

# Alternative Persona Titles including Gender Neutral Options

Presented by:  
Arwyn of Leicester  
White Wyvern Herald

# What we will discuss

- Introduction
  - What are titles, Who can have them?
  - Corpora (SCA Organizational Handbook)
- Defining Documents and what we list for General Titles
  - Corpora, Avacal Law, Other Kingdoms
- Approved Alternative Titles
- Non-Gender Options and Research Needed
- Extended Geography with Proposed Scope Change

# What we will discuss

- Online Resources
  - Awesome Class, CoA Main Contact
- Next Steps
  - What you can do? How you can help?

# What are titles? Who can have them?

- Corpora (SCA Organization Handbook) states:
  - “Landedness” in the Society is an attribute of the Crown, the Coronet, and the territorial Barons and Baronesses.
  - Other titles within the Society do not confer land, and no form of any title shall be taken or used which states or implies ownership or control of any geographic, demographic or socio-graphic area within or external to the Society in any sense, medieval or otherwise.

# What are titles? Who can have them?

- Corpora (SCA Organization Handbook) states:
  - The Society recognizes that equivalent titles from other cultures may be more appropriate for individual members. Such alternate titles may be used by those entitled to the rank or award associated with them, provided the College of Arms has ruled that the title in question is an equivalent for the rank or award in question.
  - All standard and alternate titles are specific to the Society, and convey no rank or precedence outside it.
  - They may be used in a Society context only by those who have achieved the appropriate rank or award within the Society

# Defining Documents -Generalized Titles (Corpora)

| TITLE<br>(masculine/feminine/collective)      | RANK OR AWARD  |
|---|--|
| King/Queen/Crown                              | Rulers of a kingdom  |
| Crown Prince/Crown Princess/(Royal) Coronet   | Heirs to the Crown   |
| Prince/Princess/Coronet                       | Rulers of a principality   |
| Duke/Duchess                                  | Persons who have reigned over a kingdom two or more times. The title is assumed at the end of the second complete reign. |
| Count/Countess                                | Persons who have once reigned over a kingdom. The title is assumed at the end of the first complete reign.               |
| Viscount/Viscountess                          | Persons who have reigned over a principality. The title is assumed at the end of the first complete reign.               |
| Master/Mistress                               | Members of the Orders of the Laurel, the Pelican, Mastery of Arms and Defense.   |
| Sir/Sir                                       | Members of the Order of Knighthood. Note that most women who are members of the order have chosen to use 'Sir'.          |
| Baron (of placename)/ Baroness (of placename) | Ceremonial heads of a barony   |

# Defining Documents -Generalized Titles (Corpora)

| TITLE<br>(masculine/feminine/collective)     | RANK OR AWARD  |
|--|--|
| (Court) Baron/ (Court) Baroness              | Armigerous titles awarded at the discretion of the Crown. The word "Court" is often left out when referring to this title.   |
| Lord/Lady                                    | Basic titles for persons who hold Arms by Award or Grant   |
| "my lord"/ "my lady"/ "good gentles"         | <b>These are general forms of address rather than titles.</b> They are properly used informally, or any time the speaker does not know another form that would be more appropriate for the listener.             |
| Master of (job name)/ Mistress of (job name) | Alternates for 'Minister of (job name)'. As with the standard designation for the office, <b>these are not personal titles, and should in no case be abbreviated or prefixed to the officer's personal name.</b> |

# Defining Documents -Generalized Titles (Avacal Kingdom Law)

- Avacal Kingdom Law have been recently changed to reflect better non-gender concepts
  - Court Baronetcy
    - Members of this order may bear the title of “Baron” or “Baroness” and/or “Your Excellency”
  - Award of Arms and awards that grant AoAs
    - Recipients may bear the title of “Lord” or “Lady” or “Noble”.
  - Grant of Arms and orders that grant GoAs
    - Members of the Order may bear the title of “His Lordship” or “Her Ladyship” or an appellation chosen by said noble



# Defining Documents -Generalized Titles (Other Kingdoms)

- Different kingdoms have different order of precedents and traditions
  - Ealdormere has a Wain (Grant of Arms Order) and I was called “The Honourable Lady” Arwyn there and not “Her Ladyship”.
  - it’s in their laws.

# Approved Alternative Titles

- Corpora defines:
  - “The Laurel Sovereign of Arms (Laurel) is the principal heraldic officer of the Society and the head of the College of Arms. Laurel is responsible for fostering the study and practice of heraldry, and for establishing rules and making determinations regarding names and armory, **royal and noble titles**, and **geographical designations** to be approved for use in the Society.
- Approved titles are found on <http://heraldry.sca.org/titles.html>

# Non-Gendered Options and Research Needed

- Palimpsest Herald Dame Ursula Georges  
[rules@heraldry.sca.org](mailto:rules@heraldry.sca.org)
  - main herald to contact to help develop non-gender titles
- Non-Gendered Titles are different than Non-Gendered by-names
  - Not all cultures have Non-Gender options (even today)
  - Waiter, Waitress vs Server now.. historically was gendered
- Research needed to show that the title was used in period for that level of person
- Get in contact with Arwyn to work on the initial concept (CoA is looking for help).. rabbit hole!

# Extended Geography with Proposed Scope Change

- Proposed Scope Change means:
  - All geographies prior to 1600
  - Once Corpora Changes, then Administrative Handbook of the College of Arms can changes
  - However, research can happen now
- Alternative Titles for new geographies and cultures will need work
  - First steps is to find names and other documents for the cultures
  - Also acknowledge ones that depend on oral traditions we will need to work on that too

# Other Online Resources

- Awesome class by Juliana de Luna
  - SCA Names for the Twenty-First Century: Beyond Europe, Beyond the Gender Binary
  - ([External link to the recorded presentation](#)).
- Approved titles are found on <http://heraldry.sca.org/titles.html>
- Herald to help put the rule change, Palimpsest Herald Dame Ursula Georges [rules@heraldry.sca.org](mailto:rules@heraldry.sca.org)

# Next Steps

- Local Heralds can be the “eyes and ears” of our populace
  - What cultures need non gendered titles if available?
  - What new cultures are people looking at
- Remember that we are all volunteers and things take time to document
  - Anyone up to the challenge?