



Meridies Kingdom Law

2016 Version (with revisions/changes up to 11/14/16)

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ARTICLE I THE RIGHTS, DUTIES AND PRIVILEGES OF THE LANDED NOBILITY OF MERIDIES

I-100 DEFINITION OF THE CROWN

The Crown consists of the Sovereign and the Consort of Meridies. All rights, duties, and powers rest with both, equally and separately, unless otherwise specified by Corpora or Kingdom Law.

I-101 LAWS OF MERIDIES

The Laws of Meridies are the Word of the Crown, publicly proclaimed and published, subject to the authority of the Board of Directors, Corpora, and the Laws of the United States of America. No new laws or amendments will be in effect until there is both a proclamation by the Crown and publication in the kingdom newsletter.

I-102 PUBLICATION

All amendments, deletions, additions, and proclamations of Kingdom Law must be published in the kingdom newsletter or in a special supplemental publication within 90 days of issuance and must be signed by the Sovereign, the Consort, and the Kingdom Seneschal. If a supplemental publication is used, an announcement must be made in the kingdom newsletter. Publication may be in printed or electronic format.

I-103 SOVEREIGN'S PRESENCE

The Sovereign's Presence is defined as the ten-foot area around Their body, and no person, including the Consort, may enter this Presence without rendering proper courtesy to the Sovereign. No persons save armigers may bear arms in the Sovereign's Presence.

I-104 CONSORT'S PRESENCE

The Consort's Presence is defined as the ten-foot area around Their body, and no person, including the Sovereign, may enter this Presence without rendering proper courtesy to the Consort. No one save armigers may bear arms in the Consort's Presence.

I-105 CROWN PRINCE'S PRESENCE

The Crown Prince's Presence is defined as the ten-foot area around His body, and no person, excluding the Crown, including the Crown Princess, may enter this Presence without rendering proper courtesy to the Crown Prince. No persons save armigers may bear arms in the Prince's Presence.

I-106 CROWN PRINCESS' PRESENCE

The Crown Princess' Presence is defined as the ten-foot area around Her body, and no person, excluding the Crown, including the Crown Prince, may enter this Presence without rendering proper courtesy to the Crown Princess. No persons save armigers may bear arms in the Princess' Presence.

I-107 SOVEREIGN AND CONSORT

- A The Crown has the right to bestow titles, ennoblements, awards, grants, etc., as They see fit and as outlined in Corpora and Kingdom Law. Prior to the creation of any new order, the Crown must consult the Beacon Herald regarding the name and regalia of the proposed order.
- B The Crown is the Protector of all Orders within the Kingdom and enjoys all rights, privileges, and responsibilities of the Companions of the Orders of Meridies.
- C The rights and honors accorded to the Orders of Meridies (e.g., March and precedence, election, associates, display and maintenance of arms and insignia, bearing arms in the Royal Presence, etc.) stem from the Crown, and as such, are subject to regulation by the Crown. The Crown may delegate these rights to the Orders for their internal maintenance.
- D The Crown may, under certain circumstances and in adherence to Corpora, delegate the authority to bestow Peerages, and any other awards, to a special representative. This delegation must be in writing for each specific award.
- E The Crown will not hold any other office during the time of Their Reign; but will find a suitable successor for any vacancy They leave. This will not include custodial care of territorial baronages, unless the Crown deems it necessary.
- F The Crown has the right to designate sites and hosting branches for kingdom level events. When deciding on bids, the Crown should consult the appropriate kingdom officers on events relating to their offices. The Crown should consult the Heirs on any bids for kingdom level events held during the next reign.
- G The Crown will give the Heirs copies of any kingdom law changes.
- H The Crown is responsible for all Royal regalia used during Their reign. They are monetarily liable for any damages done to items while in Their possession due to avoidable negligence. Kingdom property will be checked at the end of each reign. The Sovereign and Consort will work with the Kingdom Regalia Coordinator (or designated representative) to transfer Royal regalia at each Coronation and Crown List.

I-108 THE HEIRS

- A The Crown Prince and Crown Princess may act as regents of the Crown whenever the Sovereign and Consort are both absent, subject to the provisions in Item I-109.
- B The Heirs will not hold any other office during Their Reign and will find a suitable successor for any vacancy They leave. This shall not include the custodial care of territorial baronages, unless the Crown deems it necessary.
- C It is the duty of the Heirs to oversee the Crown List held during Their reign.
- D The Heirs are responsible for all Royal regalia used during Their tenure. They are monetarily liable for any damages done to items while in Their possession due to avoidable negligence. Kingdom property will be checked at the end of their tenure. They are to work with the Kingdom Regalia Coordinator (or designated representative) to transfer Royal regalia at Coronation and Crown List.

I-109 TERRITORIAL BARON AND BARONESS

- A The Territorial Baron and/or Baroness (Baronage) is the representative of the Crown within the boundaries of their Territory and will be responsible for the establishment and maintenance of such procedures and customs as are necessary for the internal peace and orderly continuance of that Barony.

- B The Baronage will be afforded such courtesies, as is its rights as a representative of the Crown.
- C The Baronage must swear fealty to the Crown. Should it not be able to attend the Crown in person, it must submit a written Oath of Fealty within 30 days of Coronation. It will be considered inactive by the Crown until the Fealty Oath is sworn.
- D The Baronage has the right to preside over its Barony's events and may hold a Baronial Court at its pleasure.
- E The Baronage has the right to bestow the Baronial Service Order specific to its Barony. At its request and with the Crown's discretion, the bestowal may carry with it an Award of Arms for the recipient.
- F The Baronage may establish non-armigerous awards specific to its Barony.
- G The Crown may remove a Baron/Baroness for failure of office or other cause, or after receiving the advice and petition of the Baronial populace. The Crown and Kingdom Seneschal will follow the Baronial selection process as defined in the Society Seneschal's handbook for finding a suitable replacement.
- H When a Barony has no Baron/Baroness, the rights, duties, and titles granted to this office revert to the Crown. The Crown may appoint a Vicar to oversee the Barony in Their stead.
- I The Vicar will have all powers, privileges, rights, and duties of the Baronage, save that they cannot assume the title, nor will they have the right to bear the arms in canton.
- J The Baron/Baroness has the privilege of bearing the Baronial Arms in canton upon their own arms while in office.
- K The title of Territorial Baron/Baroness may be accompanied by a Grant of Arms and will process ahead of the Bestowed Peerages in a March of Precedence.

I-110 TERRITORIAL PRINCES AND PRINCESSES

The Sovereigns and Consorts of Principalities (Coronets) within Meridies will be honored as appropriate to Their station, and in a manner similar to the Sovereign and Consort of Meridies. They will swear fealty to the Crown of Meridies.

I-111 ROYAL ARMS OF MERIDIES

- A The Royal Arms of Meridies may only be displayed in the Presence of the Arm's bearer or the symbols (i.e., the thrones or crowns) of Their Presence.
- B The Royal Arms of the Sovereign are: Argent, on a pale sable a crown of three points; above each point a mullet argent, overall a laurel wreath counterchanged.
- C The Royal Arms of the Consort are: Argent, on a pale sable a crown of three points, above each point a mullet argent, overall a chaplet of roses counterchanged.
- D The Royal Arms of the Sovereign's Heir are: Argent, on a pale sable a crown of three points, above each point a mullet argent, overall a laurel wreath and in chief a label counterchanged.
- E The Royal Arms of the Consort's Heir are: Argent, on a pale sable a crown of three points, above each point a mullet argent, overall a chaplet of roses and in chief a label counterchanged.

ARTICLE II COURTS

II-400 THE ROYAL COURTS OF MERIDIES

- A The Crown's Personal Courts consist of the Crown and Their entourage.
- B The Heirs' Personal Courts consist of the Heirs and Their entourage.
- C A Royal Court is presided over by the Sovereign and Consort for the purpose of award presentations, presentations by the populace, proclamations of the State, and/or processions.
- D A Coronet Court is presided over by the Sovereign and Consort of a Principality for the purpose of presentations, proclamations, and/or processions specific to that Principality.
- E A Baronial Court is presided over by the Territorial Baron and/or Baroness for the purpose of award presentations, presentations by the populace, proclamations of State, and/or processions specific to that Barony.
- F Branches below Baronial level may request to recognize outstanding individuals within their group during a court. The recognition of tourney or other group-sponsored competition winners may also be part of the court business. These presentations are at the discretion of the Crown and time for them should be requested before court.

II-401 COURTS OF INQUIRY

- A Any subject of the Kingdom may appeal to the Crown for redress against another subject who they believe has behaved in a manner contrary to the Society's rules for courtly and chivalrous conduct. The Crown must conduct any investigation in accordance with the governing documents of the Society, Kingdom Law, and The Society Sanction Guide.
- B Under no circumstances will kingdom officers or the Crown examine matters that belong rightfully in civil or criminal courts of the nation. Those aspects of the matter that pertain to the Society may be examined.
- C The Crown may choose to convene a Court of Inquiry to investigate these matters privately or publically as determined by the seriousness of the issues.
- D The primary purpose of a Court of Inquiry is to determine if there is a reason to convene a Court of Chivalry.
- E If the Court of Inquiry determines the evidence is insufficient to convene a Court of Chivalry, the Crown may, at Their option, either dismiss the allegation or deliver a reprimand.

II-402 COURTS OF CHIVALRY

- A A Court of Chivalry is convened to hear evidence concerning the disposition of the subject of the Court of Inquiry. A Court of Chivalry is an official event of the Kingdom.
- B Composition of the Court of Chivalry:
 - 1 The Earl Marshal or an authorized representative organizes and presides over its sessions.
 - 2 The Beacon Herald or an authorized representative will record the proceedings, the substance of all testimony presented and the recommendations of the Court.
 - 3 The Kingdom Seneschal will provide a copy of the Kingdom Law, marking the pertinent laws on Courts of Chivalry to the accused, the members of the Court, the accuser(s), and the jury.

- 4 Any individuals appointed by the Crown, the Earl Marshal, and the Kingdom Seneschal
 - 5 The accused or accuser(s) may not be a member of the Court.
- C Composition of the Jury:
- 1 The Earl Marshal may, and in serious cases will, appoint a jury of residents of the Kingdom.
 - 2 The jury is made up of no less than 10 and no more than 12 persons. Once selected and finalized, the jury will select a foreperson to speak for the jury and announce its findings.
 - 3 If the accused is a Peer, then the jury should also include Peers of the Kingdom.
- D Selection of Date, Time, and Place of the Court
- 1 The Earl Marshal will make a reasonable effort to find a date, place, and time acceptable to both the Court and to the accused. The date, if possible, should be within a 30 to 60 day period from the verified date that the accused was notified of the charges.
- E Bringing the Charges
- 1 The complainant or their representative will provide a written complaint that will include a summary of the evidence to be presented and the name of the accusing parties. This document will be provided to the Crown and Earl Marshal by a verifiable method.
 - 2 Within 5 days of the selection of the jury, the Earl Marshal will inform the accused of the charges, the identity of the accuser(s), and the names of the initial pool of jury members. He will also provide the date, place, and time for the Court to be convened. This will be in writing and delivered in a verifiable method.
 - 3 The accused may reject any jurors, up to half of the number chosen by the Earl Marshal. The accused must notify the Earl Marshal in writing within 5 days of receiving the names of the jurors.
- F Representation:
- 1 The Earl Marshal will appoint a prosecutor at least 21 days prior to the proposed date for the Court to convene. The accuser may elect to be the prosecutor or delegate representation.
 - 2 The accused may choose to represent themselves or be represented by another member at the Court, and may not be forced to speak for himself/herself.
- G Conduct of the Court:
- 1 The Court, the prosecutor, and the defense may call witnesses.
 - 2 Witnesses are subject to questioning by both sides.
 - 3 Evidence must be limited to information bearing directly on the charges as presented by the prosecutor.
- H Findings of the Court:
- 1 If there is a jury, the jury will determine the verdict under the direction of the pertinent laws and customs of the Society and Kingdom.
 - 2 If there is no jury, the Court shall determine the verdict under the direction of the Earl Marshal and within the bounds of the pertinent laws and customs of the Society and Kingdom.
- I Recommendations to the Crown:
- 1 The Earl Marshal will give the recommendations of the Court to the Crown within 7 days of the conclusion of the Court by a verifiable method.
 - 2 The Crown will review the recommendations of the Court and determine the final disposition of the case. This must comply with The Society Sanction Guide. The

Crown's decision will be rendered within 14 days of receipt of the Court's recommendation.

- J A transcript of the record will be given to the accused, the accuser, the Earl Marshal, the Kingdom Seneschal and the Crown, within 30 days of the conclusion of the Court by a verifiable method.

II-403 CURIA

The Curia is a gathering of the populace by the Crown for the purpose of communication between the Crown and Their subjects, usually in the form of a question and answer session. The Curia is held at the pleasure of the Crown at any official event and open to all members of the populace.

ARTICLE III SUCCESSION OF THE CROWN

The succession of the Crown is determined by victory in an armored combat tournament known as Crown List. The tournament is governed by the Rules of the List in Corpora and kingdom laws, policies, and traditions. Notification of the Crown List must be published in the kingdom newsletter, providing details about any Royal prerogative regarding eligibility or manner of the List, and stating a deadline for letters of Intent.

III-400 REQUIREMENTS FOR ENTERING A CROWN LIST

- A All participants must meet the membership requirements established in Corpora IV.A.2 and the additional requirements set by kingdom law or tradition.
- B Each competitor and consort must hold a valid membership on the day of Crown List and have access to the kingdom newsletter.
- C Each competitor and consort will submit a letter of Intent to the Crown, Kingdom Seneschal, and Earl Marshal on or before the published deadline. The Letter of Intent must include proofs of membership, a copy of the fighter's authorization card, and a statement that each person has read Corpora and Kingdom Law and meets the respectively requirements of each. The competitor and the consort must sign the letter.
- D Each competitor must compete for only one person who has consented to serve as the Consort of Meridies. Each consort will have only one champion competing in the List.
- E Each competitor and consort must take the traditional Sword Oath affirming they are able to fulfill the duties of the Crown should they prove victorious.
- F Unless otherwise stated by the Crown, the following requirements must also be met:
 - 1 Each competitor and consort must have lived within the Kingdom and maintained a Society membership for the full 12 months preceding Crown List and provide assurances they will continue to reside within the Kingdom for the duration of their Reign, if they prove victorious.
 - 2 Each competitor and consort must be at least 19 years of age on or before the date of Crown List.
 - 3 The consort must attend the List unless the Crown grants special dispensation.
 - 4 Competitors must fight using their own equipment, unless their equipment is damaged during combat in the List.
 - 5 No competitor or consort will have any outstanding financial obligation to the Kingdom or the SCA.
 - 6 The Crown will choose those entrants They find acceptable for their Crown List following consultation with the Kingdom Seneschal and Earl Marshal.
 - 7 It is the Crown's right to post a list of the competitors and consorts if they choose to do so.
- G Within 7 days of Crown List, the victorious Sovereign Heir and Consort Heir must provide to the Kingdom Seneschal proof that their memberships extend through the end of their reign as Sovereign and Consort if they have not done so already.

III-401 SUCCESSION, ABDICATION, OR FAILURE OF THE CROWN

- A A Sovereign or Consort's reign will be considered 'failed' if any event occurs which precludes the completion of the reign.
- B In the event a Consort abdicates or fails, the Sovereign will continue to rule. The Sovereign may choose another Consort who will reign with the Sovereign until the next Coronation.

- C In the event a Sovereign abdicates or fails, the Consort will continue to rule alone for the remainder of the reign. The Consort has all powers and prerogatives of the Sovereign with the exception of choosing a new Consort.
- D Should both Sovereign and Consort abdicate or fail, their Heirs may rule as Regents until Their properly scheduled Coronation date or, after consultation with the Kingdom Seneschal, call for a Coronation to be held as soon as possible.
- E If the Kingdom does not have Heirs, the most recent past Sovereign available (excluding the Sovereign who abdicated or failed) will serve as Regent until a new Sovereign and Consort can be selected. The Regent, Kingdom Seneschal, and Earl Marshal will hold a new Crown List within 8 weeks. The winner and consort will be crowned immediately as Sovereign and Consort.
- F The Crown or Regent and Kingdom Seneschal will change the calendar, if necessary, to satisfy Kingdom Law regarding dates for future Crown Lists and Coronations.

ARTICLE IV DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF OFFICERS

IV-400 REQUIREMENTS TO HOLD OFFICE

(See Corpora)

- A All officers, at all levels, must be paid members and have access to the kingdom newsletter.
- B All deputies must also meet the membership requirement of **IV-100.A**.
- C All officers at all levels are appointed and removed at the pleasure of the Crown within the directives of Corpora and the advice of the corresponding society officer or their kingdom superior.
- D All officers are subject to the governing documents and policies of the Society, Corporate Officer Handbooks, their Society counterpart, Kingdom Law, the Kingdom Officer Handbooks, and the decision of the Crown.
- E All officers must have phone and internet access with an email address to facilitate kingdom business. The phone number and email address will be published in the kingdom newsletter.
- F No kingdom-level officer may hold the corresponding local position at any time during their time in office; holding other major branch offices is discouraged unless minimal branch membership creates a need.

IV-401 WARRANT OF APPOINTMENT TO OFFICE

- A All officers at all levels must have a Warrant of Appointment signed by the Crown, or their designate, and the corresponding Kingdom/Society officer to be considered an active officer.
- B All Warrants of Appointment expire at the end of two years and are renewable at the end of this period at the pleasure of the Crown and the corresponding Kingdom/Society Officer.

IV-402 KINGDOM OFFICERS OF STATE

- A The Great Officers of State are the warranted holders of the following offices: Seneschal, Earl Marshal, Beacon Herald, Minister of Arts and Sciences, Chronicler, Chancellor of the Exchequer, Chatelaine, Kingdom Webminister, Kingdom Communications Officer, and Parchment Clerk.
- B The Lesser Officers of State are the warranted holders of the following offices: Historian, Minister of Children, and the Kingdom Regalia Coordinator.
- C All Officers of State are responsible directly to the Crown, but also report to a corresponding Society/kingdom officer, if such a Society officer exists.
- D The Officers of State must copy the Crown, Heirs, and Kingdom Seneschal on their regular written reports to their corresponding Society/Kingdom officers, giving the state of their particular office.
- E Each Officer of State is responsible for ensuring the administrative handbooks of their office are compliant with Society policies and the current needs of the Kingdom by reviewing the handbook every two years. Each officer will provide verification of the review to the Kingdom Seneschal.
- F No Officer of State will make decisions affecting a branch that has asked for intervention in solving a problem without first consulting with the Crown and the

- Kingdom Seneschal.
- G The Officers of State, in addition to their specific duties, serve in the Crown's cabinet of advisors.
 - H The Officers of State will meet at Crown List and, given notice, at the pleasure of the Crown or the Kingdom Seneschal.
 - I All Officers of State should maintain an active kingdom-wide presence. This includes regular travel to assist branches as needed, within their area of expertise.
 - J The Crown reserves the right to create new Officers of State for their reign.
 - K All Kingdom Officers must advertise for applicants to be their replacement deputy in the kingdom newsletter.

IV-403 PRIVY COUNCIL

- A Appointed by the Crown, the Royal Chancellor is the head of their Privy Council for the duration of their reign.
- B Appointed by the Heirs, the High Chancellor is the head of their Privy Council for the duration of their reign.
- C The Royal Chancellor and the High Chancellor are charged to assist the Crown, Heirs and Royal Regalia Coordinator to inventory the royal regalia at Coronations and Crown Lists.

IV-404 LEGAL AUTHORITY

- A The chain of mundane legal authority and responsibility is 1. the Kingdom Seneschal and 2. the Earl Marshal.
- B No other kingdom officer will have any civil legal power with the exception of the Chancellor of the Exchequer in matters regarding kingdom funds.

IV-405 SENESCHAL OF THE KINGDOM

- A The Kingdom Seneschal, as the chief representative of the Board of Directors, is the supreme legal authority within the Kingdom.
- B The Kingdom Seneschal has the authority to withdraw the Society's sanction from an event when the activities of the branch or individuals violates or conflicts with mundane law, the governing documents of the Society, rules of the site, and/or Kingdom Law. Sanction should be withdrawn only as a last resort.
- C The Kingdom Seneschal, as supreme autocrat, oversees the planning and running of kingdom events.
- D The Kingdom Seneschal is responsible for ensuring that Kingdom Law is compliant with the governing documents of the Society in the event that one or the other does change.
- E The Kingdom Seneschal coordinates the activities of other kingdom officers including scheduling meetings and requiring additional reports of other kingdom officers as needed for the operation of the Kingdom.
- F The Kingdom Seneschal must be a signatory on all kingdom money accounts.
- G The Kingdom Seneschal is responsible for and has authority over all other seneschals in the various branches of the Kingdom.
- H The Kingdom Seneschal may appoint deputies as necessary to aid in the administration of their office.

IV-406 BRANCH SENESCHALS

- A The duties of a branch seneschal are similar to those of the Kingdom Seneschal, but are under the authority of the Kingdom Seneschal as well as the Crown.
- B Branch seneschals may require copies of the reports the other branch officers send to their kingdom superiors.
- C Branch seneschals have the right to recommend a replacement for any branch officer to the appropriate kingdom officer. The Crown and the kingdom officer make the ultimate decision on the replacement officer.

IV-407 EARL MARSHAL

- A The Earl Marshal acts as the Crown's representative on the field to ensure the adherence to the Rules of the Lists and the Society and Meridian Marshals handbooks, promoting the safety of all Society combat, and for the correct training of combatants.
- B The Earl Marshal, or an appointed representative, oversees all fighting at all kingdom-level events.
- C The Earl Marshal has the right to withdraw the sanction of any official combat for reasons of safety.
- D The Earl Marshal is responsible for and has authority over all other marshals in the various branches of the Kingdom.
- E The Earl Marshal may appoint deputies as necessary to aid in the administration of their office.

IV-408 BEACON HERALD

- A The Beacon Herald is responsible for fostering the study and practice of heraldic arts in the kingdom including all aspects of heraldic consultation and submissions, education of list, field, and court heraldry, and maintenance of Precedence.
- B The Beacon Herald is responsible for the production of award regalia and scrolls.
- C The Beacon Herald is responsible for and has authority over the College of Heraldry, all branch heralds, pursuivants, and the masters/mistresses of the list.
- D The Beacon Herald may appoint, in addition to the College of Heraldry, those deputies necessary to aid in the administration of their office.

IV-409 MINISTER OF ARTS AND SCIENCES

- A The Minister of Arts and Sciences is responsible for fostering the arts and sciences and encouraging Royal and other Noble patronage.
- B The Minister of Arts and Sciences should regularly sponsor classes, symposia, and other educational opportunities to acquaint the populace with the basic knowledge and skills vital to the continuing growth and life of the arts and sciences within the Kingdom.
- C The Minister of Arts and Sciences is responsible for coordinating the Kingdom Arts and Science Faire.
- D The Minister of Arts and Sciences is responsible for and has authority over all other arts & science ministers in the various branches of the Kingdom.
- E The Minister of Arts and Sciences may appoint deputies as necessary to aid in the administration of their office.

IV-410 CHRONICLER

- A The Chronicler is responsible for the regular publication of the kingdom newsletter and any other kingdom publications or documents as necessary.
- B The Chronicler is responsible for reviewing event flyers for compliance to Society and Kingdom guidelines.
- C The Chronicler is responsible for and has authority over all other chroniclers in the various branches of the Kingdom.
- D The Chronicler may appoint deputies as necessary to aid in the administration of their office.

IV-411 CHANCELLOR OF THE EXCHEQUER

- A The Chancellor of the Exchequer is responsible for all withdrawals, collections, and usage of kingdom monies and must keep records of all financial transactions.
- B The Chancellor of the Exchequer will require financial reports from the individuals or branches responsible for hosting events and activities using kingdom monies.
- C The Chancellor of the Exchequer must review and make available Kingdom Financial Policy every three years via the Kingdom website.
- D The Chancellor of the Exchequer must submit a notice of all expenditures of \$300.00 or more to the kingdom newsletter within 60 days.
- E The Chancellor of the Exchequer must submit a summary of the Domesday Report to the kingdom newsletter within 30 days of Society approval.
- F Funds dispersal will follow the process defined in Kingdom Financial Policy.
- G The Chancellor of the Exchequer is responsible for holding in trust monies of all kingdom-level offices and guilds.
- H The Chancellor of the Exchequer is responsible for and has authority over all other exchequers in the various branches of the Kingdom.
- I The Chancellor of the Exchequer may appoint deputies as necessary to aid in the administration of their office.

IV-412 KINGDOM CHATELAINE

- A The Kingdom Chatelaine acts as a liaison to newcomers in the Kingdom and the Society and provides the services and information necessary to introduce and acclimate newcomers to Kingdom and Society culture.
- B The Kingdom Chatelaine oversees the publication of newcomer's handbooks designed to introduce the Society to newcomers and the public at large. These handbooks are subject to final approval by the Kingdom Seneschal and the Society Chatelaine.
- C The Kingdom Chatelaine is responsible for and has authority over all other chatelaines in the various branches of the Kingdom.
- D The Kingdom Chatelaine may appoint deputies as necessary to aid in the administration of their office.

IV-413 KINGDOM WEBMINISTER

- A The Kingdom Webminister is responsible for ensuring Kingdom and branch compliance with the Society's Electronic Publication policies and oversees the administration of the kingdom website.
- B The Kingdom Webminister is responsible for reviewing online event flyers linked from

the Kingdom and other official websites and for ensuring that the flyers meet the appropriate Society and Kingdom standards.

- C The Kingdom Webminister is responsible for and has authority over all other webministers in the various branches of the Kingdom.
- D The Kingdom Webminister may appoint deputies as necessary to aid in the administration of their office.

IV-414 MINISTER OF CHILDREN

- A The Minister of Children fosters the education of the children of Meridies (between the ages of 5 to 16) on medieval activities and the Society. This position is a deputy to the Kingdom Seneschal.
- B The Minister of Children will ensure, but not necessarily run, children's activities that occur at kingdom-level events.
- C The Minister of Children administers and develops curriculum for the Page School or assigns a deputy to oversee this administration and curriculum development.
- D The Minister of Children is responsible for and has authority over all other ministers of children in the various branches of the Kingdom.
- E The Minister of Children may appoint deputies as necessary to aid in the administration of their office.

IV-415 KINGDOM REGALIA COORDINATOR

- A The Kingdom Regalia Coordinator is responsible for ensuring that the Crown and the Heirs complete and sign a Lease Agreement before they may check out kingdom property. This position is a deputy to the Kingdom Exchequer.
- B The Kingdom Regalia Coordinator is responsible for the accuracy of the inventory of the kingdom's property and regalia.
- C The Kingdom Regalia Coordinator should attend Coronations and Crown Lists to oversee the transfer of kingdom regalia and property or have a designee prepared to transport the property and handle these responsibilities.

IV-416 KINGDOM HISTORIAN

- A The Kingdom Historian is charged with the custody of the history of Meridies and is responsible for maintaining records of all events of note, including but not exclusive to kingdom level events, and any activities of historical importance to the Kingdom. This position is a deputy to the Kingdom Seneschal.
- B The Kingdom Historian maintains the genealogy of the Royal House of Meridies.
- C The Kingdom Historian maintains retired regalia of historical significance.
- D The Kingdom Historian is responsible for the coordination of branch historians to maintain a good record of the history of all branches within the Kingdom.

ARTICLE V SUBSIDIARY BRANCHES

V-400 ESTABLISHMENT AND ADVANCEMENT OF SUBSIDIARY BRANCHES

The Kingdom Seneschal will follow the process outlined in Corpora III.D for the establishment and advancement of subsidiary branches. The Crown must approve all petitions for either branch establishment or advancement before submission to the Society Seneschal.

- A A petition for a change of Branch status must include proof that all requirements are met or the petition will not be considered.
- B New branches are incipient and are restricted in areas of greatest potential for financial and legal liability. They must have sponsorship of an established branch in these areas.
 - 1 Incipient branches must have an established branch sponsor any event so that the legal and insurance needs of the Society are covered. This does not mean that the sponsoring branch must provide labor, but it does not preclude such.
 - 2 Incipient branches may not have a bank account and must arrange with a neighboring branch for the banking and disbursement of branch monies until the new branch advances to permanent status.
- C A canton/march may petition to become a shire, or a shire may petition to become a canton/march, with the approval of the baronial/provincial Seneschal, the Kingdom Seneschal, and the Crown before submission to the Society Seneschal and, if applicable, the approval of the Baron or Baroness.

V-401 BRANCH REQUIREMENTS

- A Each branch must fulfill these kingdom-specific requirements in addition to the minimum requirements set by Corpora.
 - 1 Each branch will hold regular and frequent local meetings, including, but not limited to, business meetings, fighter practices, Arts & Science meetings, and the like. The times and locations of these meetings will be made known to all members.
- B Each Barony must also fulfill these requirements in addition to V-101.A.-B and the minimum requirements set by Corpora
 - 1 Baronies will develop and maintain written guidelines for the responsibilities of the Baronial Seat and the Baronial Officers. A current version of these procedures and guidelines is held by the Kingdom Seneschal's office.
 - 2 Each Barony must hold at least 1 official published event per calendar year.
 - 3 Each barony will submit at least one kingdom level event bid each calendar year.
 - 4 A barony must continuously maintain a level of excellence in the Arts & Sciences, and the Martial Arts through classes and practices.

V-402 REDUCTION OF BRANCH STATUS

- A When a branch is not meeting the minimum requirements of its status, the Kingdom Seneschal will discuss remedial procedures with the Seneschal of the branch. The branch seneschal will receive a letter outlining these procedures, including a time-period to show improvement, following this meeting.
- B After that time-period, the Kingdom Seneschal will request an evaluation of the branch

from all Great Officers of State. The Great Officers and the Kingdom Seneschal will determine if the branch made significant growth, recovered or is still failing to meet the minimum requirements.

- C If the evaluation shows that the branch is failing, the Kingdom Seneschal may require the branch Seneschal to explain why the branch should remain active. If a branch continues to fail; then the Kingdom Seneschal, with the Crown's approval, may petition the Board of Directors to dissolve the branch.

V-403 ADVANCEMENT OF PRINCIPALITY TO KINGDOM STATUS

When a Principality is approved for advancement to kingdom status, the next scheduled Coronet List will become the first Crown List of the incipient Kingdom. The Crown of Meridies supervises this List. Participants must conform to the following qualifications:

- A The competitor and consort must reside within the borders of the incipient Kingdom.
- B Neither the competitor nor consort can be the King, Queen, Crown Prince, or Crown Princess of Meridies, or the reigning Coronet of the Principality.
- C The competitor and consort must meet all other standards as set down in Meridies Kingdom Law and the Laws of the Principality.

The elevation of the first Crown of the incipient Kingdom is done in the following manner:

- A The Coronet will present their coronets to the Crown of Meridies and take their rightful places with the Viscounty.
- B The Crown of Meridies will crown the first monarchs of the new Kingdom.

ARTICLE VI KINGDOM EVENTS

VI-400 KINGDOM EVENTS

Kingdom events are Coronations, Crown Lists, Kingdom Arts and Sciences Faire, Fighters Collegium, Royal University of Meridies Collegium, Meridian Grand Tournament, Border Raids, Gulf Wars, and Meridian Challenge of Arms. The Crown may designate any Collegia/Kingdom Anniversary Celebrations to be kingdom level events.

- A Kingdom events have specific guidelines for the running of the specific event. The Kingdom Seneschal's Office maintains these guidelines.
- B Bid forms for kingdom events, with the exception of Coronations, should be received by the Crown, the Kingdom Seneschal, and the kingdom officer responsible for the event (if any) no later than 7 months prior to the scheduled event
- C Bids for Coronation are traditionally received from the chosen group of the Crown Prince and Princess shortly after their victory in Crown List. If no bids are received, the Kingdom Seneschal will assist the Heirs in securing a bid.
- D The Crown should consult with any kingdom officer responsible for the event (if any) and the Kingdom Seneschal prior to the awarding of a bid for a kingdom event.
- E The Crown will award bids no later than 6 months prior to the scheduled event. The Kingdom Seneschal will officially notify all bidding groups which group won the award.
- F The Kingdom and the hosting group(s) will equally divide any event profits, unless other agreements are in place.
- G Any official fundraisers held at these events must advertise the designated recipient/purpose of the fundraiser with all profits going to the recipient.

VI-401 CORONATION

The dates for Coronation are:

- A Autumn Coronation is the second Saturday in October of each year.
- B Spring Coronation is the first Saturday in April of each year, unless that weekend is Easter. For those years, Coronation will occur on the second Saturday in April.

VI-402 CROWN LIST

The dates for Crown List are:

- A Autumn Crown List is the second Saturday in November of each year.
- B Spring Crown List is Memorial Day weekend, in conjunction with Kingdom Arts and Sciences Faire.

VI-403 KINGDOM ARTS AND SCIENCES FAIRE

Kingdom Arts and Sciences Faire is on Memorial Day weekend, in conjunction with Spring Crown List. The Kingdom Minister of Arts and Sciences should consult the Order of the Laurel in an effort to better the Faire through their knowledge and experience.

VI-404 FIGHTERS COLLEGIUM

The Kingdom Fighters Collegium is the fourth weekend of September each year. The Earl Marshal should consult the Order of the Chivalry in an effort to better the Collegium through their knowledge and experience.

VI-405 X-106 ROYAL UNIVERSITY OF MERIDIES COLLEGIUM

The Royal University of Meridies Collegium is the third weekend of July. The Chancellor of the Royal University and the Deans will schedule classes to encourage general education and to help further the pursuits of University degree candidates.

VI-406 MERIDIAN GRAND TOURNEY

Meridian Grand Tournament is the second weekend of September each year. The Tournament Coordinator should consult with the Order of the Chivalry and the College of Heraldry in an effort to better the Tournament through their knowledge and experience.

VI-407 INTERKINGDOM EVENTS

To encourage martial skills, arts and sciences, and foster goodwill; the Kingdom will work with other kingdoms to host interkingdom events.

- A Border Raids is the third weekend of May. Meridies sponsors this event every other year.
- B Gulf Wars is the third weekend of March. Meridies is a principal kingdom and has responsibilities for the War.

VI-408 THE KINGDOM CALENDAR

- A The Kingdom Seneschal, upon consultation with the Crown, is responsible for making any necessary adjustments to the kingdom calendar to ensure the success of all kingdom events.
- B The kingdom calendar must record the dates for kingdom events, no less than two years in advance, so branches can schedule their own internal events. The calendar must be available on the Kingdom website.
- C All events on the kingdom calendar must have the name and contact information of the autocrat published in the kingdom newsletter
- D Local events cannot conflict with a kingdom level event without the express approval of the Crown.

VI-409 MERIDIAN CHALLENGE OF ARMS

Meridian Challenge of Arms is the last weekend of February each year. The Event Coordinator should consult with the Kingdom Order of Defense for suitable tournaments and curriculums of training.

ARTICLE VII RIGHTS AND DUTIES OF THE POPULACE

VII-400 CODE OF CONDUCT

The privacy and private property of all persons is inviolate and will not be infringed upon by any other person without the prior express permission of that individual.

VII-401 MEMBERSHIP BENEFITS

- A The Kingdom offers the following benefits to members of the populace, who contribute to the greater weal of the Society and the Kingdom by holding a paid membership. All membership types are equal for the purposes of the benefits.
- 1 Holding a branch, regional or kingdom office,
 - 2 Participation in Crown List,
 - 3 Free combat and combat-related authorization cards,
 - 4 Eligibility for Armigerous awards, and
 - 5 Heraldic Submissions: The College of Heraldry will offer a cost reduction per action.

VII-402 EVENT FEE STRUCTURING

- A Events must offer a non-feast discount on event fees if a feast is offered at the event.
- B Event fee discount: A maximum of 3 adult member event fees will be collected from families with one Sustaining and three or more Family memberships provided the children are 15 years of age or younger. The hosting group has the option to charge for beds and/or feast spaces that are not covered under the event fee discount. Proof of immediate family relations and age may be required. This clause is suspended as of January 1st, 2016
- C The Society has established a non-member surcharge for event attendance. The non-member surcharge is collected at the registration table from those individuals without proof-of-membership.
- D Flyers and announcements must include a statement that non-members must add the NMS to the event price.
- E Proof-of membership is one of the following:
- 1 the regular membership card, or
 - 2 Proof of membership letter issued from the Registry office.
- F Beginning January 1st, 2016 no event sponsored by the Kingdom of Meridies or a group within the Kingdom will charge event fees for children 17 & Under. The following exceptions do apply:
- 1 If the child intends to eat event provided food, they must pay the 'on-board' fee.
 - 2 If an event site charges on a "per head" structure, this cost may be passed on to the child.
 - 3 If the child uses bed space which is limited in nature, the child may be charged for that bed space.

VII-403 RECEIPTS FOR CASH PAYMENT OR DONATIONS

- A Any individual paying Society-related fees in cash (event fees, etc.) will receive a

- numbered two-part receipt.
- B Any individual making a cash donation in excess of \$5.00 to a Society sanctioned fundraiser will receive a numbered two-part receipt.
 - C Hosting or sponsoring groups will retain one of the two-part receipts for accounting and income reconciliation purposes.

VII-404 BADGES OF MERIDIES

All Meridian subjects are entitled to bear or display the badges of Meridies.

- A "Sable, a mullet within a saltire voided argent."
- B "Sable, the Lombardic uppercase letter M, and in base a comet fesswise argent."
- C "Sable, a horse salient regardant contourney between in chief two mullets argent."
- D "Argent, on a pale between in base two mullets sable, in chief a mullet argent."

VII-405 MERIDIES FLAG

All kingdom branches are entitled to display the Flag of Meridies at any official event. "Argent, on a fess sable, a crown of three points between two mullets argent."

VII-406 COMMUNICATIONS

All official communication, as defined in Corpora, must be dated and have sender and all recipients clearly identified. Unofficial electronic forums, such as discussion groups and newsgroups, are excluded.

VII-407 WEAPONS

All subjects have the privilege to bear weapons at any Society event, except in the Presence of the Crown or any of the Coronets, or unless deemed:

1. unlawful by mundane law, or
2. Prohibited by event site regulations, or
3. Unsafe by the ruling noble, Knight Marshal, or the Crown's representative.

This privilege will not otherwise be infringed upon.

- A No person will draw a weapon at a Society event, except for the purpose of ceremony or display. The person drawing the weapon will say "Clear" to warn everyone within weapon's reach.
- B No person will draw a weapon in an offensive manner or in a manner that could be interpreted as such. Appropriate action will be taken on any individual found doing so.
- C All weapons termed edged by their construction must be sheathed while being worn at events or demonstrations.
- D A peace tie may be required on non-edged weapons by the ruling noble, Knight Marshal, or the event autocrat.
- E Any person bearing a weapon will take full responsibility for any injury inflicted by that weapon.
- F All persons bringing weapons to an event must keep their weapons out of the reach of small children and animals at all times.

VII-408 CLOTHING

Attendees at all Society events should attempt to wear pre 17th century historical clothing.

Branches may choose the manner of dress for their local business meetings.

VII-409 MINORS

- A Minors must attend any Society event in the company of a parent/legal guardian or a designated adult with the appropriate Society approved waivers.
- B Parents/legal guardians or the designated adult, are responsible for any, and all, acts of the minor.
- C Children must not be left unattended at events.
- D Children under the age of 12 must be within the sight or voice range of a responsible adult or teenager at all times.
- E Children under the age of 5 cannot be left unsupervised by the parent/legal guardian or designated adult at events. Failure to comply with these rules may result in sanctions ranging from expulsion from site to notification of mundane authorities depending on the circumstances.
- F Waivers
 - 1 The designated adult of a minor child must present 2 sets of properly executed Society waivers at the registration table before the minor(s) enters the event.
 - 2 Each waiver includes instructions for completion; failure to follow the instructions may result in a denial of admittance to the event.
 - 3 The branch must retain one set of the waivers and the other set retained by the Designated Adult.
 - 4 Waiver forms are on the Society or the kingdom websites. The branch Seneschal can also provide them.
- G For any official Society sponsored children's activities, there must be 2 unrelated (non-married, non-dating, non-kin) adults in charge for the duration of the activity; at least one of which must have an active valid background check on file with the Society.

VII-410 ANIMALS

- A The presence of animals at an event is subject to the rules of the site, the type of activities taking place, and the appropriateness of their presence. This judgment will be made by:
 - 1. The steward or autocrat
 - 2. The branch seneschal
 - 3. The Knight Marshal
 - 4. Kingdom Equestrian Marshal (for horses)
- B Proof of a vaccination, when required, is considered to be the actual certification and not a collar tag. The owner must present the proof at the registration table or to the Equestrian Marshal (for horses) before an animal enters the event.
- C The person who brought the animal to the event is responsible for any, and all, acts of that animal.
- D All animals must be supervised at all times or appropriately restrained. No animal may roam free at any Society event.
- E The use of horses while under the influence of alcohol or other intoxicants is expressly forbidden.
- F Horses may not be ridden or driven at a gait greater than a walk in areas of public concourse.

ARTICLE VIII AWARDS AND ORDERS

VIII-100 ARMIGEROUS AWARDS

The three levels of armigerous (rank-bearing) awards are an Award of Arms, Grant of Arms, and Patent of Arms. These awards enhance the armiger's precedence and convey the right and privilege of heraldic arms.

VIII-101 ARMIGERS

All individuals receiving armigerous awards in the Kingdom of Meridies or any individual invested with a Territorial Baronage are required to be paid members of the Society at the time of award.

VIII-102 AWARDS OF ARMS

Awards of Arms are given at the pleasure of the Crown. In the case of a Principality, the Coronet, with the permission of the reigning Crown, may also bestow Awards of Arms.

VIII-103 GRANTS OF ARMS

Grants of Arms are given to those persons for outstanding achievement to the kingdom. This is an award of special dignity and is not bestowed lightly.

VIII-104 PATENT OF ARMS

The Crown confers a Patent of Arms to subjects during elevation into the Order of Chivalry (Knighthood and Master of Arms), the Order of the Laurel (Arts & Sciences), the Order of the Pelican (Service), and Order of Defense (Rapier).

- A As is tradition, Peers of Meridies swear or affirm their support of the Crown of Meridies.
- B It is the right of the Peers present to participate in the elevation process.
- C Meridies does not confer a Patent of Arms to members of the Order of the Rose.
- D Candidates for any order conferring a Patent of Arms must meet the criteria defined in Corpora VIII.A.1 & VIII.A.4.
- E Departure from Peerage
 - 1 Resignation: Any peer who wishes to resign from the Peerage must follow the process defined in Corpora VIII.A.3.
 - 2 Degradation: The Board of Directors reserves the right to degrade a person from the Peerage. The Crown with the consensus of the Order makes a recommendation to the Board for degradation when a Companion of an Order consistently fails to show those qualities that caused their elevation (Corpora VIII.A.E.1.)
- F Emeritus: The provisions of this law are binding only on the Peerage Orders in the Kingdom of Meridies.
 - 1 Any peer whose mundane circumstances pose obstacles to their participation in the order may petition the Crown for emeritus status. The peer should also notify the secretary of the order upon filing said petition.
 - 2 This status will exempt the peer from their responsibilities and duties specifically:

voting within the Peerage circle, the taking of further associates, and attendance at any, and all, meetings of their respective orders.

- 3 The Peer Emeritus may reassume the responsibilities & duties by notification to the Crown, Kingdom Seneschal, and the Secretary of their Order no less than 30 days prior to resumption of responsibilities and duties.

VIII-105 AUGMENTATION OF ARMS

An augmentation of Arms may be bestowed by the Crown upon the arms of any individual or branch for exceptional service to the Kingdom of a nature not normally recognized through Society Awards; e.g., actions of a particularly honorable or charitable nature.

- A. The augmentation will be of the form: three mullets argent, 1 and 2 may be placed upon said arms where appropriate.
- B. Those Augmentations bestowed prior to AS XXXVI (May 2001) may be formed: three mullets argent, fesswise. However all future Augmentations may adopt the current form.

VIII-106 COURT BARON/BARONESS

The Crown may give the title of Court Baron/Baroness at their pleasure. The title Court Baron or Baroness does bear an award of arms.

VIII-107 ROYAL PEERAGE

A Royal Peer is any individual who has successfully reigned as King or Queen or as a Territorial Prince or Princess.

VIII-108 SCROLLS OF ARMS

All official Scrolls of Arms will bear the signatures of the Sovereign and Consort and the seal or signature of the Beacon Herald. In the case of a Principality, official scrolls of arms may bear the signatures of the reigning Coronet at the pleasure of the Crown.

VIII-109 SOCIETY ORDER

- A Rose, Order of the
 - 1 There exists within the Society an order into which the Crown may, at their pleasure, induct those subjects who have successfully served as past consorts of Meridies.
 - 2 Companions of the order are entitled to place after their names the initials "C.R." and are styled and announced in processional as Companions of the Order of the Rose.

VIII-200 MERIDIAN ORDERS

- A The populace of Meridies has the right to make an award recommendation directly to the Crown for any subject they feel merits induction into any order.
- B The power to induct into an order rests solely with the Crown, although the individual companions of all orders have the right of consultation and recommendation directly to the Crown.
- C The Crown may bestow an award to a non-Meridian provided They follow the procedure

outlined in Corpora IV.E.4.

- D Companions:
 - 1 The number of companions in Meridian orders is not limited.
 - 2 All awards are non-amerigious and carry no precedence unless the award description states otherwise.
 - 3 Companions of an order remain within that order despite any subsequent change in kingdom residence. (exception - see Legio Ursi, the Order of)
 - 4 The Crown, at their pleasure and with the request of an Order, may petition the Board of Directors to denigrate a Companion if that Companion fails to display continuous dedication to the ideals and mission of the Order.
 - 5 Companions of an order are entitled to wear the regalia customary to that order and as allowed by Sumptuary Law.

VIII-201 PRINCIPALS OF THE ORDERS

- A The Principal of an order is the active resident Companion who first received the award (Exception – see Chalice, Order of).
- B The Principals of all Meridian Orders are the advisors to the Crown regarding their specific order.
- C Should the Principal of an Order not be available, the Crown may seek the advice of the most senior Companion present.

VIII-202 CONSULTING ORDERS

- A Though all Companions may advise the Crown regarding the election of their Companions, the Orders of the Bough, The Velvet Owl, the Sable Sword, Legio Ursi, Split Arrow, and Meridian Blade have the right to consult their Companions and make recommendations as a group to the Crown.
- B Consulting orders must adopt guidelines for internal governance and name a secretary to facilitate the business of the order. These guidelines will include but are not limited to:
 - 1 Consulting orders must have a copy of their guidelines present to conduct a polling.
 - 2 The order will select a secretary to record its business.
 - 3 The secretary will maintain a contact list of the Companions of the order.
 - 4 The order must meet twice in each Reign (Summer and Winter) with one meeting being held at Crown List and one held on a date approved by the Crown.
 - 5 The order may elect to hold additional meetings by the process described in their guidelines.
 - 6 After each meeting, the secretary must submit the written minutes and recommendations to the Crown and Order.
- C Consulting orders carry an Award of Arms and process ahead of the baronial Awards of Arms.

VIII-203 ORDERS OF HIGH MERIT

The Orders of High Merit are those orders that represent excellence in specific areas of interest. They are the Orders of the Bough, the Velvet Owl, the Sable Sword, Legio Ursi, Split Arrow, Meridian Blade, and Scarlet Star.

- A Blade, Order of the Meridian

- 1 The Crown may induct into this order those subjects who have shown longtime excellence, quality, leadership, courtesy, and chivalry in the pursuit of the art of rapier. These individuals have imparted those skills to the populace of Meridies by regular teaching and in the training of new fighters and have distinguished themselves either in war, on the tournament field, or both.
- 2 Companions are entitled to place after their names the initials "M.O.B."
- 3 Companions are styled and announced in procession as Companions of the Order of the Meridian Blade.
- 4 Members of the Order who are elevated to the Order of Defense shall be styled as honorary members and shall no longer participate in the consulting of the Order. They may still attend meetings and voice opinions, but they may not participate in the voting process.

B Bough, Meridies, Order of the

- 1 The Crown may induct into this order those subjects who have served the kingdom well and faithfully, above and beyond normal expectation for subjects of Meridies, and who have consistently displayed courtesy and chivalry in an exemplary manner.
- 2 Companions are entitled to place after their names the initials "C.B.M."
- 3 Companions are styled and announced in processional as Companions of the Order of the Bough, Meridies.
- 4 Companions may wear an oval of cypress wood, bearing a silver-colored letter M (uncial alphabet) pendant.
- 5 Members of the Order who are elevated to the Order of the Pelican shall be styled as honorary members and shall no longer participate in the consulting of the Order. They may still attend meetings and voice opinions, but they may not participate in the voting process.

C Legio Ursi, Order of the

- 1 The Crown may induct into this order those subjects who have exemplified and furthered the art of soldiering in heavy combat and heavy weapons. Those who have shown outstanding skill upon the field of war in heavy combat, have imparted those skills to others by teaching and training, and have consistently displayed leadership, courtesy, and chivalry in an exemplary manner, above and beyond that normally expected of the subjects of Meridies.
- 2 Companions are entitled to place after their names the initials "M.L.U."
- 3 Companions are styled and announced in procession as "Praetorians of the Legio Ursi," or Companions of the Legion of the Bear.
- 4 Induction into this order requires an oath sworn by the recipient.
- 5 Companions become honorary and released from their oath upon elevation to the Order of Chivalry or a residence change outside of Meridies.
- 6 The principal is titled "Primus Pilus."

D Sable Sword, Order of the

- 1 The Crown may induct into this order those subjects who have served Meridies with longtime excellence, quality, and chivalry in the fulfillment of duties of a martial nature. These individuals have shown outstanding skill and accomplishment in the Martial Arts and have imparted those skills to the

populace of Meridies through regular teaching and sharing of ability, and have distinguished themselves through courtesy and prowess on the tournament field. Furthermore, they maintain armor that is of a period style.

- 2 Companions are entitled to place after their names the initials “C.S.S.”
- 3 Companions are styled and announced in procession as Companions of the Order of the Sable Sword.
- 4 Companions may wear a white garter bearing the words “Corona Vult” and/or a cloak bearing the badge of the order.
- 5 Members of the Order who are elevated to the Order of Chivalry Patent shall be styled as honorary members and shall no longer participate in the consulting of the Order. They may still attend meetings and voice opinions, but they may not participate in the voting process.

E Split Arrow, Order of the

- 1 The Crown may induct into this order those subjects who have served Meridies with longtime excellence, quality, and chivalry in the pursuit of Archery. These gentles have imparted those skills to the populace of Meridies by regular teaching and sharing of ability in their particular specialty, and will have distinguished themselves either on the field of battle or at the target, or both.
- 2 Companions are entitled to place after their names the initials “C.S.A.”
- 3 Companions are styled and announced in procession as Companions of the Order of the Split Arrow.

F Scarlet Star, Order of the

- 1 The Crown may induct into this order those subjects who have who have served Meridies well and faithfully, over and above normal expectation from subjects of Meridies. This service specifically takes the form of consistent and successful administration of Society events, and/or consistent and successful preparation of Society feasts.
- 2 Companions of the order are entitled to place after their names the initials “C.S.R.”
- 3 Companions are styled and announced in procession as the Companions of the Order of the Scarlet Star

G Velvet Owl, Order of the

- 1 The Consort may induct into this order those subjects who have shown outstanding skill and accomplishment in the arts and sciences. Those who have gone above and beyond normal expectation for subjects of Meridies, who have passed on those skills to the populace through regular teaching and sharing of ability in their particular specialty, and who have consistently displayed courtesy and chivalry in an exemplary manner.
- 2 The power of induction into the order rests solely with the Consort of Meridies.
- 3 Companions of the order are entitled to place after their names the initials “C.V.O.”
- 4 Companions are styled and announced in procession as Companions of the Order of the Velvet Owl.
- 5 Members of the Order who are elevated to the Order of the Laurel shall be styled as honorary members and shall no longer participate in the consulting of the

Order. They may still attend meetings and voice opinions, but they may not participate in the voting process.

VIII-204 ARGENT COMET, ORDER OF THE

- A The Crown may induct into this order those subjects who demonstrate outstanding service to the Kingdom, or to a Shire, College, or other branch not directly administered by a territorial barony.
- B Companions are entitled to place after their names the initials “C.A.C.M.”
- C At the pleasure of the Crown, this order may bear an Award of Arms and process ahead of simple Awards of Arms.

VIII-205 ARGENT LANCE, ORDER OF THE

- A The Crown may induct into this order those subjects who display courteous and chivalrous conduct and have distinguished themselves in the field of equestrian sciences.
- B Companions are entitled to place after their names the initials “A.L.M.”
- C Companions may wear upon their tournament lance whenever engaged in equestrian activities, a small sable pennon bordered in argent, bearing an uncial M above an argent tilting lance.

VIII-206 ARGENT LILY, ORDER OF THE

- A The Crown may induct into this order those subjects exemplifying courtliness (refinement and elegance).
- B Companions are entitled to place after their names the initials “C.A.L.”
- C No more than one male and one female may be inducted during any reign.

VIII-207 ARGENT RAPIER, ORDER OF THE

- A The Crown may induct into this order those fighters who have distinguished themselves with the rapier in war, on the tournament field, and in the training of new rapier fighters.
- B Companions are entitled to place after their names the initials “C.A.R.”

VIII-208 ARGENT SHIELD, ORDER OF THE

- A The Crown may induct into this order those fighters who have distinguished themselves in war, on the tournament field, and in the training of new fighters.
- B Companions are entitled to place after their names the initials “C.A.S.”

VIII-209 ARGENT SLIPPER, ORDER OF THE

- A The Crown may induct into this order those subjects who have greatly enriched the Kingdom by the instruction of its populace in the art of European or Middle Eastern dance.
- B Companions are entitled to place after their names the initials “C.O.A.S.”

VIII-210 ATHANOR, ORDER OF THE

- A The Crown may induct into this order those subjects who by virtue of their contributions

add to historical study in the Society.

- B Companions of this order are entitled to place after their names the initials “C.A.M.”
- C Companions are granted the right to bear the devices of Jerome and may style themselves as free scholars and wear academic dress.
- D Each companion is encouraged to either publish one scholarly paper per year in any publication of the Society for Creative Anachronism, Inc., whether official or unofficial, or submit at least one scholarly paper per year to the archives of the Royal University of Meridies.

VIII-211 BARD MERIDIES, COMPANIONATE OF THE

- A The Crown may induct into this order those subjects who have served the Kingdom in the capacity of Kingdom Bard.
- B Companions are entitled to place after their names the initials “C.C.B.”
- C Each companion may only be inducted once into this order, although he/she may serve the Kingdom as Bard Meridies more than once.

VIII-212 BROKEN BOW, ORDER OF THE MERIDIAN

- A The Crown may induct into this order those archers who have displayed courteous and chivalrous conduct and have distinguished themselves in the field of archery.
- B Companions are entitled to place after their names the initials “C.M.B.”

VIII-213 BROKEN BRANK, ORDER OF THE (CLOSED)

- A The Crown may induct into this order those subjects who have enriched Meridies greatly through their service to the Chirurgeon's Office.
- B Although induction into this order rests with the Crown, the Kingdom Chirurgeon should be consulted and may make recommendations directly to the Crown.
- C Companions are entitled to place after their names the initials “C.B.B.”

VIII-214 BURNING TRUMPET, ORDER OF THE

- A The Crown may induct into this order those subjects who have enriched Meridies greatly through their service in the Herald's Office.
- B Although induction into this order rests with the Crown, the Beacon Herald should be consulted and may make recommendations directly to the Crown.
- C Companions are entitled to place after their names the initials “C.B.T.”

VIII-215 CHALICE, ORDER OF THE

- A There will exist within the Kingdom of Meridies an order called the Order of the Chalice.
- B The Companions are selected by virtue of their valor, grace, and service to the Kingdom.
- C Election into the Order must be by unanimous vote of the companions of the order.
- D Any companion failing to strive for the Order's high standards may be asked by any one companion of the order, or required by the majority of the companions, to remove him/herself from the order.
- E All Companions are equal, with no recognized principal.
- F As this is an order of humility, this award carries no title or precedence.

VIII-216 COMPOSTELLA, ORDER OF

- A The Crown may induct into this order those subjects who travel greatly in the service of the Crown and the Kingdom. This order may also be known as the Pilgrim's Order.
- B Companions are entitled to place after their names the initials "C.P.O."
- C Companions may wear the shell of St. James of Compostella, a common pilgrim's emblem.

VIII-217 CROWN'S FAVOR, AWARD OF THE

- A The Crown may induct into this order those branches or households who act as worthy examples, either directly or through service, by displaying the types of behavior most favorable in these Current Middle Ages.
- B This award is reserved only for branches or households and may not be given to individuals.
- C This award is given at the pleasure of the Crown, and may be given more than once.
- D Recipients of this award are entitled to attach to their group insignia/device/arms, a small pennon bearing a sable pale on an argent field, and carrying a single argent mullet. Upon receiving additional recognition through this award, additional mullets may be added (to a maximum of five), after which, having received the award six times, the first mullet must change to Or, and so on in a like manner to a maximum of five Or mullets.

VIII-218 CYGNET, ORDER OF THE

- A The Crown may induct into this order those children who have shown courtly behavior and rendered honorable service.
- B Companions are entitled to place after their names the initials "C.C."

VIII-219 CYGNET'S NEST, ORDER OF THE

- A The Crown may induct into this order those subjects who work tirelessly on behalf of the children.
- B Companions are entitled to place after their names the initials "C.C.N."

VIII-220 DUVANT CROSS, ORDER OF THE

- A The Crown may induct into this order those subjects who have exhibited exceptional skill, courtesy, and honor on the field of Youth Combat. This order is called the Duvant Cross in honor of Count Sir Francois Duvant, First Prince and Fourth King of Meridies, whose shining example of honor, chivalry, and courtesy has been the model for all who have come after.
- B Companions are entitled to place after their names the initials "C.D.C."

VIII-221 GUIDING HAND MERIDIES, ORDER OF THE

- A The Crown may induct into this order those subjects who have served the Kingdom well and faithfully by giving encouragement and assistance to newcomers and any who have need.
- B The Companions of the Order are entitled to place after their names the initials "C.G.H.M."

VIII-222 GUIDON MERIDIES, ORDER OF THE (CLOSED)

- A The Crown may induct into this order those subjects who have served the Kingdom with quality and chivalry in the fulfillment of duties of a martial nature. These subjects must have served the cause of combat with continued dedication to the art of war, archery, or the tournament, to the improvement of the Kingdom in these areas.
- B The Companions are entitled to place after their names the initials “C.G.M.”
- C Companions may display a guidon at the hoist of the Kingdom flag, followed by the bearer's badge, and a sable schwenkel with an argent mullet at the fly.

VIII-223 KING'S CHAMPION, COMPANIONATE OF THE MERIDIAN

- A The King may induct into this order the subject who by great skill won the King's Champion Tournament and has served the Kingdom in the capacity of King's Champion.
- B The King may also appoint his champion in lieu of the tournament.
- C Companions are entitled to place after their names the initials “C.M.K.”
- D Each companion may only be inducted once into this order, although he/she may serve the Kingdom as King's Champion more than once.

VIII-224 KING'S LANCER, COMPANIONATE OF THE MERIDIAN

- A The King may induct into this order the subject who by outstanding horsemanship won the King's Lancer Equestrian Tournament and served the Kingdom in the capacity of King's Lancer.
- B The King may also appoint his champion in lieu of the tournament.
- C Companions are entitled to place after their names the initials “C.K.L.”
- D Each companion may only be inducted once into this order, although he/she may serve the Kingdom as King's Lancer more than once.
- E The King's Lancer will lead and organize the Royal Horse Guard.

VIII-225 MERIDIAN CROSS, ORDER OF THE

- A The Crown may induct into this order those subjects who show promise and skill in the Arts and Sciences.
- B Companions are entitled to place after their names the initials “C.M.C.”

VIII-226 MERIDIAN MAJESTY, ORDER OF THE

- A The Consort may induct into this order those subjects who have personally served Their Majesty well, truly, and faithfully.
- B This award, given solely by the Consort, does not require the Sovereign's signature to become official.
- C Companions of the Order are entitled to place after their names the initials “C.M.M.”

VIII-227 PILLAR, ORDER OF THE MERIDIAN

- A The Crown may induct into this order those subjects who have enriched the kingdom with outstanding works or appearance that promote an authentic ambiance. The subjects inducted into this order should be inspirations or “pillars of the community.” The order may be awarded to individuals, or to groups, official or unofficial.

- B Companions are entitled to place after their names the initials “C.M.P.”

VIII-228 POET LAUREATE MERIDIES, COMPANIONATE OF THE

- A The Crown may induct into this order those subjects who have served the Kingdom and Crown as Poet Laureate.
- B Companions are entitled to place after their names the initials “C.P.L.M.”
- C Each companion may only be inducted once into this order, although he/she may serve the Kingdom as Poet Laureate Meridies more than once.

**VIII-229 QUEEN'S CHAMPION, COMPANIONATE OF THE
MERIDIAN**

- A The Queen may induct into this order the subject who by great skill won the Queens’s Champion Tournament and has served the Kingdom in the capacity of Queen's Champion.
- B The Queen, at her discretion, may appoint her champion in lieu of the Tournament.
- C Companions are entitled to place after their names the initials “C.M.Q.”
- D Each companion may only be inducted once into this order, although he/she may serve the Kingdom as Queen’s Champion more than once.

**VIII-230 QUEEN'S RAPIER CHAMPION, COMPANIONATE OF
THE MERIDIAN**

- A The Queen may induct into this order the subject who by outstanding rapier skill won the Queen's Rapier Champion Tournament and served the Kingdom in the capacity of Queen's Rapier Champion.
- B The Queen may appoint her rapier champion in lieu of having the tournament.
- C Companions are entitled to place after their names the initials “C.M.Q.R.”
- D Each companion may only be inducted once into this order, although he/she may serve the Kingdom as Queen’s Rapier Champion more than once.

**VIII-231 QUEEN'S YEOMAN, COMPANIONATE OF THE
MERIDIAN**

- A The Queen may induct into this order the subject who by outstanding archery skill won the Queen's Yeoman Archery Competition and served the Kingdom in the capacity of Queen's Yeoman.
- B The Queen may appoint her Yeoman in lieu of having the tournament.
- C Companions are entitled to place after their names the initials “C.Q.Y.”
- D Each companion may only be inducted once into this order, although he/she may serve the Kingdom as Queen’s Yeoman more than once.

VIII-232 QUILL, ORDER OF THE

- A The Crown may induct into this order those subjects who have shown exemplary merit and skill in the authorship, publication, and dissemination of articles of scholarly interest to the Society for Creative Anachronism, the Kingdom of Meridies and its members.
- B Companions are encouraged to continue to write, publish, disseminate, and contribute to any, and all, kingdom and Society publications.

- C The Crown may call upon Companions to aid in the continuing education of the Kingdom by requesting, as a patron, specific articles and/or research in their areas of expertise.
- D The Companions are entitled to place after their names the initials “C.Q.”
- E The award may be given only once per reign.

VIII-233 RISING SWAN, ORDER OF THE

- A The Crown may induct into this order those minors (age 17 and under) who through outstanding service and achievement have gone above and beyond that of the Order of the Cygnet.
- B Companions are entitled to place after their names the initials “C.M.R.S.”.

VIII-234 SOVEREIGN'S PLEASURE, ORDER OF THE

- A The Sovereign may induct into this order those subjects who have personally served Their Majesty well, truly, and faithfully.
- B Companions are entitled to place after their names the initials “C.K.P.”
- C This award, given solely by the Sovereign, does not require the Consort's signature to become official.

VIII-235 WEAPONS MASTER, ORDER OF THE

- A The Crown may induct into this order those subjects who show great skill in the use of real weaponry, primarily throwing axe, knife, spear, and bow.
- B Companions are entitled to place after their names the initials “C.W.”
- C This order is granted the right to govern itself and to define the standard of its various rankings even unto the rank of Weapons Master. Also, it is granted the right to its chosen insignia.

VIII-236 MERIDIAN KINGDOM RAPIER CHAMPION

- A The King may select the Meridian Kingdom Rapier Champion from the winner of the Meridian Challenge of Arms Tournament or the highest finishing Meridian in the tournament.
- B The Meridian Kingdom Rapier Champion shall serve a term of one year.
- C Nothing in this section shall prohibit a King from appointing a personal Rapier Champion in addition to the Meridian Kingdom Rapier Champion.
- D The Meridian Kingdom Rapier Champion is entitled to place after their name the initials “M.K.R.C”.

VIII-237 KING'S ROYAL HUNTSMAN, COMPANIONATE OF THE

- A The King may induct a subject into the Order of the King's Huntsman, who by great prowess of skill in any live weapons form, to serve as the King's Royal Huntsman during the King's Reign, and wear the designated heraldic Stag's head regalia during the term of appointment.
- B Companions are entitled to place after their names the initials “K.R.H.”
- C Each Companion may be inducted only once into this order, although he/she may serve the King as his chosen Royal Huntsman more than once.

VIII-300 BARONIAL SERVICE ORDERS

Each Territorial Barony is granted the right to have a Baronial order distinct unto itself and bestowed by the Baronet. The order may, at the pleasure of the Crown, bear an Award of Arms and process ahead of simple Awards of Arms.

- A Doubloon del Mar (Closed), Order of the
 - 1 The Order of the Doubloon del Mar shall be given by the Baron/Baroness of Arenal for outstanding service to the Barony.
 - 2 Members of the Order shall be entitled to place the initials C.D.M. after their names.
- B Dreamstone, Order of the
 - 1 The Order of the Dreamstone is awarded by the Baronet of Bryn Madoc for outstanding service to the barony.
 - 2 Companions are entitled to place the initials "C.D." after their names.
- C Golden Iris, Order of the (Closed)
 - 1 The Order of the Golden Iris is awarded by the Baronet of Glaedenfeld for outstanding service to the barony.
 - 2 Companions are entitled to place the initials C.G.I. after their names.
- D Osprey's Jess, Order of the
 - 1 The Order of the Osprey's Jess is awarded by the Baronet of the Osprey for outstanding service to the barony.
 - 2 Companions are entitled to place the initials "C.O.J." after their names.
- E Red Raven, Order of the
 - 1 The Order of the Red Raven is awarded by the Baronet of South Downs for outstanding service to the barony.
 - 2 Companions are entitled to place the initials "C.R.R." after their names.
- F Sable Gryphon, Order of the
 - 1 The Order of the Sable Gryphon is awarded by the Baronet of Thor's Mountain for outstanding service to the barony.
 - 2 Companions are entitled to place the initials "C.S.G." after their names.
- G Sanguine Mountain, Order of the
 - 1 The Order of the Sanguine Mountain is awarded by the Baronet of Iron Mountain for outstanding service to the barony.
 - 2 Companions are entitled to place the initials "C.S.M." after their names.

VIII-400 ORDER OF PRECEDENCE

- A The Order of Precedence will be updated no less than monthly and be available to all subjects on the Kingdom's website. Notification of all awards given in the Kingdom is published monthly in the Kingdom Newsletter.
- B The Order of Precedence will follow this order. In case of a tie, the earliest date of bestowal has precedence.
 1. Sovereign and Consort
 2. Crown Prince and Crown Princess
 3. Territorial Prince and Princess
 4. Duchies
 5. Counties
 6. Viscounties
 7. Territorial Barons and Baronesses (by date of creation of the Barony)
 8. Patent Peers (Chivalry, Laurels, Pelicans, Defense)

9. Grants of Arms
10. Orders of High Merit
11. Members of the Argent Comet, and Members of Baronial Service Orders
12. Award of Arms, Persons with Court Baronies
13. Populace members without an award of arms

ARTICLE IX THE SUMPTUARY LAWS OF MERIDIES

The Sumptuary Laws serve to further enhance the dignity and appearance of the people of Meridies. All such items are subject to the approval of the Crown and the restrictions of the College of Heraldry.

IX-400 SUBSTITUTIONS

Due to the expense involved in the use of real gold and silver, the use of precious metal substitutes is allowed as long as the same basic colors are maintained. Crowns or Coronets may also be fashioned of other materials such as leather or cloth. Fleur-des-Lis under 1 inch in height are not considered points on a Crown or a Coronet.

IX-401 CROWNS/CORONETS

- A. The Sovereign and Consort may wear crowns of precious metal with points, ornamented as They see fit.
- B. The Crown Prince and Crown Princess may wear crowns of precious metal with points, ornamented as They see fit.
- C. The Territorial Prince and Princess may wear coronets of silver appropriate to Their Principality, not to exceed five points.
- D. The Territorial Heir and Heiress may wear coronets of silver appropriate to Their Principality, not to exceed 4 points.
- E. Dukes and Duchesses may wear coronets of precious metal, embellished with strawberry leaves, ornamented as they see fit, the overall height not to exceed 4 inches.
- F. Counts and Countesses (and those with alternate titles of the same rank) may wear coronets of precious metal embattled, ornamented as they see fit, the overall height not to exceed 3 inches.
- G. Viscounts and Viscountesses may wear coronets of silver embattled, ornamented as they see fit, the overall height not to exceed 3 inches.
- H. Territorial Barons and Baronesses may wear coronets of precious metal with 6 spheroids or precious stones, with simple ornamentation, the overall height not to exceed 3 inches.
- I. Patent Peers may wear a circlet of precious metal with no protrusions above or below the band, with simple ornamentation, the overall height not to exceed 1 inch.
 - a. Laurels may wear a Laurel Wreath meeting these standards.
 - b. Pelican may wear Caps of maintenance of sable, lined with ermine, either singly or bearing the badge of the Order.
- J. Court Barons and Baronesses may wear coronets of precious metal with 6 spheroids or precious stones, with simple ornamentation, the overall height not to exceed 2 inches.
- K. Members of the Populace with Grants of Arms may wear a plain circlet of any metal with no protrusions above or below the band, the overall height of which shall not exceed 1/2 inch.
- L. Members of the Populace with Awards of Arms may wear a plain circlet of any metal with no protrusions above or below the band, the overall height of which shall not exceed 1/4 inch.

IX-402 COLLARS OF ESTATE

- A. Dukes and Duchesses may wear a Collar of Estate composed of strawberry leaves and the badges of Meridies, all in precious metal, and bearing the Badges of their respective Orders and Awards, the leaves and badges not to exceed 2 inches square.

- B. Counts and Countesses may wear a Collar of Estate composed of embattlements and the badges of Meridies, all in precious metal, and bearing the Badges of their respective Orders and Awards, the embattlements and badges not to exceed 2 inches square.
- C. Viscounts and Viscountesses may wear a Collar of Estate composed of embattlements of silver, and the badges of Meridies, and bearing the Badges of their respective Orders and Awards, the embattlements and badges not to exceed 2 inches square.
- D. Patent Peers may wear a Collar of Estate composed of the badges of Meridies and the Badges of their respective Orders and Awards, the Badges not to exceed 2 inches square.
- E. Members of the Populace with Grants of Arms may wear a Collar of Estate composed of uncial letter M's all in silver and the badges of Meridies, the letter and Badges not to exceed 1 square inch.

IX-403 BADGES AND REGALIA

- A. Citizens of Meridies may bear upon their person Badges of the various Orders and Awards they have received. These badges may be worn as pendants upon ribbons as a pin, or in such a fashion as they desire as long as it conforms to these directives. These badges may be of a size to please the Companion.
- B. Companions of the Laurel and the Pelican may bear Badges of their orders upon a chain of gold only if they have sworn their fealty and done homage to the Crown; otherwise, they should wear the badges of their orders upon a ribbon of appropriate color.
- C. White livery collars are reserved for Companions of the Order of Defense.
- D. Chains and Spurs - The Chivalry may wear unadorned chains of gold, only if they have sworn their fealty and done homage unto the Crown. Spurs of gold are also reserved for use by the Chivalry.

IX-404 BELTS AND BALDRICS

Simple white belts are reserved for use by Knights of the Society. White baldrics are reserved for use by Masters of Arms.

IX-405 BATONS

Heralds may carry white batons or heraldic maces of 1 yard in length, while they wear a tabard in the fulfillment of their proscribed duties, as was anciently done.

IX-406 SUPPORTERS

The use of supporters in displays of heraldry is regulated in the following manner.

- A. Patent Peers, Branches, and those individuals having a Grant-of-Arms may use a single supporter in the display of their Achievements of Arms.
- B. Royal Peers, and those groups and individuals holding an Augmentation of Arms may use paired Supporters in the display of their Achievements of Arms.

IX-407 STANDARDS

The Standard is reserved for use by the peerages and subsidiary branches. The standard will bear the kingdom flag (VII-104) at the hoist. "Argent, on a fess sable, a crown of three points between two mullets argent." of 1 yard in width followed by the appropriate charges, colors and regalia of peerage entitlement as appropriate. The length, not including the one yard for the kingdom Flag,

is regulated as follows:

1. King/Queen – 8 yards
2. Heirs – 7.5 yards
3. Duchy – 7 yards
4. County – 6 yards
5. Territorial Baronage – 5.5 yards
6. Bestowed Peers – 5 yards
7. Shires, Cantons, Colleges, and other subsidiary groups – 4 yards