

What are Arms?

The level of Arms one possesses is what determines Precedence, or rank, in the Society. There are three levels of Arms in the SCA. From lowest to highest, they are:

Award of Arms	(AoA)
Grant of Arms	(GoA)
Patent of Arms	(PoA)

Once having received a particular level of Arms, one cannot receive that level again, nor can one receive a lower level. Someone who receives a Grant of Arms without ever having received an Award of Arms never gets an AoA. Someone who has an Award of Arms and then is Knighted still gets a Patent of Arms, however, since it is a higher level of Arms.

This does not mean that one cannot receive the Kingdom award that Armigerous award accompanies. Therefore, you will see Knights getting Keystones and Countesses getting Sycamores.

AEthelmearc Law does specifically state that people who are already Peers cannot receive the Order of High Merit in the field of their Peerage
i.e. - Laurels cannot receive the Fleur d'AEthelmearc but they may be given Millrinds, Gages, etc.

Armigerous Orders

These are Orders that bestow Arms automatically. Arms are only given with some awards. In each of the following cases, the Arms are given ONLY if the recipient doesn't already have an equivalent or higher level of Arms through another award. If the recipient does already possess an equal or higher level of Arms, omit the wording concerning Arms from the scroll text (though you may include the emblazon of the recipient's Arms in the illumination).

Orders including Awards of Arms:

The AEthelmearc Orders of Merit all include Awards of Arms. They are:

Order of the Keystone	(service)
Order of the Golden Alce	(martial prowess)
Order of the Sycamore	(arts & sciences)



Orders including Grants of Arms:

The Aethelmearc Orders of High Merit all include Grants of Arms. They are:

Order of the Millrind (service)
Order of the Gage (heavy weapons)
Order of the Fleur d'Aethelmearc (arts)
Order of the White Scarf (fencing)
Order of the Scarlet Guard (archery)
Order of the White Horn (martial specialties)

Territorial Baronies always include Grants of Arms, while Court Baronies may or may not do so at the whim of the Royalty. Again, this only applies if the recipient does not already have an equal or higher level of Arms.

Orders including Patents of Arms:

Bestowed Peerages always come with a Patent of Arms., unless the recipient already has another Peerage which would have given them a Patent. Royal Peerages (Count, Viscount) only come with a Patent if the Royalty so specify. Peerages include:

Order of the Pelican
Order of the Laurel
Order of the Chivalry
Knights and Masters at Arms
Royal Peers
Earls/Counts and Countesses

Dukes and Duchesses almost always received Patents of Arms when they achieved County rank, if not before, so they do not receive them again when they are invested with their Ducal rank.

Caution

If the recipient does not have registered Arms, but does use a device which has bounced, is still in the heraldic process or has never been registered, DO NOT put it's blazon in the text or emblazon it on a shield. You are free to put the charges of their unregistered device into the illumination, but putting it on a shield or including the blazon implies that it is registered.

Components of Scroll Wordings

Most scrolls are made up of the same key phrases arranged in different ways or stated using different words. Give your wordings variety. After the fifth, "Be it known..." the populace will fall asleep.... Medieval scroll wordings followed a set pattern. They were composed of several parts which varied in content and usage according to the rank of the grantor, the chancery in which it was produced and in the time period. Many of these elements are present in the "typical" Kingdom of Aethelmearc award scroll. Such a scroll may be outlined:

Address

All shall know that ...

Intitulation

We, Sonny and Cher, King and Queen of Aethelmearc

Notification and Exposition

Having heard much of Our servant, Elvis Presley, especially as a bard ...

Disposition

Do by these letters Award unto him Arms, to wit: Gules a guitar bendwise argent.

Corroboration and Date

Done by Us this tenth day of October A.S. XXX, in Our Shire of Hollywood.

Signature Spaces

Rex

Regina

Silver Buccle

Note that all pronouns referring to the Royalty are capitalized: We, Our, Us ...

The following phrases can be used to create a variety of AoA scroll wordings.



Address Variations:

Ave Attend Above all othersAs did learned men in days of old
By these words Before those here assembled Behold
Cry unto the ends of the earth Consider Cherish
Declare unto all ... Duty compels ... Deserving of notice and commendation ... Do attend
and know
Evermore it shall be said Embrace the news, exclaim it loud and long
From this day forth Far and wide let the word be spread Few are
Go tell it Good gentles Glad tidings
Hwaet! Hearken to these Our words How shall one be rewarded
It is only fitting In as much as In Our Realm there is no finer ____
It is Our intent to reward the deserving, and lest we be foresworn
Justice decrees Joyful news is hereby proclaimed
Knights, knaves and folk of every degree in between shall know
Let all draw near that they may hear Listen and learn
Make it knownMark well and tell othersMindful ofMany are
Never doubtNote ye all and bring to others' notice
Once upon a time On this day of daysObserve Oyez! Oyez!
Pray attend Pleased are We People of ____ attend
Quiet deeds may yet speak loudly
Rejoice! Recalling Raise your voices and let the news resound
Sound the horns Strike the drums Say unto the multitudes
Tell it forth Truly Take heed and tell to every generation
Unto all proclaim Upon the occasion of____
Virtue is its own reward, and yet
Wheresoever SCAdians gather, be it known With glad hearts and good will
Young and old alike, attend Ye here assembled
Zounds!

I. Address

All shall know that ...
Be it known to all that ...
Be it known that ...
Come forward all and know that ...
Do ye all hear and tell others that ...
Due commendations and greetings: Know that ...
Each and all shall know that ...
Forasmuch as ...
Greetings to all to whom these presents come ...
Hear ye all and know that ...
It shall be known unto all good folk that ...
Know ye all to whom these presents come that ...
Let it be known that ...
O come ye all and know that ...
Proclaim it unto all peoples that ...
Salutations and greetings. Let it be known that ...
To all to whom these presents come, know that ...
Unto all to whom these presents come, know that ...
Verily it shall be known that ...
Ye shall all know that ...

II. Intitulation

Please check the spelling of all names. The names of the King and Queen appear on the inside front cover of the AEstel. If you have any questions, please contact the Sylvan Signet. Period scrolls seldom gave a King or Queen's last name, so only the Royalty's first names are used in the SCA as well.

We, (names of King and Queen), King and Queen of Aethelmearc ...
We, (names of King and Queen), Rex et Regina ...
We, (names of King and Queen), King and Queen of these Sylvan Lands ...
We, (names of King and Queen), King and Queen of the Laurel Kingdom of Aethelmearc
We, (name of King) King of Aethelmearc, and (name of Queen) Our Queen...
We, (name of King) fierce and mighty King of Aethelmearc, and (name of Queen) Our glorious Queen ...
We, (name of King) King by Right of Arms, and (name of Queen) Queen of Aethelmearc...
We, (name of King) King of Aethelmearc by Right of Arms, and (name of Queen) Queen and noble inspiration
We, (name of King) King of Aethelmearc by Right of Arms, and (name of Queen) his beloved Queen ...

III. Notification and Exposition

This is made up of three parts: the lead in phrase, the recipient's name and the reason for the award.

Double-check the spelling of the recipient's name!!

If your assignment doesn't give a reason, use "service to Our Realm" Or "Whose service has greatly benefited Our Realm". If you have any questions regarding any of part of your assignment, contact the Sylvan Signet.

When using adjectives to describe the recipient, tailor them to fit the person. Suitable adjectives include:

Good, loyal, faithful, noble, brave, excellent, wise, courteous, beloved, courtly, trusty, worthy, steadfast.

For men: strong, valiant or gallant.

For women: gentle, gracious, fair or beauteous.

- ... finding Ourselves in receipt of many good reports
on the work of Our noble servant (name) as (reason for award) ...
- ... hearing much good of Our fair (name),
especially of his/her work as (reason for award) ...
- ... having observed the many good works and labor of Our brave (name)
for (reason for award), and thus ...
- ... having weighed well the works and labor of (name)
as (reason)
- ... noting the many sacrifices of Our good and well-beloved (name)
as (reason) and in recognition of his/her achievements...
- ... knowing that Our Realm has greatly benefited from the works of Our courteous
and loyal (name)
as (reason)...
- ... wishing to reward Our faithful servant, (name)
who has labored long and hard in Our Lands as (reason)...
- ... Having found Our most excellent (name) to be worthy of advancement
by reason of his/her work as (reason)...
- ... know that Our wise and gracious (name)
has improved the lot of Our subjects by (reason), and therefore...
- ... seeing Our valiant (name) has given unstintingly of himself/herself
as (reason)...

IV. Disposition

Never use “do grant unto (name) these Arms” on an AoA. This implies a Grant of Arms, not an Award of Arms.

- ... do Award unto him/her these Arms, blazoned: (blazon) ...
- ... do award the following Arms, to be borne by him/her alone throughout the Known World: (blazon) ...
- ... do Award unto him/her the sole and exclusive right to bear these Arms, to wit: (blazon)...
- ... do give unto him/her this Award of Arms, and he/she shall bear: (blazon)...
- ... do Award unto him/her the right to bear these Arms: (blazon)...
- ... do declare that he/she shall bear these Arms from this day hence: (blazon) ...
- ... do recognize his/her accomplishments with this Award of Arms: (blazon) to be displayed
by Lord/Lady (name and no other in all the lands of the Known World ...

Fill in the blazon if there is one, or leave three or four blank lines to add it on later if the recipient does not have registered Arms. Note that the heraldic term “Or”, meaning gold, is always capitalized.

There must also be an emblazon, or drawing of the Arms. It can be inserted in the middle of the text or be a part of the illumination. If the recipient has no registered Arms, include a penciled blank shield to be painted later.



V. Corroboration and Date

The Corroboration consists of a phrase confirming that the award is given by the Royalty and is followed by the date. The number of the day can be written out as a word or indicated by a Roman numeral. The month should always be written out in full, not abbreviated. The year (Anno Societatis, which may be abbreviated as A.S.) may be shown as Roman numerals or written out as words. While the date is the only thing that must be included after the Corroboration, it is common in SCA scrolls to list the place (hosting group) where the award is given. The name of the event may also be included as well. The standard arrangement is:

Given this thirty-first day of February, Anno Societatis MCX, at the Feast of Cannibals in Our Barony of Ixnorx.

Some opening phrases for the Corroboration:

Awarded upon....

Awarded by Us....

Given ...

Given by Us ...

As We have so proclaimed ...

Given by Our Hand ...

Done ...

Done by Our Hand ...

Done by Us ...

In witness whereof We have set Our Hand and Seal

When including the name of the group hosting the event, Please check the spelling!

All group names should appear in the Regnum listing in the back of the AEstel

VI. The Signature Spaces

Either leave a plain blank space for the Royalty to sign ... or calligraph their titles with space above or beside for them to sign. These titles should be in a smaller size hand than the main body of the scroll text. Please DO NOT draw an inked line for them to sign on, as this was not a period practice (light pencil lines are OK and appreciated). You should leave a space for the Silver Bucle Herald to sign any award scrolls that convey Arms (Award, Grant or Patent) The following arrangements are acceptable:

King of Aethelmearc Queen of Aethelmearc

Silver Bucle Herald

Rex
Regina
Silver Bucle Herald

King of Aethelmearc

Queen of Aethelmearc

Silver Bucle Herald

Non-Standard Wordings

Most of the wordings printed in this guide are the standard traditional style. It is not necessary, or even desirable that they be used for every scroll!! You are encouraged to make up more flowery, more poetic texts specific to the recipient. Doing so will stretch your imagination, make Court more interesting and make the recipient feel more special.

Remember that each scroll must ALWAYS have some form of the 5 sections listed at the beginning of the wordings section: **Address**, **Intitulation**, **Notification and Exposition**, **Disposition**, **Corroboration and Date**. When you write a non-standard wording, be absolutely certain to have another person proofread it for grammar, spelling and overall logic. For something really way out, we suggest you check with another scribe whose judgment you trust.

Many non-standard wordings begin with a few descriptive and somewhat poetic phrases about the recipient, how the Kingdom has been improved by their efforts or just what wonderful virtues the recipient possesses.

The following are some non-standard wordings, which you can use as sources for ideas. They have been written by Sir Andreas Hak, Baron Aaron Faheud Swiftrunner, Lady Liadhain ni Chleirigh na Coillte and Lord Stephen Calvert de Grey.

DO NOT copy them exactly - especially since they weren't all originally penned for AEthelmearc Royalty. The point is to understand how you may put your own such wording together.

All who see this shall know of the myriad talents of Our beloved servant, (name). Many gifts has he/she given Our Kingdom, most especially the beauty and grace of dance, the sound of sweet music and the rich elegance of fine garb. Therefore do We, (names of King and Queen), King and Queen of AEthelmearc, with the great acclaim of the Order, induct him/her into Our Order of High Merit for the Arts on this (number) day of (month), A.S. (year) in Our (group name).

A voice which commands attention, an arm which strikes with accuracy and strength and a heart which is true and noble; these are qualities which We (names of King and Queen) King and Queen of the East, have found in Our valiant and loyal (recipient's name). His/her many years as a fighter, fencer and pursuivant in Our (name of home group) have shown him/her to be worthy of advancement and thus do We Award unto him/her these Arms: By Our Hand.

His/her song has made the mountains weep and the music from his/her harp has caused dragons to cease their wandering and listen. Such beauty and grace has the noble (name of recipient) brought to the bardic arts that We (names of King and Queen)

King and Queen of the East are moved to create him/her Our Kings/Queen's Bard that he/she may cause the triumphs of Our Land to live on in the glory of the minstrel arts forever. Done this...

For a Roman Persona:

Since the days of the legions of the Empire of Rome great warriors were known by their feathered helms and the names of their positions. The titles of Centurion, Tribune and Caesar are not unknown to Us, even to this day. We, (names of king and Queen) King and Queen of the East, knowing the efforts of Our own son/daughter of Rome, (name) in his/her teaching of the skill of the arts of martial prowess, thus do grant him admission to Our most loyal Order of the Tygers Combatant, with the approval of its companions. Done this...

Rare are gemstones and costly is gold, but more valuable to Us than either are the time and talents that Our subjects invest in Service to the Kingdom of the East. For his/her long and unselfish work, We (names of King and Queen) King and Queen of the East, do welcome (name) into Our Order of the Silver Crescent with the acclaim of the Companions thereof. This We do upon this day...

Period Style Non-Standard Wordings

Another source for non-standard wordings is to alter a period writing to make it reflect the intent of the award. Below are examples of wordings that have been created in this way. One of the major drawbacks to doing this is that period writings can be quite lengthy. Please bear this in mind before you find yourself in a situation where you have written the perfect wording for the recipient, but it will not fit in your text block without major editing.

From the wise and benevolent, (King's name), by strength and right of arms, august Monarch of Aethelmearc, and (Queen's name), Our Queen, greetings. Be it known, to the present age and to future generations of Our subjects, that We, aided by the laws and traditions of the Kingdom and the support of the people, do, in general court, held on the (#) day of (month), Anno Societatis (year), in the presence of members of the populace, recognize the succession of the baronial thrones of the (name of Barony). We do hereby grant that Barony with all its jurisdictions to Our noble subject (recipient's name) to hold and protect in the name of the Kingdom of Aethelmearc. As the Baron/Baroness of the (name of Barony), We charge him to guard Our lands, protect and lead Our people, and uphold Our laws. ** And as a token of his/her worth We do Grant unto him/her these Arms: (blazon Arms or leave space for them to be added later) In order that this, Our Royal decree may, for all ages, remain valid and unshaken, We have ordered the present charter to be written and in witness do set Our Hand.

Wording by Ekaterina Volkova based on the charter for: The Establishment of the Duchy of Austria; September 17, 1156.

Unto all be it known that We, (King's name), fierce and mighty, King of Aethelmearc and (Queen's name) Our kind and gracious Queen have made it Our wish and command to advance in nobility (recipient). Having heard tell of, and seen with Our own eyes, his great honor and skill and knowing Our desire is supported and endorsed by the Companions of The Order of the Gage, We grant, approve and confer upon this skilled and respected gentle all rights, honors and privileges of this Order of High Merit and wishing that this recognition may endure and be observed by all permit him to wear the badge of the Order, A glove sable charged with an escarbuncle Or. As further token We Grant unto His Lordship/Her Ladyship (recipient's first name) these Arms: ----- Having confirmed by document and set by Our Hand, this We command all present, if they hope confidently for our grace and affection, that they bear witness to this event and do not allow Our Will to be disturbed by any one. Given at (event) on the (#) day of (month), in the (year) Anno Societatis.

*Wording by Yvianne de Castel d'Avignon
based on James I of Aragon's
Barcelona Maritime Code of 1258*

In accord with all that is proper, attend and bear witness. Since those things that are done lapse with the passage of time, and unless they are supported by written testimony, will easily slip the memories of men, We wish it known to all people both now and in the future that We, (names of King and Queen) King and Queen of Aethelmearc, upon the advice of Our Peers, hereby bestow companionship in Our most noble Order of the Pelican unto (recipient's name) for his/her steadfast service deserves no less recognition. This appointment of Ours shall be accompanied by every dignity, honor, joy and burden including the right to bear these Arms by Letters Patent: _____ We render to you the gratitude which you deserve for your many efforts and for the very great fidelity which you have shown to unto Our Realm, and We ask you to continue the same. In order that no misrepresentation may arise in the future, and in order that all doubt may be removed, We have strengthened this appointment of Ours, corroborating it in writing before those here assembled. Done this (#) day of (month) in the (#) month of Our Reign, Anno Societatis (year).

*Wording by Yvianne de Castel d'Avignon
Based on the Grant of a House at Riga to the Men of Lübeck, 1231*