

PROPOSAL FOR AN ADDITIONAL PEERAGE FOR SCA APPROVED WEAPONS STYLES, EXCLUDING ARMORED RATTAN TOURNAMENT COMBAT

Throughout its history, it has been the practice of the Society to recognize mastery in various period activities - when coupled with accomplishments in the Courtly Graces - with a Patent of Arms. Originally, these Patents took the form of Knighthood, and then Mastery of Arms, and were limited to the field of tournament combat. Later, limitations of the existing system were recognized and corrected by the creation of the Order of the Laurel, and later, the Order of the Pelican. These existing peerages have served us well. Nevertheless, it has been many years since the last Patent Order was established.

The research and industry of the SCA's membership has not been stagnant during this time, and many new period activities and pursuits have been explored. Some of these activities, although period in nature and enriching to the SCA as a whole, have defied easy classification under, or acceptance into, the existing Patent Orders. While deserving, there has been insufficient recognition of those who excel in these activities since there is no existing Peerage that readily includes them under its purview. It seems self-evident that if any one of the Peerages could find a way to fit these activities beneath their mantle, they would have done so by now. It is likewise clear that altering the structure of the current Patent Orders to include these activities could cause discomfort and controversy within, and outside of, these Orders.

As a solution, it would seem to be least disruptive and controversial to update the Peerage structure by adding a new branch, as has been the practice of the Society in the past. This new Patent Order would recognize these activities, rather than tamper with a structure that has served us well throughout our history. Likewise, a new Order would permit those who achieve peerage level skill, and have the other requisite qualities of a Peer, to be recognized with a Society-wide award.

The new Order would have the same general requirements and duties as the existing Patents of Arms, with the additional requirement of peerage-level ability in the activity (see below).

The Order of (???)

The candidate must be considered the equal of his or her prospective peers in weapons' skills with one or more of the SCA approved weapons, except those of armored rattan tournament combat.

Members of the Order may choose to swear fealty, but are not required to do so. The candidate must have applied this skill for the instruction of members and service to the kingdom to an extent above and beyond that normally expected of members of the Society.

Those recognized with this award may style themselves "Master of (their skill)" in addition to Master/Mistress (their name).

The use of an individualized title name is taken from the original Laurel ceremony. A consultation with the Heralds should be required for new titles that have not yet been used.

The definition of "SCA approved weapons" could be placed in the definitions section of Corpora. E.g. Rapier, target archery, combat archery, equestrian, siege, thrown weapons, etc.

An appropriate name for the new order and its badge can be determined by the Heralds.

I am most willing to work with the BoD on whatever may be needed to make this proposal acceptable.

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