guidelines will include but are not limited to:
  - a. Charters must be reviewed every two (2) years and ratified by the Crown and the order.
  - b. OHM must have a copy of their guidelines present to conduct a polling.
  - c. The guidelines must include a process to make a recommendation from the OHM to the Crown.
  - d. The Orders must meet in-person, at least once per Reign, at a date and time agreed upon by the Order. Additional meetings may be called by the Order in adherence to the Order's guidelines.
  - e. The OHM shall inform the Crown of the date, location, and time of their meetings; the Crown is not required to be in attendance.
  - f. All in-person and online meetings must adhere to the guidelines of the Order.
  - g. After each meeting, the secretary must submit the written minutes and recommendations to the Crown and Order.

**VIII.202 ARGENT COMET, ORDER OF THE**

- A. The Crown may induct into this order those subjects who demonstrate outstanding service to the Kingdom, or to a Shire, College, or other branch not directly administered by a territorial barony.
- B. Companions are entitled to place after their names the initials “C.A.C.M.”
- C. At the pleasure of the Crown, this order may bear an Award of Arms and process ahead of simple Awards of Arms.

**VIII.203 ARGENT LANCE, ORDER OF THE**

- A. The Crown may induct into this order those subjects who display courteous and chivalrous conduct and have distinguished themselves in the field of equestrian sciences.
- B. Companions are entitled to place after their names the initials “A.L.M.”
- C. Companions may wear upon their tournament lance whenever engaged in equestrian activities, a small sable pennon bordered in argent, bearing an uncial M above an argent tilting lance.

**VIII.204 ARGENT LILY, ORDER OF THE**

- A. The Crown may induct into this order those subjects exemplifying courtliness (refinement and elegance).
- B. Companions are entitled to place after their names the initials “C.A.L.”
- C. No more than one male and one female may be inducted during any reign.

**VIII.205 ARGENT RAPIER, ORDER OF THE**

- A. The Crown may induct into this order those fighters who have distinguished themselves with the rapier in war, on the tournament field, and in the training of new rapier fighters.
- B. Companions are entitled to place after their names the initials “C.A.R.”

**VIII.206 ARGENT SHIELD, ORDER OF THE**

- A. The Crown may induct into this order those fighters who have distinguished themselves in war, on the tournament field, and in the training of new fighters.
- B. Companions are entitled to place after their names the initials “C.A.S.”

**VIII.207 ARGENT SLIPPER, ORDER OF THE**

- A. The Crown may induct into this order those subjects who have greatly enriched the Kingdom by the instruction of its populace in the art of European or Middle Eastern dance.
- B. Companions are entitled to place after their names the initials “C.O.A.S.”

**VIII.208 ATHANOR, ORDER OF THE**

- A. The Crown may induct into this order those subjects who by virtue of their contributions add to historical study in the Society.

- B. Companions of this order are entitled to place after their names the initials “C.A.M.”
- C. Companions are granted the right to bear the devices of Jerome and may style themselves as free scholars and wear academic dress.
- D. Each companion is encouraged to either publish one scholarly paper per year in any publication of the Society for Creative Anachronism, Inc., whether official or unofficial, or submit at least one scholarly paper per year to the archives of the Royal University of Meridies.

**VIII.209 BARD MERIDIES, COMPANIONATE OF THE**

- A. The Crown may induct into this order those subjects who have served the Kingdom in the capacity of Kingdom Bard.
- B. Companions are entitled to place after their names the initials “C.C.B.”
- C. Each companion may only be inducted once into this order, although they may serve the Kingdom as Bard Meridies more than once.

**VIII.210 BROKEN BOW, ORDER OF THE MERIDIAN**

- A. The Crown may induct into this order those archers who have displayed courteous and chivalrous conduct and have distinguished themselves in the field of archery.
- B. Companions are entitled to place after their names the initials “C.M.B.”

**VIII.211 BROKEN BRANK, ORDER OF THE (CLOSED)**

- A. The Crown may induct into this order those subjects who have enriched Meridies greatly through their service to the Chirurgeon's Office.
- B. Although induction into this order rests with the Crown, the Kingdom Chirurgeon should be consulted and may make recommendations directly to the Crown.
- C. Companions are entitled to place after their names the initials “C.B.B.”

**VIII.212 BURNING TRUMPET, ORDER OF THE**

- A. The Crown may induct into this order those subjects who have enriched Meridies greatly through their service in the Herald's Office.
- B. Although induction into this order rests with the Crown, the Beacon Herald should be consulted and may make recommendations directly to the Crown.
- C. Companions are entitled to place after their names the initials “C.B.T.”

**VIII.213 CHALICE, ORDER OF THE**

- A. There will exist within the Kingdom of Meridies an order called the Order of the Chalice.
- B. The Companions are selected by virtue of their valor, grace, and service to the Kingdom.



- C. Election into the Order must be by unanimous vote of the companions of the order.
- D. Any companion failing to strive for the Order's high standards may be asked by any one companion of the order, or required by the majority of the companions, to remove him/herself from the order.
- E. All Companions are equal, with no recognized principal.
- F. As this is an order of humility, this award carries no title or precedence.

**VIII.214 CROWN'S FAVOR, AWARD OF THE**

- A. The Crown may induct into this order those branches or households who act as worthy examples, either directly or through service, by displaying the types of behavior most favorable in these Current Middle Ages.
- B. This award is reserved only for branches or households and may not be given to individuals.
- C. This award is given at the pleasure of the Crown, and may be given more than once.
- D. Recipients of this award are entitled to attach to their group insignia/device/arms, a small pennon bearing a sable pale on an argent field, and carrying a single argent mullet. Upon receiving additional recognition through this award, additional mullets may be added (to a maximum of five), after which, having received the award six times, the first mullet must change to Or, and so on in a like manner to a maximum of five Or mullets.

**VIII.215 CYGNET, ORDER OF THE**

- A. The Crown may induct into this order those children who have shown courtly behavior and rendered honorable service.
- B. Companions are entitled to place after their names the initials "C.C."

**VIII.216 CYGNET'S NEST, ORDER OF THE**

- A. The Crown may induct into this order those subjects who work tirelessly on behalf of the children.
- B. Companions are entitled to place after their names the initials "C.C.N."

**VIII.217 DUVANT CROSS, ORDER OF THE**

- A. The Crown may induct into this order those subjects who have exhibited exceptional skill, courtesy, and honor on the field of Youth Combat. This order is called the Duvant Cross in honor of Count Sir Francois Duvant, First Prince and Fourth King of Meridies, whose shining example of honor, chivalry, and courtesy has been the model for all who have come after.
- B. The Duvant Cross encompasses all forms of youth combat.

C. Companions are entitled to place after their names the initials “C.D.C.”

#### **VIII.218 FELLOWSHIP OF ST. ORION OF MERIDIES**

- A. The Fellowship of St. Orion of Meridies may be given, at the Crown’s discretion, to any subject who successfully served as a Territorial Baron and/or Baroness for the Kingdom of Meridies, and has:
1. Demonstrated Excellence and Grace during their tenure, and
  2. Demonstrated a strong leadership role for their Barony, and
  3. Demonstrated knowledge of courtly graces and obedience to the laws, traditions, and
  4. ideals of Meridies and the Society.
- B. At Their Majesties discretion, elevation to the Fellowship shall confer upon the holder a Grant of Arms and Court Barony.
- C. This Order processes in front of Grants of Arms and behind Patents, and members are referred to as “Fellows”
- D. Members of the Fellowship may bear the title of “Stellar (or Sable) Baron/Baroness (or other appropriate title for “Baron” or “Baroness”),” and may place after their names the initials “F.O.B.S.”
- E. Sumptuary: Four pointed coronet bearing the badge of the Barony which they served with black pearls.

#### **VIII.219 GUIDING HAND MERIDIES, ORDER OF THE**

- A. The Crown may induct into this order those subjects who have served the Kingdom well and faithfully by giving encouragement and assistance to newcomers and any who have need.
- B. The Companions of the Order are entitled to place after their names the initials “C.G.H.M.”

#### **VIII.220 GUIDON MERIDIES, ORDER OF THE (CLOSED)**

- A. The Crown may induct into this order those subjects who have served the Kingdom with quality and chivalry in the fulfillment of duties of a martial nature. These subjects must have served the cause of combat with continued dedication to the art of war, archery, or the tournament, to the improvement of the Kingdom in these areas.
- B. The Companions are entitled to place after their names the initials “C.G.M.”
- C. Companions may display a guidon at the hoist of the Kingdom flag, followed by the bearer's badge, and a sable schwenkel with an argent mullet at the fly.

#### **VIII.221 KING’S CHAMPION, COMPANIONATE OF THE MERIDIAN**

- A. The King may induct into this order the subject who by great skill won the King’s Champion Armored Combat Tournament and has served the Kingdom in the capacity of King's Champion.
- B. The King may also appoint his champion in lieu of the tournament.

- C. Companions are entitled to place after their names the initials “C.M.K.”
- D. Each companion may only be inducted once into this order, although they may serve the Kingdom as King’s Champion more than once.

**VIII.222 KING’S LANCER, COMPANIONATE OF THE MERIDIAN**

- A. The King may induct into this order the subject who by outstanding mounted martial skills won the King's Lancer Equestrian Tournament and served the Kingdom in the capacity of King's Lancer.
- B. The King may also appoint his champion in lieu of the tournament.
- C. Companions are entitled to place after their names the initials “C.K.L.”
- D. Each companion may only be inducted once into this order, although they may serve the Kingdom as King’s Lancer more than once.
- E. The King's Lancer will lead and organize the Royal Horse Guard.

**VIII.223 KING’S RAPIER CHAMPION**

- A. The King may select a King’s Rapier Champion as the King’s personal Rapier Champion, as a separate Award from the Kingdom Rapier Champion.
- B. The King’s Rapier Champion shall serve for the duration of the reign of the King who selected the Champion and is entitled to place after their name “K.R.C.” during the reign of the King.

**VIII.224 MERIDIAN ARTS & SCIENCES CHAMPION, COMPANIONATE OF THE**

- A. The Crown may induct into this order the subject who has shown great skill in the Arts & Sciences.
- B. Companions are entitled to place after their names the initials “C.A.S.M.”
- C. Each companion may only be inducted once into this order, although they may serve the Kingdom as Meridian A&S Champion more than once.

**VIII.225 MERIDIAN CROSS, ORDER OF THE**

- A. The Crown may induct into this order those subjects who show promise and skill in the Arts and Sciences.
- B. Companions are entitled to place after their names the initials “C.M.C.”

**VIII.226 MERIDIAN MAJESTY, ORDER OF THE**

- A. The Consort may induct into this order those subjects who have personally served Their Majesty well, truly, and faithfully.
- B. This award, given solely by the Consort, does not require the Sovereign's signature to become official.
- C. Companions of the Order are entitled to place after their names the initials “C.M.M.”

**VIII.227 MERIDIAN PILLAR, ORDER OF THE**

- A. The Crown may induct into this order those subjects who have enriched the Kingdom with outstanding works or appearance that promote an authentic ambiance and
- B. The subjects inducted into this order should be inspirations to the populace and/or kingdom, i.e., “A Pillar of the Community.”
- C. The order may be awarded to individuals or to groups, both official or unofficial.
- D. Companions are entitled to place after their names the initials “C.M.P”
- E. The Order of the Meridian Pillar may only be given once per reign.

**VIII.228 PILGRIM’S STAR, ORDER OF THE**

- A. The Crown may induct into this order those subjects who travel greatly in the service of the Crown and the Kingdom.
- B. Companions are entitled to place after their names the initials “C.P.S.”
- C. Companions may wear a badge (Fieldless) On an escallop sable a mullet argent.

**VIII.229 POET LAUREATE MERIDIES, COMPANIONATE OF THE**

- A. The Crown may induct into this order those subjects who have served the Kingdom and Crown as Poet Laureate.
- B. Companions are entitled to place after their names the initials “C.P.L.M.”
- C. Each companion may only be inducted once into this order, although they may serve the Kingdom as Poet Laureate Meridies more than once.

**VIII.230 QUEEN’S CHAMPION, COMPANIONATE OF THE MERIDIAN**

- A. The Queen may induct into this order the subject who by great skill won the Queens’s Armored Combat Tournament and has served the Kingdom in the capacity of Queen's Champion.
- B. The Queen, at her discretion, may appoint her champion in lieu of the Tournament.
- C. Companions are entitled to place after their names the initials “C.M.Q.”
- D. Each companion may only be inducted once into this order, although they may serve the Kingdom as Queen’s Champion more than once.

**VIII.231 QUEEN’S RAPIER CHAMPION, COMPANIONATE OF THE MERIDIAN**

- A. The Queen may induct into this order the subject who by outstanding rapier skill won the Queen's Rapier Champion Tournament and served the Kingdom in the capacity of Queen's Rapier Champion.
- B. The Queen may appoint her rapier champion in lieu of having the tournament.
- C. Companions are entitled to place after their names the initials “C.M.Q.R.”

- D. Each companion may only be inducted once into this order, although they may serve the Kingdom as Queen's Rapier Champion more than once.

**VIII.232 QUEEN'S YEOMAN, COMPANIONATE OF THE MERIDIAN**

- A. The Queen may induct into this order the subject who by outstanding archery skill won the Queen's Yeoman Archery Competition and served the Kingdom in the capacity of Queen's Yeoman.
- B. The Queen may appoint her Yeoman in lieu of having the tournament.
- C. Companions are entitled to place after their names the initials "C.Q.Y."
- D. Each companion may only be inducted once into this order, although they may serve the Kingdom as Queen's Yeoman more than once.

**VIII.233 QUILL, ORDER OF THE**

- A. The Crown may induct into this order those subjects who have shown exemplary merit and skill in the authorship, publication, and dissemination of articles of scholarly interest to the Society for Creative Anachronism, the Kingdom of Meridies and its members.
- B. Companions are encouraged to continue to write, publish, disseminate, and contribute to any, and all, Kingdom and Society publications.
- C. The Crown may call upon Companions to aid in the continuing education of the Kingdom by requesting, as a patron, specific articles and/or research in their areas of expertise.
- D. The Companions are entitled to place after their names the initials "C.Q."
- E. The award may be given only once per reign.

**VIII.234 RISING SWAN, ORDER OF THE**

- A. The Crown may induct into this order those minors (age 17 and under) who through outstanding service and achievement have gone above and beyond that of the Order of the Cygnet.
- B. Companions are entitled to place after their names the initials "C.M.R.S."

**VIII.235 ROYAL HUNTSMAN, COMPANIONATE OF THE**

- A. The Crown may induct a subject into the Order of the Royal Huntsman, who by great prowess of skill in any live weapons form, serves as the Royal Huntsman during the Crown's Reign.
- B. Companions are entitled to place after their names the initials "M.R.H."
- C. Each Companion may be inducted only once into this order, although they may serve the Crown as his chosen Royal Huntsman more than once.

**VIII.236 SABLE CYGNET, ORDER OF THE**

- A. The Crown may induct into this order those children who show promise and skill in the Arts and Sciences.
- B. Companions are entitled to place after their names the initials "C.S.C."

### **VIII.237 SOVEREIGN'S PLEASURE, ORDER OF THE**

- A. The Sovereign may induct into this order those subjects who have personally served Their Majesty well, truly, and faithfully.
- B. Companions are entitled to place after their names the initials "C.K.P."
- C. This award, given solely by the Sovereign, does not require the Consort's signature to become official.

### **VIII.238 STALLION'S BLOOD**

- A. The Crown recognizes that the Kingdom of Meridies officially fields one singular army, comprised of Artisans, Support Staff, Water Bearers, Equestrians, Chivalric Fighters, Rapier Fighters, Siege Engineers, Archers, Weapons Masters, and Volunteers;
- B. The Crown wishes to recognize singular moments of great valor and bravery in war;
- C. This award is open to citizens of all ranks, all disciplines, and all Kingdoms;
- D. This award may be given no more than twice per reign and preferably no more than once per reign to any single discipline;
- E. Requires that the regalia for this award be a brass ring with a braided lanyard of black, white and red;
- F. This award carries no rank or precedence;
- G. Prefers that giving this award in court include the telling of the tale of the inductee in court so that all may know the inductee's valor;
- H. Prefers that the tale of valor be kept in a "Book of Heroes" so that all people of the Kingdom of Meridies may be inspired therein.

### **VIII.239 WEAPONS MASTER, ORDER OF THE**

- A. The Crown may induct into this order those subjects who show great skill in the use of real weaponry, primarily throwing axe, knife, spear, and bow.
- B. Companions are entitled to place after their names the initials "C.W."
- C. This order is granted the right to govern itself and to define the standard of its various rankings even unto the rank of Weapons Master. Also, it is granted the right to its chosen insignia.

### **VIII.300 BARONIAL SERVICE ORDERS**

Each Territorial Barony is granted the right to have a Baronial order distinct unto itself and bestowed by the Baronet. The order may, at the pleasure of the Crown, bear an Award of Arms and process ahead of simple Awards of Arms.

- A. Doubloon del Mar (Closed), Order of the
  - 1. The Order of the Doubloon del Mar shall be given by the Baron/Baroness of Arenal for outstanding service to the Barony.

2. Members of the Order shall be entitled to place the initials C.D.M. after their names.
- B. Dreamstone, Order of the
1. The Order of the Dreamstone is awarded by the Baronage of Bryn Madoc for outstanding service to the barony.
  2. Companions are entitled to place the initials “C.D.” after their names.
- C. Golden Iris, Order of the (Closed)
1. The Order of the Golden Iris is awarded by the Baronage of Glaedenfeld for outstanding service to the barony.
  2. Companions are entitled to place the initials C.G.I. after their names.
- D. Osprey's Jess, Order of the
1. The Order of the Osprey’s Jess is awarded by the Baronage of the Osprey for outstanding service to the barony.
  2. Companions are entitled to place the initials “C.O.J.” after their names.
- E. Red Raven, Order of the
1. The Order of the Red Raven is awarded by the Baronage of South Downs for outstanding service to the barony.
  2. Companions are entitled to place the initials “C.R.R.” after their names.
- F. Sable Gryphon, Order of the
1. The Order of the Sable Gryphon is awarded by the Baronage of Thor's Mountain for outstanding service to the barony.
  2. Companions are entitled to place the initials “C.S.G.” after their names.
- G. Sanguine Mountain, Order of the
1. The Order of the Sanguine Mountain is awarded by the Baronage of Iron Mountain for outstanding service to the barony.
  2. Companions are entitled to place the initials “C.S.M.” after their names.
- H. Athena’s Owl, Order of the
1. The Order of Athena’s Owl is awarded by the Baronage of Gladenfeld for outstanding service to the barony.
  2. Companions are entitled to place the initials C.A.O. after their names.

**VIII.400 ORDER OF PRECEDENCE**

- A. The Order of Precedence will be updated no less than monthly and be available to all subjects on the Kingdom’s website. Notification of all awards given in the Kingdom is published monthly in the Kingdom Newsletter.

- B. The Order of Precedence will follow this order. In case of a tie, the earliest date of bestowal has precedence.
1. Sovereign and Consort
  2. Crown Prince and Crown Princess
  3. Territorial Prince and Princess
  4. Duchies
  5. Counties
  6. Viscounties
  7. Territorial Barons and Baronesses (by date of creation of the Barony)
  8. Patent Peers (Chivalry, Laurels, Pelicans, Defense)
  9. Grants of Arms
  10. Orders of High Merit
  11. Members of the Argent Comet, and Members of Baronial Service Orders
  12. Award of Arms, Persons with Court Baronies
  13. Populace members without an award of arms

#### **ARTICLE IX THE SUMPTUARY LAWS OF MERIDIES**

The Sumptuary Laws serve to further enhance the dignity and appearance of the people of Meridies. All such items are subject to the approval of the Crown and the restrictions of the College of Heralds.

##### **IX.100 SUBSTITUTIONS**

Due to the expense involved in the use of real gold and silver, the use of precious metal substitutes is allowed as long as the same basic colors are maintained. Crowns or Coronets may also be fashioned of other materials such as leather or cloth. Fleur-des-Lis under 1 inch in height are not considered points on a Crown or a Coronet.

##### **IX.101 CROWNS/CORONETS**

- A. The Sovereign and Consort may wear crowns of precious metal with points, ornamented as They see fit.
- B. The Crown Prince and Crown Princess may wear crowns of precious metal with points, ornamented as They see fit.
- C. The Territorial Prince and Princess may wear coronets of silver appropriate to Their Principality, not to exceed five points.
- D. The Territorial Heir and Heiress may wear coronets of silver appropriate to Their Principality, not to exceed 4 points.



- E. Dukes and Duchesses may wear coronets of precious metal, embellished with strawberry leaves, ornamented as they see fit, the overall height not to exceed 4 inches.
- F. Counts and Countesses (and those with alternate titles of the same rank) may wear coronets of precious metal embattled, ornamented as they see fit, the overall height not to exceed 3 inches.
- G. Viscounts and Viscountesses may wear coronets of silver embattled, ornamented as they see fit, the overall height not to exceed 3 inches.
- H. Territorial Barons and Baronesses may wear coronets of precious metal with 6 spheroids or precious stones, with simple ornamentation, the overall height not to exceed 3 inches.
- I. Patent Peers may wear a circlet of precious metal with no protrusions above or below the band, with simple ornamentation, the overall height not to exceed 1 inch.
  - 1. Laurels may wear a Laurel Wreath meeting these standards.
  - 2. Pelican may wear Caps of maintenance of sable, lined with ermine, either singly or bearing the badge of the Order.
- J. Court Barons and Baronesses may wear coronets of precious metal with 6 spheroids or precious stones, with simple ornamentation, the overall height not to exceed 2 inches.
- K. Members of the Populace with Grants of Arms may wear a plain circlet of any metal with no protrusions above or below the band, the overall height of which shall not exceed 1/2 inch.
- L. Members of the Populace with Awards of Arms may wear a plain circlet of any metal with no protrusions above or below the band, the overall height of which shall not exceed 1/4 inch.

**IX.102 COLLARS OF ESTATE**

- A. Dukes and Duchesses may wear a Collar of Estate composed of strawberry leaves and the badges of Meridies, all in precious metal, and bearing the Badges of their respective Orders and Awards, the leaves and badges not to exceed 2 inches square.
- B. Counts and Countesses may wear a Collar of Estate composed of embattlements and the badges of Meridies, all in precious metal, and bearing the Badges of their respective Orders and Awards, the embattlements and badges not to exceed 2 inches square.
- C. Viscounts and Viscountesses may wear a Collar of Estate composed of embattlements of silver, and the badges of Meridies, and bearing the Badges of their respective Orders and Awards, the embattlements and badges not to exceed 2 inches square.

- D. Patent Peers may wear a Collar of Estate composed of the badges of Meridies and the Badges of their respective Orders and Awards, the Badges not to exceed 2 inches square.
- E. Members of the Populace with Grants of Arms may wear a Collar of Estate composed of uncial letter M's all in silver and the badges of Meridies, the letter and Badges not to exceed 1 square inch.

#### **IX.103 BADGES AND REGALIA**

- A. Citizens of Meridies may bear upon their person Badges of the various Orders and Awards they have received. These badges may be worn as pendants upon ribbons as a pin, or in such a fashion as they desire as long as it conforms to these directives. These badges may be of a size to please the Companion.
- B. Companions of the Laurel and the Pelican may bear Badges of their orders upon a chain of gold only if they have sworn their fealty and done homage to the Crown; otherwise, they should wear the badges of their orders upon a ribbon of appropriate color.
- C. White livery collars are reserved for Companions of the Order of Defense.
- D. Chains and Spurs - The Chivalry may wear unadorned chains of gold, only if they have sworn their fealty and done homage unto the Crown. Spurs of gold are also reserved for use by the Chivalry.

#### **IX.104 BELTS AND BALDRICS**

Simple white belts are reserved for use by Knights of the Society. White baldrics are reserved for use by Masters of Arms.

#### **IX.105 BATONS**

Heralds may carry white batons or heraldic maces of 1 yard in length, while they wear a tabard in the fulfillment of their proscribed duties, as was anciently done.

#### **IX.106 SUPPORTERS**

The use of supporters in displays of heraldry is regulated in the following manner.

- A. Patent Peers, Branches, and those individuals having a Grant-of-Arms may use a single supporter in the display of their Achievements of Arms.
- B. Royal Peers, and those groups and individuals holding an Augmentation of Arms may use paired Supporters in the display of their Achievements of Arms.