

Order of the Laurel

HERALD

Their Majesties command the presence of all Masters and Mistresses of the Order of the Laurel.

The Laurels assemble, kneeling before the Throne to either side, leaving a center aisle.

It has long been recognized that there are those among us who are much deserving of high honor but who, by reason of the nature and direction of their services and achievement, come not to the glory of warrior or Throne, yet without whom our Kingdom would not be half so blest.

For a Kingdom is supported by three things: valor, art, and service. And without any one of these, the Kingdom topples.

Therefore was created the Order of the Laurel to recognize those who, possessing all the other skills, virtues, and attributes appropriate to members of the Peerage, shall also have distinguished themselves by outstanding achievement in the Arts and Sciences.

And the symbol of this Order is a medallion bearing a Laurel wreath; for the chaplet of laurel has long been acknowledged as a mark of superior achievement. And this Order ranks in precedence with the Order of Chivalry, the Order of the Pelican, and the Order of Defense, and carries with it a Patent of Arms.

(As an OPTION: The Escort will here say:

ESCORT

Your Majesties, having consulted with the Order, is it Your desire to increase our numbers at this time?

KING

It is. Please bring the candidate forward.

The Escort, and such other Laurels as the Candidate will have selected, stand and walk to the Candidate, who will be at the rear of the hall or otherwise have arranged to easily come forward. As they escort the Candidate forward, the Herald announces the Candidate's name. End of OPTION.) If the OPTION is not taken, the Herald says:

HERALD

Their Majesties call forward N.

The Candidate comes forward and kneels before the Throne. As an OPTION: The Candidate may process into court under a canopy, borne by two or more of the Candidate's choice. This canopy is part of the regalia of the Order. If used, it should stand aside during the ceremony, as the Candidate approaches the Throne.

Also as an OPTION: The Candidate may choose to present tokens of his art or science, representing the skill which has earned elevation and as a token of continued fealty. These may be purely symbolic (a pair of scissors for a seamstress, for instance) -- or quite literal (examples of their work). The tokens should be small, portable enough to be brought forward on a pillow. The Candidate bears the tokens forward, as the Herald states:

Your Majesties, in token of his craft, and in pledge of (his/her) continuing fealty, N. here renders up to you these symbols of (his/her) artistry and expertise into Your Majesties' keeping.

The tokens are presented to Their Majesties, who take them and set them aside. (As an OPTION, representatives from each of the bestowed peerages and a Royal Peer, usually a Lady of the Rose, may be prompted by the herald to speak for the candidate.)

KING

N., that the assembled court may know your worth, we would hear from a member of each of the Orders.

HERALD

Is there here a Companion of the Laurel who will speak on behalf of this candidate?

(Pause while Laurel speaks)

Is there here a knight of Caid who will speak on behalf of this candidate?

(Pause while Knight speaks)

Is there here a Companion of the Pelican who will speak on behalf of this candidate?

(Pause while Pelican speaks)

Is there here a Companion of Defense who will speak on behalf of this candidate?

(Pause while Defender speaks)

Is there here a Companion of the Rose who will speak on behalf of this candidate?

(Pause while Rose speaks. End of OPTION.)

KING

N., right mindful of your achievement and service to Our Realm, and responsive to the wishes of your Peers, We are minded to create you a Master of the Laurel. Will you accept from Us this honor, and the badge of your achievement, and will you swear fealty to this, Our Crown and Realm?

CANDIDATE

I will, Your Majesty.

QUEEN

Will you, to the best of your ability, continue your quest for artistic excellence, as you most surely have until now, and seek to increase your labor and talents nobly, as befits a nobleman, and train any dependents you may have to do likewise, so far as is within your powers?

CANDIDATE

I will.

KING

Let the scroll be read.

The herald reads the scroll (or promissory, if no scroll is available. If preparing the ceremony beforehand and there is no scroll, use the standard scroll text from the College of Scribes. Promissory text appears below).

HERALD

Greetings to all gentles and nobles of the Known World unto whom these presents shall come, from King *K.* and Queen *Q.* of the Sovereign Realm of Caid. The excellence and endeavors of Our subject, *N.*, in the area of (specific arts or sciences), have moved Us, after consultation with the members of the Order, to elevate (him/her) to the Most Noble Order of the Laurel of the Society for Creative Anachronism, on this (day)th day of (month), A.S. (year), being the (n)th year of the Common Era. We affirm by these Letters Patent (his/her) exclusive right to bear the arms following, that is to say, (Blazon). As further token of Our esteem, We grant (him/her) the privilege of displaying above (his/her) shield, in whole or in part, the achievement proper to the Order: to wit, a wreath of laurel vert set upon a silver helmet, with mantling (*Color*) doubled (*Metal*). In testimony whereof, We here set Our hand and cause the Great Seal of Caid to be affixed. *K.*, Rex Caidis, *Q.*, Regina Caidis.

He hands it to the Crown, who hands it to the candidate. (It may be given to one of the candidate's entourage, or back to the herald, for safekeeping if necessary.) The King then receives the medallion from that member of the Order who is providing it.

KING

***N.*, take from Our hands this token of your achievement, and Our esteem.**

The King places the medallion around the Candidate's neck. (As an OPTION, the Order may present the new Laurel with a cope of the order; The cloak bearers come forward and place the cope on the candidate's shoulders.

QUEEN

As this cope folds you in warmth, so does the Order of the Laurel enfold you in companionship.

End of OPTION.) The King dubs the Candidate with his sword or with his scepter by lightly striking the candidate with the flat of the blade or with the scepter first on the right shoulder, then on the left shoulder, then on the crown of the head. If the King is not a Laurel, the designated Laurel can place his hand upon the sword, or if that is not possible then the shoulder of the King.

KING

Henceforth be *Master/Mistress N.* in this Our Realm.

HERALD

Place your hands between Their Majesties' for the Oath of Fealty.

NEW LAUREL

Prompted as needed by the herald.

Here do I swear by mouth and hand fealty and service to the Crown and Kingdom of Caid: to speak and to be silent, to do and to let be, to come and to go, to serve and to teach, in such matters as concern this Realm; in need or in plenty, in peace or in war, in living or in dying, until the Crown depart their throne, or death take me, or the world end. So say I, *N.*

KING AND QUEEN

And this do We hear, *Master/Mistress N.* And We, for Our part, swear fealty to you and to all your household, to protect and defend you against every creature with all Our power, until we depart from the Throne, or death take Us, or the world end. So say We, *K.*, King of Caid.

And so say We, *Q.*, Queen of Caid.

The King raises the new Laurel. (If the OPTION had been taken of presenting tokens of skill, the Queen returns them to the new Laurel at this time, saying:

QUEEN

Receive back these symbols of your fealty and achievement, and keep them well, as you have hitherto.

End of OPTION.)

KING

Congratulations, *Master/Mistress N.* Go now to your Peers.

The new Laurel joins the rest of the Order.

KING

Thank you, my lords and ladies. You may retire.

The Laurels bow to the Throne and retire, while the Herald exhorts cheers from the populace.