

The Adrian Empire, Inc.

IMPERIAL ESTATES WRIT #18
ARMIGEROUS RIGHTS,
REGALIA & MODES OF ADDRESS,
ORDERS AND AWARDS,
AND MINISTRY BADGES

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Anyone is welcome to point out any error or omission that they may find.

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PREFACE

We, the Imperial Estates General, do hereby adopt this Writ as Law in the Adrian Empire. This Writ lists those items which rise to the level of Law in the areas of Armigerous Rights, Regalia and Modes of Address, Orders and Awards, and Ministry Badges. All of these items have been approved and registered by the Imperial College of Arms.

I. ARMIGEROUS RIGHTS

- A. The right to display arms is reserved to armigers.
- B. Armigers are those who have either been granted the right to bear arms by the Crown or the Estates, such as by being granted the titles of Lord/Lady, Baron/Baroness, Viscount/Viscountess, Count/Countess, and Prince/Princess, or those who have earned the right to bear arms by virtue of being Knighted.
- C. Non-Knightly armigers may display their arms on their person in any shape so long as it is no more than six inches on its longest edge.
- D. Knightly Peers have the further right to display their arms on an heraldic tabard.
- E. Landed Knights, and Royal and Imperial Peers have the further right of livery.
- F. Any member may register arms against the day they shall be permitted to display them.
- G. Any armiger may display armory on period implements as approved by the Imperial College of Arms.

II. REGALIA AND MODES OF ADDRESS

A. THEORY

1. CHAINS OF STATE

Chains of state are not regulated by law.

2. CORONETS AND CROWNS

- a. All non-Chivalric nobility are entitled to regalia headgear;
 - i. Ranks of Baron and above are permitted a coronet or crown,
 - ii. Noble non-Chivalric ranks below Baron are permitted a circlet.
- b. The difference between a coronet and a crown is the rank of the person wearing it: Emperors, Empresses, Kings, Queens, Archdukes, Archduchesses, Dukes, and Duchesses all are entitled to a crown; all others so entitled wear a coronet. There is no stylistic difference; it is merely a matter of terminology.
- c. The difference between a coronet/crown and a circlet is that the former may have points, while the latter never does.
- d. There is no minimum or maximum size restriction on crowns and coronets.

3. RESTRICTIONS

- a. None of the regalia or styles listed below is mandatory, for example, no one is required to wear that to which one is entitled; however, others who are not so entitled may be restricted from using such regalia or styles.
- b. Addressing someone with a form different from that listed for that member's station is neither prohibited nor discouraged, since forms of address are merely a way of showing respect.
- c. The Estates of a Kingdom may choose to further restrict or augment the regalia listed below, so long as such restriction or augmentation does not conflict with this list.

B. PRACTICE

What follows are the regalia and modes of address for each rank in the Order of Precedence which has been registered by the Imperial College of Arms. Titles are listed in descending order of precedence, with Landed Estates listed by the name of the Estate rather than its rulers.

1. EMPIRE

Estate Imperial, ruled by an Emperor and/or Empress. Ruler may wear a crown. Ruler may be addressed as "*Your Imperial Majesty*", "*Your Majesty*", "*Your Highness*", or "*Your Grace*". Ruler may be styled "*Emperor <name>*" or "*Empress <name>*" according to gender, or may use a non-English translation.

2. IMPERIAL CROWN PRINCE/IMPERIAL CROWN PRINCESS

The Heirs to the Empire. May wear a coronet. May be addressed as "*Your Imperial Highness*" or "*Your Highness*". May be styled "*Crown Prince <name>*" or "*Crown Princess <name>*" according to gender, or may use a non-English translation.

3. PROTECTOR OF THE DREAM

Imperial Peer. Non-voting order granted by vote of the Imperial Estates. May wear a coronet, the silver-metal cord of the Order, and other regalia as outlined in the section on Orders, below. May be addressed as "*Your Imperial Highness*" or "*Your Highness*". May be styled "*Prince <name>*" or "*Princess <name>*" according to gender, or may use a non-English translation. The Premier of the Order is styled the "*Grandmaster of the Dream*" and is selected by the members of the Order.

4. KINGDOM

Geographic Chartered Subdivision and Estate Royal, ruled by a King and/or Queen. Ruler may wear a crown. Ruler may be addressed as "*Your Royal Majesty*", "*Your Majesty*", "*Your Highness*", or "*Your Grace*". Ruler may be styled "*King <name>*" or "*Queen <name>*" according to gender, or may use a non-English translation.

5. PRINCE/PRINCESS

Imperial Peer and Estate Royal in own right. Retirement title granted by the Estates to former rulers of the Empire. May wear a coronet. May be addressed as "*Your Imperial Highness*" or "*Your Highness*". May be styled "*Prince <name>*" or "*Princess <name>*" according to gender, or may use a non-English translation.

6. CROWN PRINCE/CROWN PRINCESS

The Heirs to a Kingdom. May wear a coronet and any other such regalia as local tradition demands. May be addressed as "*Your Royal Highness*" or "*Your Highness*". May be styled "*Crown Prince <name>*" or "*Crown Princess <name>*" according to gender, or may use a non-English translation.

7. ARCHDUCHY

Geographic Chartered Subdivision and Estate Royal, ruled by an Archduke and/or Archduchess. Ruler may wear a crown. Ruler may be addressed as "*Your Royal Grace*" or "*Your Grace*". Ruler may be styled "*Archduke <name>*", "*Duke <name>*", "*Archduchess <name>*", or "*Duchess <name>*" according to gender and preference, or may use a non-English translation.

8. DUCHY

Geographic Chartered Subdivision and Estate Royal, ruled by a Duke and/or a Duchess. Ruler may wear a crown. Ruler may be addressed as "*Your Royal Grace*" or "*Your Grace*". Ruler may be styled "*Duke <name>*" or "*Duchess <name>*" according to gender, or may use a non-English translation such as "*Duc*".

9. COUNT/COUNTESS

Royal Peer and Estate Major in own right. Retirement title granted by the Estates to former rulers of a Kingdom. May wear a coronet. May be addressed as "*Your Grace*". May be styled "*Count <name>*" or "*Countess <name>*" according to gender, or may use a translation such as "*Earl*" or "*Comtessa*".

10. MARCH

Estate Major, ruled by a Marquess and/or Marchioness. Ruler may wear a coronet. Rulers may also be styled Marquis/Marquessa. Ruler may be addressed as "*Your Excellency*". Ruler may be styled "*Marquess <name>*" or "*Marchioness <name>*" according to gender, or may use a translation such as "*Marquis*" or "*Marquessa*".

11. FOUNDING VISCOUNT/VISCOUNTESS

Imperial Peer and Estate Major in own right. Title granted to the Founding Members of the Adrian Empire by the Bylaws. May wear a coronet. May be addressed as "*Your Grace*". May be styled "*Viscount <name>*" or "*Viscountess <name>*" according to gender, or may use a non-English translation.

12. KNIGHT THIRD LEVEL

Imperial Peer, Landed Knight and Estate Major in own right. May wear a blue belt and gold spurs. May also fly a standard. May be styled "*Sir <name>*" or "*Dame <name>*" according to gender, or may use a non-English translation. Includes Knights Champion (combat), Master (arts), Premier (ministry), and Warden (archery).

13. SHIRE

Geographic Chartered Subdivision and Estate Minor, ruled by a Viceroy and/or Vicereine on behalf of the Imperial Crown. Ruler may wear a circlet. Ruler may be addressed as "*Your Excellency*". Ruler may be styled "*Viceroy <name>*" or "*Vicereine <name>*" according to gender, or may use a non-English translation.

14. COUNTY

Estate Minor, ruled by a Count and/or Countess. Ruler may wear a coronet. Ruler may be addressed as "*Your Excellency*". Ruler may be styled "*Count <name>*" or "*Countess <name>*" according to gender, or may use a non-English translation.

15. VISCOUNT/VISCOUNTESS

Non-voting retirement title granted by the Estates to former rulers of an Archduchy. May wear a coronet. May be addressed as "*Your Excellency*". May be styled "*Viscount <name>*" or "*Viscountess <name>*" according to gender, or may use a non-English translation.

16. BARONY

Estate Minor, ruled by a Baron and/or Baroness. Ruler may wear a coronet. Ruler may be addressed as "*Your Excellency*". Ruler may be styled "*Baron <name>*" or "*Baroness <name>*" according to gender, or may use a non-English translation.

17. BARON/BARONESS

Non-voting title awarded by any Imperial or Kingdom Crown or a Protector of the Dream. May wear a coronet. May be addressed as "*Your Excellency*". May be styled "*Baron <name>*" or "*Baroness <name>*" according to gender, or may use a non-English translation. May use the style "*Baron/Baroness of the <crowns> Court*" after their name, where <crowns> is the name of the granting Crown, e.g. "*Baron of the Umbrian Court*" or "*Baroness of the Imperial Court*".

18. KNIGHT SECOND LEVEL

Landed Knight and Estate Minor in own right. May wear a blue belt and silver spurs with a gold rowel. May also fly a standard. May be styled "*Sir <name>*" or "*Dame <name>*" according to gender, or may use a non-English translation. Includes Knights Banneret (combat), Doctor (arts), Civil (ministry), and Forester (archery).

19. HOUSE

Estate Minor, ruled by a Lord or Lady. Ruler may wear a circlet. Ruler may be addressed as "*Your Lordship*" or "*Your Ladyship*" according to gender. Ruler may be styled "*Lord <name>*" or "*Lady <name>*", or may use a non-English translation. Ruler may use the style "*Lord/Lady of House <name>*" after their name. May also use the style "*Sire <name>*" according to prior practice.

20. KNIGHT FIRST LEVEL

May wear a blue belt and silver spurs. May be styled "*Sir <name>*" or "*Dame <name>*" according to gender, or may use a non-English translation. Includes Knights Bachelor (combat), Robe, (arts), Minister (ministry), and Archer (archery). Only a knight can make a knight.

21. LORD/LADY

Non-voting title awarded by any Imperial or Kingdom Crown. May wear a circlet. May be addressed as "*Your Lordship*" or "*Your Ladyship*" according to gender. May be styled "*Lord <name>*" or "*Lady <name>*" according to gender, or may use a non-English translation. May use the style "*Lord/Lady of the <crowns> Court*" after their name, where <crowns> is the name of the granting Crown, e.g. "*Lord of the Yorkish Court*" or "*Lady of the Court of Esperance*".

22. LORD/LADY PROTECTOR

Temporary position, acting as the Crown of a Geographic Chartered Subdivision for a period of less than 1 year. Carries precedent with the rank of their Subdivision, but should not wear the Subdivision's Crown. May be addressed as "*Your Grace*". Holders may append "*Lord/Lady Protector of <subdivision name>*" to their existing style while in office. (Example: "*Earl XXX, Lord Protector of YYY*".)

23. CANTON

Geographic subdivision of a Kingdom, Archduchy, or Duchy, ruled by a Viceroy and/or Vicereine on behalf of the Crown. Ruler may be addressed as "*Your Lordship*" or "*Your Ladyship*" according to gender. Ruler may be styled "*Viceroy <name>*" or "*Vicereine <name>*" according to gender, or may use a non-English translation.

24. SQUIRE

Someone who exchanges pledges of fealty or service with a member or members of the Chivalry for special training. The title holds no official precedence and is not a requirement for advancement to Knighthood. May be styled "*Squire <name>*", or may use a non-English translation. Squires traditionally wear red belts. Only a Knight may have a Squire.

25. MAN-AT-ARMS/LADY-IN-WAITING/PAGE

Job titles used for those who have exchanged pledges of fealty or service with any individual. The title holds no official precedence. Any individual may have a Lady-in-Waiting, Man-at-Arms, or Page.

- a. Man-at-Arms traditionally wears a green belt.
- b. Lady-in-Waiting traditionally wears a personal favour.
- c. Page traditionally wears a yellow belt.

III. ORDERS AND MINISTRIES

A. ORDERS AND AWARDS

Following are the Imperial-level Orders and Awards, which include the regalia, badges, and criteria for admission. Awards which may be granted by Kingdom or Ducal Crowns may also be granted by Shire Crowns, subject to the prior approval of the Imperial Crown. Companions of these Orders may wear the badges as belt favors, pendants, or baldrics, and so forth. They are listed in descending order of precedence.

1. THE IMPERIAL ORDER OF THE PROTECTORS OF THE DREAM

Non-voting Order granted by vote of the Imperial Estates. May wear the regalia as described above, but do not gain an Estate Vote per se, although individual members of this Order may hold Estates Votes of their own right. Companions of this Order rank in precedence immediately behind the Imperial Crown Prince/Princess (if any).

Members of this Order have the following rights and privileges:

- a. Nominate for the titles of Lord/Lady and Baron/Baroness. If approved by the Local or Imperial Crown, the nominating member of the Order shall bestow the title;
- b. Nominate for Imperial and Royal awards. If approved by the Local or Imperial Crown, the nominating member of the Order shall bestow the award;
- c. In keeping with the Spirit of the Order and the Law, mindful of the Standards of the Imperial College of Arms, and respecting those functions traditionally performed by the Church of Adria: nominate for any other distinction, perform ceremonies and other functions, administer oaths, create and confer non-precedence-bearing distinctions and awards, and create non-precedence-bearing orders and induct members thereto;
- d. Sit with Imperial Crowns as Peers and approach them without bowing; have Imperial precedence as members of the Imperial Family;
- e. Be addressed as "*Imperial Highness*"; New members may be nominated from within the Order. Members are appointed by the Imperial Estates General.

2. THE IMPERIAL ORDER OF THE TABLE ROUND

Argent, a chalice or. (White background with a gold goblet.)

This Order grants precedence equal to that of Viscount and Viscountess (non-Founding). Candidates may petition for membership or may be approached by a Companion of the Order. Candidates must hold Knighthoods in at least three different disciplines, and be approved by unanimous consent of the current membership of the Order.

3. THE IMPERIAL ORDER OF SAINT JOAN

Argent, on a saltire gules a lily argent. (White background with a red X extending to the corners, at the intersection of the X, a white lily.)

This Order grants precedence equal to that of Viscount and Viscountess (non-Founding). Candidates may petition for membership or may be approached by a Companion of the Order. Candidates must be female and hold at least one Knighthood in any discipline, and be approved by unanimous consent of the current membership of the Order.

4. THE IMPERIAL ORDER OF THE COMET

Sable, a comet palewise argent. (Black background with a vertical comet, with the head at the top and the tail streaming down behind it.)

This Order is given by the Imperial Crown at most once per reign, and grants precedence equal to that of Baronry. It is given to individuals who through their enthusiasm and dedication contribute outstandingly to the betterment of the Adrian Empire and its populace.

5. THE IMPERIAL ORDER OF THE NEBULA

Sable, a semy of estoiles in gorges argent. (Black background with a spiral of white estoiles.) Estoiles are six-pointed stars whose points are elongated and wavy.

This Order is given by the Imperial Crown at most once per reign, and grants precedence equal to that of Baron (non-Landed). It is given to individuals who through their enthusiasm and dedication contribute significantly to the betterment of the Adrian Empire and its populace.

6. THE IMPERIAL ORDERS OF THE LION, HARP, QUILL, AND TALBOT

These are the four non-Knightly Orders created to reward prowess in the fields of Combat, Arts, Ministry, and Archery, respectively. The badge for each Order has a red background, with the symbol of the Order in gold. These Orders are given by the Imperial Crown only once per reign to as many individuals as the Crown sees fit at the time, and grant precedence equal to that of Lord or Lady.

7. THE ROYAL STAR

Argent, a mullet or. (White background with a gold five-pointed star.)

Also known as the Star of Adria. This Order grants precedence equal to that of Lord or Lady. This award is given annually by any Imperial, Kingdom, or Ducal Crown to individuals new to medieval recreation who through their enthusiasm and dedication contribute to the betterment of the chartered subdivision or the Empire and its populace.

8. THE ROYAL ORDER OF THE CROWN COMPANIONS

Wears a garter around the upper arm in a colour determined by the wearer's rank. If the wearer is eligible for more than one color, only one garter is worn, traditionally the highest or oldest Knightly rank held, but it is generally up to the issuing Crown. This award is given annually by any Imperial, Kingdom, or Ducal Crown to individuals who display high standards of chivalry and good fellowship who by their period activities and demeanor contribute to the enjoyment and realism of events. This Order grants precedence equal to that of Lord or Lady. The garter colors are as follows:

- a. Non-Knight - White
- b. Knight Combatant - Black
- c. Knight Artisan - Blue
- d. Knight Minister - Red
- e. Knight Archer - Green

9. THE ROYAL ORDER OF THE QUEEN'S GUARD

Azure, a fleur-de-lis or. (Blue background with a gold fleur-de-lis.)

These are the ancient Arms of the Empire, which have been retained to honour the most noble and chivalrous of our Combattants. This Order grants precedence equal to that of Lord or Lady. This award is given annually by any Imperial, Kingdom, or Ducal Crown to individuals who display extraordinary skill, chivalry, and style on the battlefield.

10. THE NOBLE ORDER OF THE CROWN GUARDS

Sable, two spears in saltire or. (Black background with two crossed gold spears.)

This Order grants precedence equal to that of Lord or Lady. This award is given by any Great Estate (Knight Third Level, Founding Viscount, March, or Count/ess Royal) to individuals who display extraordinary examples of courage, chivalry and grace on the battlefield.

11. THE CROWN SEAL OF EXCELLENCE

Given once per reign by the Imperial Crown to guilds and other non-Estate groups for achieving excellence in their field of work. Bears no precedence, but groups so honoured may augment their arms with a gold fleur-de-lis.

12. THE RISING STAR OF ADRIA

Given no more than once per reign by the Imperial Crown to young Estates within the Empire for exceeding all expectations with recruitment, enthusiasm, or excellence. Bears no precedence, but Estates so honoured may augment their arms with a gold star.

B. MINISTRY BADGES

Ministers may wear these badges on their person, or fly a banner so their presence may be easily ascertained at an event, especially a large one. Imperial Ministers operating at Imperial Events may augment these banners with the gold fleur-de-lis of the Empire. Local Ministers may augment these banners with their local area's badge. All other Ministers not listed here may wear the badge of their local area, augmented by whatever design their local customs dictate, subject to registration by the Imperial College of Arms.

1. ARTS & SCIENCES

Purpure, an oil lamp or (Purple background with a gold Aladdin's lamp).

2. MARSHAL

Sable, two swords in saltire argent (Black background with two silver crossed swords).

3. PHYSIKER

Argent, a caduceus gules (White background with a red caduceus). A caduceus is the medical symbol which consists of a winged staff entwined with two snakes, also known as the Staff of Mercury.

4. ROLLS

Sable, an open scroll argent (Black background with a white scroll).

5. MINISTER OF ARMS AND HERALD

Vert, a cross or (Green background with a gold horizontal end-to-end stripe overlaying a gold vertical end-to-end stripe). During Court, the Court Herald should wear a tabard with the Arms of the Estate or Subdivision, not the green-and-gold, since the Court Herald is acting as the Voice of the Crown.

6. STEWARD

Azure, three bezants (Blue background, three gold circles arranged in a "V" formation).

IV. GRANDFATHER CLAUSE

All physically-existing and previously-allowed items in conflict with this Writ shall be allowed so long as such items were in existence prior to the effective date of this Writ (30 days after publication).

Thus ends the Imperial Estates Writ.