

Baronial Court of Politarchoopolis

Book of Ceremonies

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The words below announce the formal opening and closing of a Baronial Court. Note - when the Crown is in attendance, the Baronial formulae are not used, although the Baron and Baroness may conduct business within the Royal Court by permission.

Opening

Herald: RISE, one and all, and attend the court of Their Excellencies, Crispin and Joan, Baron and Baroness of Politarchopolis!

Once the populace has gathered and Their Excellencies have given the word:

Herald: Their Excellencies bid you make yourselves comfortable.

Their Excellencies give whatever words of greeting they feel is appropriate, and then the court begins with the first item of business.

Closing

When there are no further items of business, and Their Excellencies have confirmed that they wish to close court:

Herald: Good gentles, there being no further business in this court,
ALL RISE! *Wait while the populace get to their feet.*

Herald: Long Live The King! (*populace echoes*)

Long Live The Queen! (*populace echoes*)

For the Baron and Baroness of Politarchopolis,

Hip Hip! (*populace Huzzahs*) (x 3)

Court is ended. You have Their Excellencies' leave to depart.

Award Ceremonies

Order of the Burly Griffin

The Order of the Burly Griffin (registered January 1996, West) is given for excellence in the areas of Service, Arts and Sciences, and Arts Martial, differentiated by the colour of the ribbon from which the token is dependent. Red denotes the Arts Martial, green denotes the Arts and Sciences, and white denotes Service. The award may be granted more than once.

The token is a white metal griffin suspended on a red, green or white ribbon.

Ceremony

Baron(ess): It is our right as Baron and Baroness of Politarchopolis to recognise our own for their efforts. We have become aware of one greatly deserving of acclaim.

Herald: Let (*Name*) come before Their Excellencies.

Baron(ess): (*Name*), your works in (*Service/Arts and Sciences/Arts Martial*) have strengthened and ennobled our Barony. (*Whatever other words of detail they wish to include*). Wear this token, a griffin from the same mould as our Coronet, suspended on a cord of (*colour*), that all may know of your endeavours.

Herald: For (*Name*), newest member of the Order of the Burly Griffin,

Hip Hip! (*populace Huzzahs*) (*x3*)

Order of the Griffin's Egg

The Griffin's Egg (registered January 1996, West) is an award given to the children of Politarchopolis for their contribution to the Barony. It is given to children under the age of 16 years who have not received any "adult-level" awards. It may be given for many fields of endeavour - enthusiasm, politeness or skill, or for lending a helping hand.

The token is a white metal griffin hatching from an egg, suspended on a ribbon of any colour.

Ceremony

Herald: There are those in our Barony who have yet to attain their majority, but who contribute greatly in time, effort and enthusiasm. They are important citizens of our Barony and should be encouraged. Let (*Name*) come before Their Excellencies.

Baron(ess): (*Name*), welcome to our Court. You have given much to our Barony. (*Elaborate further*). Wear this token as a symbol of our esteem. We look forward to hearing more news of your good deeds to come.

Herald: For (*Name*), newest member of the Order of the Griffin's Egg,

Hip Hip! (*populace Huzzahs*) (*x3*)

Order of the Griffin's Wing

The Griffin's Wing (registered January 1996, West) is given to those people from outside Politarchopolis who have given great service to the Barony. If the recipient is a member of another Barony, their Baron and Baroness should be consulted before the award is bestowed.

The original token was a red pouch decorated with a white wing. A pewter griffin's wing suspended on a ribbon has also been used.

Ceremony

Baron(ess): We are one Barony, part of a diverse and prosperous Kingdom. Many roads lead to Politarchopolis, and welcome indeed are the people who travel along them. There are some of those good folk who are not content only to enjoy our hospitality, but repay it many times over.

Herald: Let (*Name*) come before Their Excellencies.

Baron(ess): Let it be known that (*Name*) has done our Barony great service. (*Elaborate further on their contributions*).

Wear this token as an outward sign of your acclaim, but carry always within your heart our thanks for your effort and your support for our Barony. Know that you are always welcome within our walls.

Herald: For (*Name*), newest member of the Order of the Griffin's Wing,

Hip Hip! (*populace Huzzahs*) (x 3)

Baronial Huntsman

This award is for combat archers. Huntsmen may occasionally be asked to organise a 'hunt' event or to supply actual meats for the pot.

There is a painted banner, made by Isabella Vitale, to which the devices of new members should be added, and a horn which is (currently) held by the Captain of Archers.

Ceremony

Herald: The Barony of Politarchopolis is famed throughout the kingdom for its fine feasting. To maintain this reputation, our cooks must be provided with the best fruits of field and forest, a skill not culinary but martial.

Let the Baronial Huntsmen come before Their Excellencies. (*Huntsmen kneel*)

Baron/ess: We fear that the reputation of our table is at risk, and are minded therefore to increase your numbers.

Herald: Let (*Name*) come before Their Excellencies.

Baron/ess: We have heard of your skill with the bow, and ask that you join our Huntsmen in providing meats for the pot when required. Will you undertake this important task?

Huntsman: Yes.

Baron/ess: Then let (*Name's*) device be added to the roll of Huntsmen, and let the horn be sounded. (*sounding of horn*)

Herald: For the newest Huntsman of Politarchopolis, Hip hip!
(*populace buzzabs*) (x 3)

Politarchopolis Fellowship of Grace

This award is given, at the Baroness' discretion, for exceptional grace, courtesy and chivalry. It is given only once per year.

The token is a sun in his splendour in any medium.

Ceremony

Herald: The grace and dignity of the Barony rests in the manner of her people. Those citizens who, by their courtesy, thoughtfulness and exceptional grace, have brought beauty and respect to the Barony are worthy of honour and emulation. Her Excellency calls (*Name*) before her that (*s/he*) may be so honoured.

Baroness: (*Name*), we have found you worthy of honour. Take this token, a sun in splendour, and wear it as a symbol of our esteem, for the pleasure you bring this Barony.

Herald: For (*Name*), newest member of the Politarchopolis Fellowship of Grace,

Hip Hip! (*populace Huzzahs*) (*x3*)

Order of the Cordon Rouge

The Order of the Cordon Rouge (registered January 1996, West) is the highest Baronial award of Politarchopolis. It is given by the Baron and Baroness to a person who has, by dint of service seen or unseen, tied the Barony together. It will be bestowed only once per year. It is envisaged that this award may be won by a range of people, from those who are overt in their service, to those who quietly come to every event and stay to clean up.

The badge is a red masde knot on a white field. The token may be in any medium and is made by the previous recipient, to be presented to the latest member of the Order.

Ceremony

Herald: The Barony can only grow through the efforts of all its people. However, there are some who, through their extraordinary efforts, tie Politarchopolis together and make it whole. They bring order and beauty out of chaos and confusion. Therefore did Stephen and Mathilde, first Baron and Baroness of Politarchopolis, at their investiture, decree that Politarchopolis recognise these valued people.

Let any recipients of the Cordon Rouge here present, now make themselves known. (*members stand up or similar.*)

Baron/ess: We thank you for your loyalty to the Barony and its people. Please, make yourselves comfortable once more.

(*to the populace*) These gentles have been rewarded for adding greatly to the joy of the Society. We are minded now to reward another in this way.

Herald: Let (*Name*) come before Their Excellencies.

Baron(ess): (*Name*), you have contributed much to our Barony. (*Here, give reasons this person is receiving the award, ensuring the populace can bear*).

Bear this token, a knot at once uncomplicated and intricate, bringing forth beauty from chaos. It was crafted by our own (*previous recipient*). We bid you wear it proudly as a symbol of our esteem. We also charge you to create a new token of this order, to be presented to whomever may next be found worthy of this award.

Herald: For (*Name*), newest member of the Order of the Cordon Rouge,

Hip Hip! (*populace Huzzahs*) (*x3*)

Cooks' Favour

Ceremony written by Joan Sutton. The favour is a woven garter in red and white, including the words "Eat, Eat, you are all too thin!" in Latin.

Ceremony

Herald: This favour was made by the hand of our first Baroness, Mathilde, who gave it to her Champions, each in their turn. In later reigns, this custom faded. Now, the favour has a new purpose, to display our pride in the excellence and generosity of our cooks.

Let (*Name*) come before their Excellencies. (*Probably in the kitchen. Wait a bit...*)

Baron/ess: (*Name*), we wish to acknowledge your dedication to cooking by the gift of this favour.

However, it is not a simple gift. We ask that you display it in honour of your own accomplishments, and also that you keep watch in coming months for other cooks deserving of recognition. When you discover such a one, bring us the favour again with your recommendation for this worthy person, and we will see that our cooks gain even greater renown throughout the kingdom!

Herald: For the holder of the Politarchopolis Cooks' Favour,

Hip Hip! (*buzzabs x 3*)

Announcement of Free Citizens

This award is granted very rarely, for an exceptional one-time service to the Barony. (For ongoing excellence in service, the Cordon Rouge is more appropriate.) Free Citizenship confers the right of free entry to Politarchopolis events for one year. It is recommended to publicly announce any Free Citizens from time to time, for the knowledge of the populace.

There is no token. (Note - under current SCAA rules, a non-member fee will still apply if the recipient is not a member.) Ceremony written by Joan Sutton.

Ceremony

Herald: The Barony contains those of every degree and station, working and feasting alongside each other. Many offer service to those around them. Occasionally, one will give to the Barony in a manner outstanding beyond all others. Therefore did Mathilde and Stephen, first Baronage of Politarchopolis, create the Free Citizenry to honour such single outstanding acts. The first to receive honour in this way was Owen von Noorden, in recognition of his crafting and gifting of the Baronial Sword.

(insert list of current holders of this right.) (add a new one if necessary)

Let it be known to all that the Citizens here named are valued among our populace, and that they should be admitted to our halls, our fields and pleasure-gardens without hindrance or demanding of moneys, for the space of a year and a day, from the date of their admittance.

For all the Free Citizens of Politarchopolis, Hip hip!
(populace buzzahs) (x 3)

Baronial Roles

Retainers' Homage

This oath is to be used on the appointment of new baronial retainers (ladies-in-waiting, pages, scribes etc - anyone without another form of promise). Homage should be sworn "hands within hands", the Baron/ess's hands surrounding those of the retainer. 'Homage' comes from Latin *homo* and Old French *homme*, meaning a man. Even if you are a woman.

Written by Joan Sutton, collected from various medieval oaths.

Ceremony

Herald: Let *(name)* come before Their Excellencies.

(retainer kneels)

Baron/ess: We are minded to name you our *(retainer)*. Will you accept this duty and do homage?

Retainer: Yes.

Baron/ess: Do you swear to be our man from this day forth, to love what we love and to shun what we shun, and to lawfully do such Customs and Services, as your Duty is to us, at the times assigned?

Retainer: I do.

Baron/ess: Then please join us in court.

Herald: Three cheers for the new *(title)* of Politarchopolis.

Hip hip! *(populace buzzyahs)* (x 3)

Induction of Champions

This ceremony is for naming a new Baronial Champion in any field. It is normally conducted during an event (such as a tourney), organised by the outgoing Champion, in which the Baron and Baroness have been able to observe suitable candidates and make their choice from among them.

Ceremony

Herald: Let *(name)*, Baronial Champion of *(discipline)*, come before Their Excellencies. *(Champion comes forward and kneels.)*

Baron/ess: You have served faithfully this past year as our Champion, but the time has come for you to step aside. Please return to us the regalia of your office.

Champion: *(returns regalia)*

Baron/ess: You have our thanks. Go now and tend to your own lands and people as you have tended ours.

Herald: Three cheers for the outgoing Champion!

Hip hip! *(populace buzzabs)* (x 3)

Baron/ess: We have witnessed the courtesy and prowess of our Barony, and chosen a new Champion from among the populace. Let them be called.

Herald: Let *(name)* come before Their Excellencies. *(Named person comes forward and kneels.)*

Baron/ess: Will you accept this honour, and swear the oath?

Champion: I will.

Herald: Do you swear to serve the **Barony** of Politarchopolis as
(title),

(Heavy) to defend the borders of this Fair **Barony**,

(Archer) to maintain a full quiver,

(Rapier) to keep your blade sharpened,

(A&S) to increase the skill and beauty of the **Barony**,

to uphold the honour of the office until your time as
Champion shall end, and at that time, to assist your **Baron**
and **Baroness** in the discovery of a new **Champion**?

Champion: I so swear.

Baron/ess: Please join us in our **Court**.

Herald: Three cheers for the new *(title)* of Politarchopolis.

Hip hip! *(populace buzzabs)* (x 3)

Renewal of Champions

This ceremony is for re-affirming Baronial Champions when they are carried over from a previous Baron and Baroness.

Ceremony

Herald: Let *(name)*, Baronial Champion of *(discipline)*, come before Their Excellencies. *(Champion comes forward and kneels.)*

Baron/ess: *(Name)*, we acknowledge the honour you received from our predecessors, and the loyalty you offered to them. Will you now renew your allegiance and your duties?

Champion: Yes.

Herald: Do you swear to continue to serve the Barony as *(title)*, to uphold the honour of the office and

(Heavy) to defend the borders of this Fair Barony,

(Archer) to maintain a full quiver,

(Rapier) to keep your blade sharpened,

(A&S) to increase the skill and beauty of the Barony,

until your time as Champion of Politarchopolis shall end?

Champion: I so swear.

Baron/ess: Then please join us in our Court.

Induction into the Baronial Guard

The Baronial Guard is modelled on the Queen's Guard of Lochac. Members serve for one year, and afterwards are made Pensioners. One member of the Guard (usually a heavy fighter) is made Sergeant. Crispin and Joan intend to have one representative of each combat art on their Guard, with the heavy combatant always becoming the Sergeant. The Sergeant is expected to command the Politarchopolan forces on the warfield, should the Baron be unable to do so himself.

Baronial Guards wear baldrics in the baronial colours, on the back of which they should inscribe their names during their tenure. There may also be other regalia from time to time. The Sergeant may have regalia and duties additional to those of the ordinary guards.

Original ceremony provided by Stephen and Mathilde, edited by Karl Faustus and later by Joan Sutton.

Ceremony

Herald: Let these citizens of the Barony come forward and kneel before His Excellency: (*Names*).

Baron: We are minded to name you as our Guard. Will you accept this responsibility?

Guard/s: Yes.

****(*Optional - Squires*)****

Herald: If any of these citizens are squires, let their knights come forward and kneel beside them.

(If any knights respond)

Baron: It is our wish to name your squire/s to our Guard. May we have your consent?

Knight/s: Yes.

Baron: We thank you for this, and vow unto you that

we shall require of your squire/s nothing that shall violate any oaths each of you has sworn to the other, but we shall consider all their acts of valour and courtesy to be a reflection on you also. Will you now arise, and remain here to bear witness?

(Knights rise and stand to one side.)

Herald: Do you now accept the responsibilities of service in the Guard of the Barony of Politarchopolis, and do you pledge to come to the aid of the Barony should it be necessary and within your power?

Guard/s: Yes.

Baron: Then take from us these symbols of your new post.

Herald: Because it is meet that there be one upon the field of war able to command, should His Excellency be prevented, Their Excellencies wish to name *(heavy guard)* as Sergeant of the Guard. *(present any extra regalia)*

Herald: Three cheers for the newest members of the Baronial Guard.

Hip hip! *(populace Huzzahs)* (x 3)

Retirement of Guard - Pensioners

Members of the Baronial Guard serve for one year, and afterwards are made Pensioners. Pensions are paid annually as a stipend of peppercorns, given in court on or around Valentines' Day. Ceremony written by Joan Sutton.

Ceremony

Herald: Let (name/s) come before Their Excellencies.

Baron/ess: You have served on our Guard for the allotted time, and great has been your service. We know well the blows you have taken for us, and the hardships of the night watches. We thank you for your protection and help this past year, and release you now to tend your wounds and take your ease among your loved ones.

Herald: It is customary for each guard who serves to mark the baldric with their name.

Baron/ess: Has this been done? (If not, the outgoing guard should remedy this at some future date.)

We require that you return the baldric, that it may be worn by another. (Baldric and other regalia are returned to the Baron/ess)

Herald: Those who have dealt and received blows in defence of Your Excellencies are worthy of perpetual reward. It is customary that they receive, once yearly, a stipend from Your treasury.

Baron/ess: Indeed. Let these worthy citizens be named Pensioners in remembrance of their service.

Herald: Let it be known that on this day (*Name/s*) are named Pensioners of Politarchopolis, in recognition of their service martial to the persons of our Baron and Baroness. The annuity will be offered on the Feast of Saint Valentines to any and all Pensioners who present themselves to the court when called.

Herald: For the newest Pensioners of Politarchopolis, three cheers.

Hip hip! (*populace huzzahs*) (x 3)

Payment of Pensioners

This is an annual stipend to former Guard members. Originally, each pensioner received about twelve peppercorns and one gold coin (generally of chocolate). Former Sergeants received extra coins. More recently, the payment is usually in peppercorns only. The ceremony traditionally takes place at a Valentine's event.

The payment was begun by Stephen and Mathilde as a dig at Brennan, who was very young at the time. Ceremony written by Joan Sutton.

Ceremony

Herald: Once a year, the Baron and Baroness call before them those stalwarts who, in their younger days, did serve Politarchopolis as her Guard. Hard were the blows both given and received, and long were the watches of the night. Although their failing strength may no longer raise a sword nor draw a longbow, they are remembered with gratitude and with alms.

Let the Baronial Pensioners come before Their Excellencies.

(Pensioners gather, hobbling, holding their backs, groaning, etc. Kneel if they can!)

Baron/ess: We are glad to see you still so hale and hearty. *(hand out payment to each)* Receive from our hands your annual pension of gold and pepper. Use it well!

Herald: With gratitude and largesse, for the Pensioners of the Barony,

Hip hip! *(populace buzzabs)* (x 3)

Changeover of Office Holder

This is the ceremony for the departure of a Baronial Officer and the induction of their successor.

Ceremony

Herald: Let (*Outgoing Officer*) come before their Excellencies.

Herald: (*Name*), you have served the Barony of Politarchopolis as (*office*) for some time.

Baron(ess): We thank you for your service to the Barony, and recognise that it is time for another to take your place. Has a successor been chosen?

Outgoing: They have.

Baron(ess): Please call them before us.

Herald: Let (*Incoming Officer*) come before their Excellencies.

Baron(ess): Have you been informed of the duties and responsibilities of this office, and do you accept your appointment to this office?

Incoming: I have, and I do.

Baron(ess): Then let the office pass. (*if there is office regalia*) Wear this regalia so that you may be recognised in your new role.

Herald: For the outgoing and incoming (*office*),

Hip Hip! (*populace Huzzahs*) (x 3)