

Corpora clarification with regard to the equality of Knighthood and Master of Arms (Corpora VIII.A.4. a. i., VIII.A.4.a.ii.g.)

I was asked through Comments for a clarification of Corpora with regard to the equality of the two branches of the Chivalry equity: Knighthood and Master of Arms as equal branches.

Corpora is very clear on this subject and does not actually require interpretation so much as a reading of the words that are there.

From Corpora, section “Patent Orders”: Among all the current Patent Orders, only Knights are *required* to swear fealty. All other Orders *may* swear fealty if they choose, but it is not required.

The statement in VIII.A.4.a.i. states that the Chivalry consists of two equal parts: Knighthood and Mastery of Arms. All members of the Order of Chivalry are equal in that, 1. they are the equal of their prospective peers for inclusion into the Order of Chivalry, and 2. whether they choose the titles KSCA or MoA, they each sit within the same Chivalric peerage and hold counsel with the Crown. The choice is left to the individual candidates as to which arm of the Chivalry they wish to be: Master of Arms may choose to swear fealty and still take on the title of Master of Arms. Knights, however, are required to swear fealty at their elevation. Differences in ceremony does not imbalance the two arms.

VIII.A.4.a.ii.g states that one, among others, of the duties of the Chivalry is “To bestow the Accolade of Knighthood upon a candidate for the Order of Knighthood, by sole right as both Sovereign and knight, or acting directly for a Sovereign who is not a knight.” (emphasis added) The emphasized portion of that sentence is important as only a knight may dub a new knight. Master of Arms, as with all other bestowed peerages, are disallowed per Corpora from bestowing knighthood without a knight participating in the ceremony. Therefore, a Sovereign who is a Master of Arms, could not bestow knighthood without the presence of a knight who will perform the actual dubbing. In many kingdoms this has been achieved in a variety of ways including but not limited to, a Knight standing with the Sovereign, each with a hand on the sword of state, while the dubbing takes place.

In summary: Corpora states that there are two equal arms that comprise the Order of Chivalry: Master of Arms and Knight. At the choice of the candidate upon their elevation, they may be bestowed either Master of Arms or Knight by the Sovereign, with the caveat that, if the candidate chooses Knight, then the Sovereign must also be a Knight (or have a Knight present acting for the Sovereign if the Sovereign is not a Knight) to bestow knighthood as fealty is required.

NB:

The email from Comments began with a statement: “It seems like the first statement [VIII.A.4.a.] about how Masters of Arms and Knights are equal conflicts with the last statement about who is allowed to make a knight (any chivalry or just knights).” And the question was: “Could you clarify where the Corpora stands in regards to the Chivalry?”