

November 13, 2014

Proposed Change to Corpora, Creating a Rapier Peerage

At the July 2013 Board Meeting, the Additional Peerage Exploratory Committee ("APEC") proposed that the Board of Directors create a new Patent-bearing Peerage Order parallel to the Orders of the Chivalry, the Laurel and the Pelican. This Rapier Peerage would be for the related martial arts of rapier and all forms of cut & thrust in the SCA. In August of 2013, the APEC's proposal for name, heraldry and badge was sent out to the membership for commentary, and a second committee was formed of representatives appointed by the Kingdoms of the Known World to review the proposal and represent their interests. After reviewing all commentary received from the membership and the committees, the Board believes there is enough interest to request further commentary on the changes that would be required to Corpora if the Board decides to create such an Order. This will be the final opportunity for the membership to make its opinions and wishes known on this subject as the Board will vote at the January 2015 Board meeting on whether or not to create this Order.

In the event a rapier/cut & thrust peerage is created, the following would be the proposed changes to Corpora (additions in red; deletions in blue and struck out.)

Glossary, page 9

- **Peerage:** Collectively, the members of the Order of Chivalry, the Order of the Laurel, ~~and~~ the Order of the Pelican, ~~and the Order of Defense~~ are referred to as the Peerage. A member of any of these Orders is a Peer.

VIII. PERSONAL AWARDS AND TITLES

A. Patents of Arms

2. Order of Precedence Within the Peerage

The Crown may establish the order of precedence within the peerage according to the laws and customs of the kingdom. However, ~~the orders of~~ the Chivalry, the Laurel, ~~and~~ the Pelican, and Defense are of equal precedence and must be considered as one group.

4. Patent Orders:

d. The Order of Defense:

(i) Members of the Order of Defense may choose to swear fealty, but are not required to do so. The candidate must be considered the equal of his or her prospective peers with the basic weapons of rapier and/or cut-and-thrust combat. The candidate must have applied this skill and/or knowledge for the instruction of members and service to the kingdom to an extent above and beyond that normally expected of members of the Society.

(2) The duties of the members of the order are as follows:

- (a) To set an example of courtesy and chivalrous conduct on and off the field of honor.
- (b) To respect the Crown of the kingdom; to support and uphold the laws of the kingdom and Corpora.
- (c) If in fealty, to support and uphold the Crown of his or her kingdom.
- (d) To enrich the kingdom by sharing his or her knowledge and skills.
- (e) To enhance the renown and defend the honor of the peer's Lady or Lord.
- (f) To advise the Crown on the advancement of candidates for the Order of Defense

(The section on royal peerage becomes section e, etc.)

D. Titles

4. The titles listed here are considered standard, and may be used by those who have earned or been granted the appropriate rank or award within the Society. The College of Arms publishes a more

extensive list of titles and alternative forms, which may also be used freely by qualified persons. In addition, the College of Arms has full approval authority over new alternative titles, which must be added to their list before being released for use in the Society.

TITLE (masculine/feminine/collective)	RANK OR AWARD
...	...
Master/Mistress	Members of the Orders of the Laurel, the Pelican, and Mastery of Arms, and Defense.

IX. Society Combat

~~C. Rapier Fighting in the Society~~

~~The Board acknowledges rapier combat as an ancillary activity of the Society when properly supervised by the Marshals and when approved by individual kingdoms. Rapier combat may take place within a kingdom only by rules established by the Marshallate of that kingdom and after the approval of those rules by the Marshal of the Society. The Marshal of the Society will maintain guidelines for rapier combat within the Society. Rapier combat, not having been part of formal tournament combat in the Middle Ages, shall not be a part of formal tournament lists for royal ranks and armigerous titles.~~

C. Royal Lists

Only Chivalric (rattan) combat shall be used for formal tournament lists for royal ranks.

[This last might need some explanation. The current Section IX.C is a holdover from a Governing and Policy decision from October 1979, when the Board decided that rapier combat would be allowed in the SCA as an ancillary activity. Rapier combat is no longer considered an ancillary activity and has not been for many years. Also, the duties of the Society Earl Marshal are properly defined in section VI.D. So this section is reduced to a single clear, unambiguous rule.]