



I'm sure it will not be long before you find yourself going to an event looking out into the crowd and noticing that there are quite a few people wearing "crowns." You may think to yourself, "Are they all royalty?" Unless you are at a State dinner at Pennsic, the answer to that is no. Another situation you may find yourself in is that you happen to over hear someone call someone else The Honorable Lord or Sir so and so. Again, you may think to yourself, "How did they become so honorable?" In this class I will talk about various titles someone may hold and what you would call them if they did hold that title.

AoA, GoA, PoA

In my last class I discussed the various Awards and Orders we have here in the SCA. With some of those awards you may gain a title depending on the level of award you received. One of the first awards you get in the SCA is an armigerous award. When you receive this award you are given your Award of Arms or AoA. This means you become Lady or Lord (first name). So, pulling from my last class, if you get a Sycamore, Keystone, or Golden Alce and you don't already have your AoA you will receive one. The next level of award someone can receive is a Grant of Arms or GoA. When someone receives a GoA they then become The Honorable Lord or Lady (first name). Often you will see this abbreviated as THL. When someone receives a Fleur De AEthelmearc, Millrind, Gage, White Scarf, Scarlet Guard, or White Horn they receive a GoA. The last level of award someone can get is a Patent of Arms or PoA. These are the Peers of our society. They are the Knights, Pelicans, and Laurels. If it is a knight then they are referred to as Sir (first name). If it were a Pelican or Laurel than you would call them Master/Mistress (first name). If in doubt you can always address someone as "my lady" or "my lord" no matter if they have a title or not.

Who's wearing that "crown"?

Before we start, I just want to explain that not everyone you see with a "crown" on is wearing a crown. Only the King and Queen wear crowns. Everyone else is wearing a cornet. Now let's begin explaining the different kinds of cornets and crowns.

Baron/Baroness

There are two types of Baron/Baronesses. There are Landed/Territorial or Court. A Landed or Territorial Baron(ess) is some one that was chosen or appointed as head of a Barony. A Court Baron(ess) is someone that was deemed worthy by the King and Queen to carry the title of Court Baron(ess). To become a Court Baron(ess) is an honor but sometimes the Royalty will also give the person an Award or Grant of Arms. Whether someone is a Landed/Territorial Baron(ess) or a Curt Baron(ess) they are address in the same way and have the same kind of cornet. You would address them as "Your Excellency" and six pearls on their cornet would identify them.

Viscount/Viscountess

This title goes to those individuals who were a Prince or Princess of a Principality. Like the Baron's, you would address them as "Your Excellency." On their cornet you will find multiple points with twelve or more pearls. Although, some Viscount(ess) will only use a single point.



Count/Countess

These individuals have been King or Queen once. Sometimes a Count may also choose to use the title of Earl instead of Count. Again, you would refer to them as “Your Excellency.” You would be able to recognize them because their coronets are embattled. (In case you didn’t know, embattled looks like the top of a castle wall.)

Duke/Duchess

A Duke or Duchess have been King or Queen at least two times. Strawberry leaves identify their coronet and they are addressed as “Your Grace.”

Crown Prince and Princess

In Aethelmearc the Crowned Prince and Princess stay heirs to the Crown of Aethelmearc for about six months after they win Crown Tournament. You would properly address them as “Your Royal Highness” but often times you will just hear “Your Highness.” You can recognize them by the short half escarbuncle coronet they wear and the entourage that usually follow them.

Crown King and Queen

In Aethelmearc the Crowned King and Queen stay in that position for about 6 months (even though you only reign for six months you become royalty as soon as you win Crown Tournament. So actually, you are a royal for about a year). You would address them as “Your Majesty.” But, if you sworn fealty to them you could address them as “My Liege.” Their crown is also a half escarbuncle but it’s a little taller than their heirs are and it says “In Glorias Aethelmearc” around the bottom.

Now that I’ve pumped your head with more information about coronets and crowns than it probably can hold, here is a helpful hint. If you’re uncertain on what to say, ask. Also, if you see anyone with a coronet, a sign of respect is to nod your head or bow. But, if you happen to forget or if you have an arm full of stuff, it is ok if you don’t bow or nod. In the words of Baroness Liadain ni Dheirdre Chaomhanaigh, “Knowing what to do or say in the presence of a “tin hat” (SCA slang for a coronet) is merely part of the game which helps keep the dream alive!”

