

Society Seneschal's Corpora Interpretation Regarding Presentation of Awards, upheld by the Board of Directors October 21, 2023:

There seems to be some confusing language in Corpora regarding the ability of the Crown to delegate the presentation of awards to others. This is addressed in three different places in Corpora:

- IV.D.2, Royalty-Privileges states: "Royalty may delegate to any subject the execution of any legitimate royal power for a specific instance, such as the transmission of an award to an individual named and selected by them, subject to the laws and customs of the realm."
- IV.E.3.b, Royalty-Limitations states: "The Crown may delegate the following authority to those territorial princes and princesses within their Kingdom and may not delegate these powers or authorities to anyone else:
Distribution of armigerous awards and orders with prior approval of the Crown"

And finally, in V.B.3, Territorial Barons and Baronesses-Responsibilities:

- The privileges, duties, and rights, ceremonial and otherwise, of the office of territorial Baron and/or Baroness are established by the laws and customs of the kingdom. These shall include the right to make such awards as the Crown (or the Coronet, if applicable) shall specifically delegate, and to establish and present non-armigerous awards specific to the barony.

While it is clear in Corpora that the ultimate decision-making power and responsibility for armigerous awards rests with the Crown, the question was who could present an award on the Crown's behalf when the Crown had already decided to give the award. **My interpretation is that Corpora IV.D.2 gives the Crown the right to delegate any individual they choose to convey an award to someone, provided the Crown has previously had the award read into an official court.** IV.E.3.b and V.B.3 permit the rulers of a principality or the titular heads of a barony to give armigerous awards unique to their branch if the Crown has approved their doing so, but the Crown may select anyone they wish to convey an award to someone not present in their court.

An award so conveyed by someone who is not permitted under Corpora to hold a court is made official by the Crown's having it read into one of their courts, but the individual conveying the award can certainly call people together and make a "big deal" out of presenting the award to the individual, as long as it is made clear that they are carrying out the wishes of the Crown in passing the award and its accoutrements on to the recipient.