

8/13/2019

Greetings to all,

From John Fulton, President, SCA, Inc.

As mentioned in my last President's Report to the community there is a project to review Corpora to clean up any confusing or outdated language in order to make it more "user friendly". This will be an ongoing project and will not affect the Board presenting proposals to the membership on substantive changes such as the recently suggested change to Corpora IV.B.1 which would remove the mention of gender as a requirement for Royal Lists.

At the July 2019 meeting the Board approved the first set of edit changes/clarifications for commentary to the membership.

<https://sca.org/BOD/PresReport/CorporaEditAug2019.pdf>

A copy of the relevant parts of Corpora showing the proposed edits can be found at the above link. Edits are red lettered.

Also available is a copy of an explanation of the proposed changes. Most of these are editorial in nature only. This includes changes to the Glossary, some standardized language cleaning, and moving toward gender neutral terms. This also proposes removing such phrases as Western Europe in order to properly include many other cultures within the scope of the Society's pre-17<sup>th</sup> Century reenactment activities. This part was addressed recently by the Board.

This is the first of the current attempts at editing and updating Corpora. It will not be the last. Nor is this considered to be a complete and finished document.

The intent of this project is NOT to do substantive game changing alterations.

Please send all comments to [comments@sca.org](mailto:comments@sca.org) with the subject line "**Corpora Edit Comments – Set 1**". Include your modern and SCA name and membership number if you have one.

Also, please feel free to email me also at [president@sca.org](mailto:president@sca.org) with questions or suggestions.

Many thanks to Kelly Magill and Lis Schraer for helping me so much.

In service,

John Fulton  
Mka Duke John the Bearkiller  
President, Society for Creative Anachronism, Inc.

## Proposed Corpora Changes—August 15, 2019

### Glossary:

- **Peerage:** ~~Collectively, the members of the Order of Chivalry, the Order of the Laurel, 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.~~ Collectively, the members of the populace who hold a patent of arms. Any person holding a patent is a peer.
- **Period:** The era used by the Society as the base for its re-creation activities. The Society is based on the life and culture of the landed nobility of pre-17<sup>th</sup> Century **Western** Europe, focusing on the Middle Ages and the Renaissance.

### Corpora:

## II. EVENTS

### A. Society Events Defined

The term “Society event” refers to tournaments, feasts, and other activities whereby participants can display the results of their researches into the culture and technology of the period in an environment which evokes the atmosphere of the pre-17th century **European** Middle Ages and Renaissance. It also refers to educational activities involving either one-time classes or ongoing Society university organizations, and meetings where participants share skills or discuss the business of the group. All Society events must be sponsored by official branches of the Society, registered with the Seneschal of the sponsoring branch, publicized at least to the members of that branch, and conducted according to Society rules.

### B. Requirements for Participants at Society Events

Anyone may attend Society events provided ~~he or she wears~~ **they wear** an attempt at pre-17th century clothing, **conforms** ~~conform~~ to the provisions in Corpora, and **complies** ~~comply~~ with any other requirements (including but not limited to site fees or waivers) which may be imposed. At business meetings and informal classes, the requirement to wear pre-17th century dress may be waived. All participants are expected to behave ~~as ladies or gentlemen.~~ **in an appropriate and respectful manner.**

### D. Individuals in Charge of Events

Each Society event must have one Society member appointed by the sponsoring branch in attendance and responsible for the general conduct of the event. Where an event involves only one type of Society activity, the responsible member is the appropriate branch officer, or someone designated by that officer (usually called an ~~Autocrat or~~ **Event Steward**). Where an event includes a variety of activities, the responsible member is the branch Seneschal or someone designated by the branch Seneschal (usually called an ~~Autocrat or~~ **Event Steward**). Events including Society combat or combat-related activities must have at least one warranted marshal, designated by the Marshal of the sponsoring branch, in attendance and responsible for those activities.

### F. Policy on Religion

Having no wish to recreate the religious conflicts of the period under study, the Society shall neither establish nor prohibit any system of belief among its members. No **one** person, especially one who holds an office or position of authority, shall perform any religious or magical ceremony at a Society event (or in association with the name of the Society) in such a way as to imply that the ceremony is authorized, sponsored, or promulgated by the Society or to force anyone at a Society event, by direct or indirect pressure, to observe or join the ceremony. However, this provision is in no way intended to discourage the study of historical belief systems and their effects on the development of Western culture.

## **IV. ROYALTY**

### **C. Duties**

C.7. ~~Royalty shall defend the realm from all foes, domestic and foreign.~~

### **H. The Coronet**

#### **H.7. Reservations to the Crown**

H.7.C. If the Crown feels that rapid action is essential to protect the Society, it has the option of ~~banishing the Coronet from the realm,~~ enacting a Proscription from Active Participation upon the Coronet, effectively putting the principality reign into abeyance until either conditions change within the kingdom or the Board countermands the order. However, if the Board does not agree with the Crown's judgment regarding the urgency of the situation, the Board may choose to take action against the Crown as well as or instead of against the Coronet.

## **VI. SOCIETY OFFICERS**

### **F. Chronicler of the Society**

The Chronicler is responsible for overseeing the production of kingdom newsletters, local branch newsletters, ~~kingdom and local branch websites,~~ and any other publications the Board may designate. In addition, the Chronicler establishes overall policies for Society-sponsored event and branch-related paper publishing at all levels, and serves as a source of publishing expertise and advice for the benefit of the Society.

## **VII. KINGDOM, PRINCIPALITY, AND LOCAL OFFICERS**

### **A. General**

A.2. Kingdom Great Officers are responsible directly to the Crown, but also report to a corresponding Society officer if such a Society officer exists. Each Kingdom's Great Officer corps must include the Seneschal, the Principal Herald, the Earl Marshal, the Minister of Arts and Sciences, the Chancellor of the Exchequer, **and** the Chronicler, **and the Webminister**. No person may hold more than one of these Great offices at a time. The Crown may create additional Great Offices. Kingdom Lesser Officers and deputies are created by the Crown according to the needs of the kingdom. These officers may be supervised directly by the Crown, or be placed under the jurisdiction of a Greater Officer, and report accordingly. However, Great Officers retain ultimate responsibility for delegated functions.

### **L. Suspension of an Officer**

L.2. If a deputy has been designated as successor for the post, the deputy shall automatically assume the duties of the office at the moment of such suspension and shall continue fulfilling said

duties until the suspension is terminated. In order to be assured of the succession in the event of the suspension of an officer, the deputy designated to succeed that officer must be on a roster or warrant signed by that officer, and the Royalty that signed that officer's roster or warrant. In addition, the officer must send a copy of that warrant to their superior officer. The deputy is considered an officer. If no designated successor exists for the post, the Royalty and superior officer (if any) shall reach an agreement as to how to carry out the duties of the post. The suspension stands until and unless overruled by the Board.

## **VIII. PERSONAL AWARDS AND TITLES**

### **B. Other Awards**

B.2. Kingdoms may establish awards and orders conferring Awards or Grants of Arms, and the Crown may award membership in such orders according to the laws and customs of the kingdom. The names and insignia armory of these awards and orders must be ratified approved by the Laurel Sovereign of Arms. The order of precedence among orders conferring Awards or Grants of Arms shall be established according to the laws and customs of the kingdoms. Principalities may establish their own awards and orders, whose names and armory must be approved by the Laurel Sovereign of Arms, but the approval of the Crown is required before these awards and orders may convey Arms.

### **E. RESERVATIONS TO THE BOARD**

#### **E.1. Degradation from the Peerage**

The Board reserves the right to degrade a person from the Peerage. However, kingdom law may define conditions and procedures under which a recommendation for such action may be made to the Board. Unless stipulated otherwise by the Board, the Board's decision in such a case applies only to the matter at hand. Nothing prohibits a person who has been degraded from any order of the peerage from being elevated to the peerage at a later date, should the Crown determine that the person in question now meets the requirements of the order to which he is the person is being elevated.

## **X. GRIEVANCES AND SANCTIONS**

### **C. Sanctions**

#### **4. Reservations to the Board of Directors**

##### **c. Degradation from the Peerage**

The Board reserves the right to degrade a person from the Peerage. However, kingdom law may define conditions and procedures under which a recommendation for such action may be made to the Board. Unless stipulated otherwise by the Board, the Board's decision in such a case applies only to the matter at hand. Nothing prohibits a person who has been degraded from any order of the peerage from being elevated to the peerage at a later date, should the Crown determine that the person in question now meets the requirements of the order to which he is the person is being elevated.

## Explanation of Proposed Corpora Changes

**Note: In the above listing of changes, the changes noted below are shown as follows: Existing wording is highlighted and struck out. Proposed new wording is shown in red.**

1. Glossary: definition of peerage. Explanation for proposed change: The current definition does not take into account that some kingdoms grant a patent of arms with a royal peerage or the Order of the Rose. It is the granting of the patent that makes someone a peer.
2. Glossary: definition of period. Removal of the adjective "Western" from the phrase "Western Europe". Explanation of proposed change: Conflicts with revision of mission statement.
3. Corpora, section I.B. Add the word "contradict". Explanation: While this should be apparent in the current wording, it should be explicitly added that kingdoms may not make laws that contradict Corpora.
4. Corpora, section II.A. Strike the word "European". Explanation: See (2) above for a similar rationale.
5. Corpora, section II.B. Explanation: This paragraph has been altered to make it gender neutral. Some minor grammatical changes have been added because once the plural "they" is used, the verbs must be changed to agree. "Behave in an appropriate and respectful manner" is suggested as a gender-neutral alternative to "behave as ladies or gentlemen".
6. Corpora, section II.D. Explanation: Removal of the term "autocrat" to simply use "Event Steward". Not only is it more appropriate to period, it sounds less like jargon.
7. Corpora, section II.F. Explanation: Wording change proposed to make it more clear this is not allowed, particularly by officers and royalty.
8. Corpora, section IV.C.7. Explanation: Consider removing this sentence as it is essentially meaningless in any real sense. It is more about pageantry than real royal duties and powers.
9. Corpora, section IV.H.7.c. Explanation: Corpora currently refers here to "banishment from the realm". This term is no longer defined in either Corpora or the Sanctions Guide. The closest equivalent in the January 2018 Sanctions Guide is "Proscription from Active Participation". Corpora does not directly permit the Crown to suspend the Coronet in the same manner it can suspend kingdom officers, but the Crown is allowed to apply this sanction. However, it needs to be changed to its current name of "Proscription from Active Participation" as described in the Sanctions Guide.
10. Corpora, section VI.F. Explanation: The Society Chronicler is no longer responsible for the kingdom and local websites, as that responsibility is now held by the Society Webminister. Refer also to Section VI.H which defines the Webminister's responsibilities. These two sections conflict; the simplest solution is to remove the wording putting websites under the Chronicler.
11. Corpora, section VII.A.2. Explanation: As the Webminister is listed as a Society Officer in Section VI, it should be listed as a Great Office for Kingdoms here.

12. Corpora, section VII.L.2. Explanation: This has been marked for deletion because it is completely unclear what it is trying to say. It would appear that the desired coverage might exist without the marked wording at all.
13. Corpora, section VIII.B.2. Explanation: Changes for clarity suggested by a former Laurel Sovereign of Arms.
14. Corpora, section VIII.E.1. Replacing "he is" with gender neutral language.