

DON'T PANIC!

**THE POCKET COURT
HERALD**

"Ok, now we need a herald. You (pointing at you), you're loud. You can be the herald."

from The East Kingdom Herald's Handbook

Baroness Kateline Macfarlane, OP

In consultation with the heralds and retinue of various Crowns and other Nobility of An Tir
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You've been asked to herald Court:

Remember these rules:

- Be flexible: go with the flow
- Be prepared: have your supplies ready
- Be discreet: keep quiet about what you hear
- Be detached: don't get emotionally involved
- Remember: you are not the star of the show
- Keep calm: others look to you
- Know your limits: ask for help
- Share the stage: encourage others to herald

The retinue are your best friends. Let them handle the business of Court, but offer your assistance. They know how the nobility you are about to serve like things done. How they like to open and close court, if they like to speak individually to each recipient, how many lines you can 'feed' at a time. Introduce yourself, tell them how much experience you have, and ask questions. (e.g. Hi, I'm Kateline, I'll be heralding today. I have lots of Court experience but I've never worked for this couple. How are their names pronounced? Do they like to speak first?) Find out if there are specific cheers used in the area. Do the nobility use persona specific titles? How are they pronounced?

One of the most awkward things is to clue the nobility to repeat after the herald. Ask them what they are comfortable with. You may touch them on the shoulder, speak their name, or my favorite, say, "My King" or "My Queen", "My Baron" or "My Baroness".

Honorifics:

Majesty/Majesties/Sovereign/Sovereigns
Royal Highness/Royal Highnesses
Excellency/Excellencies

Titles:

King, Queen, Crown Prince, Prince, Baron etc

Adjectives:

Noble King, Gracious Queen, Patron of War, Patroness
of the Arts, King by Right of Arms, Queen by Inspiration
...look at their award text for others

Whose Court is it?

Generally, the highest ranking person will hold Court. All lesser business will be done within that Court, with an opening and closing statement to signify when each begins and finishes, but without cheers. It works best if each noble has their own herald, but occasionally you may find yourself doing double or triple duty. Just move to the noble you will be assisting and take up their business, then move back to the central position. The nobility should ask permission and render thanks when their business is finished. If the highest ranking noble does not wish to "do" Court, then it can be done by preparing them a place and inviting their presence. A Prince and/or Princess may hold Court in any branch. Royal Patrons and Barons/ess may only hold Court within their lands or at an event sponsored by their branch.

Seating

The Consort sits to the left of the Sovereign. You may seat couples together or separately as your nobility desires. The highest rank has the central position with the next in rank seated to the right, then the next to the left and alternating back and forth. Traditionally the Crown Prince is seated next to the King, with the Crown Princess seated next to the Queen, and then alternating couples. Precedence is determined by date of branch elevation.

Processing?

Will your nobility process? If so, have them line up in order of seating with their attendants behind. Lead or announce the ranking nobility into Court. They will process in and stand at their seats and their attendants will move behind the chairs. Invite the next to enter, they will reverence and take their places, remaining standing until all have entered the room. (Do not call the next until the first has been welcomed and moved to their place.) The ranking nobility will take their seats and the rest shall follow.

Ready? Steady? Go!

Cards/list in order?

Scrolls to match?

Danglies ready?

Retinue ready? (let them hand and take)

Do you have: table, water, cup, throat lozenges, tissues, pens, folios, ceremonies, tabard, light source, extra cards or paper?

Is your voice warmed up? Sing or hum to get your vocal cords warmed up and limber, remember you are going to be speaking loudly and not shouting.

Take a deep breath, come up on your toes and settle back down as you exhale.

Ask your nobility if they are ready, and begin.

Open Court

Call the populaces attention and have them stand:

My lords and ladies, attend you now the Court of *honorifics, names, titles of place*

Place name, rise up and behold your Honorific or Title, names

So opens the Court of *names, titles of place*

seat the populace

ask for permission to seat the populace

You have *honorifics* leave to be seated

Honorifics invite you to make yourselves comfortable

the Nobility speaks first?

Hear now the words of your *Title*

The Court business

- If you can't read it, fake it
- Don't stop because the populace cheers, drop your voice and continue
- Keep the pace brisk but not hurried
- Don't try to do the retinues' job
- Be as invisible as possible

Clue the populace

tell the person called what you want them to do

Come and kneel
Approach the Thrones
Has business
Has a presentation for

Remember that Royal Peers and seated Royalty are invited into Court, not summoned

No scroll? Fake it!

- Who gets it
- Who gives it
- What award
- Why?
- When?

Name of recipient,
Honorific, Name Title & Name Title are minded to:
bestow upon you an Award of Arms,
grant you entry into the Right Noble Order of the
Goutte de Sange for your service to the Kingdom,
grant you entry into the Right Noble Order of the
Jambe de Leon in recognition of your contributions
to the Kingdom
other award and reason

Done by Our hand this *day of month*, AS Year being
Year of the Common Era

Is there further business?

Ask your nobility if they have anything else?
Do they wish you to ask the populace for further
business?

Closing Court

So ends the Court of *Names and Titles*
(the populace should stand now)

If Court will resume later an announcement should be
made, if not court should close with cheers .

Closing Cheers

***Remember: down the people, up the branches
Populace will repeat each phrase or cheer***

Long live King *Name*

Long live Queen *Name*

If there are Heirs chosen

For Their Royal Highnesses, *Name & Name*, Huzzah!

For Their Highnesses of the Summits, *N & N*, Huzzah!

For Their Highnesses of Avacal *N & N*, Huzzah!

For Their Highnesses of Tir Righ *N & N*, Huzzah!

Then up the branches:

For the Principality of TirRigh, Huzzah!

For the Principality of Avacal, Huzzah!

For the Principality of Summits, Huzzah!

For our Mother Kingdom, thrice raise Her name to the
skies!

An Tir

An Tir

An Tir

A joyous noise! You have *honorific* leave to *join the next
activity, depart, etc*

**this is the order for a Crown event

- at a local event you still begin with the Crown & Heirs; Prince & Princess if in a Principality; then the local nobility
- continue up the branches including only those whose lands you are physically in
- visiting nobility should be added directly after their local counterpart eg: King of An Tir, *King of the West*, Prince of the Summits, *Prince of the Mists*

Toasting at the Feast

The herald will frequently be asked to help with the toasts at a feast. They follow the same order as the closing court cheers. The first toast is given by the highest ranking person present, save the Crown, and follow in precedence order. Your nobility may choose to toast the servers or the cooks after the toast to the Kingdom has been given.

some good sources:

<http://www.pbm.com/~lindahl/jessa/kingdoms.html>

SCA Kingdom and Principality
Orders, Awards, and Honors

<http://www.sca.org/heraldry/laurel/philosophyonherald.html>

Philosophy of Court Heraldry

<http://www.sca.org/heraldry/laurel/heraldrychecklist.html>

Court Heraldry: A Checklist for Success

