

Titles vs. Forms of Address

I'm seeing and hearing some instances of folks using forms of address in the place of titles, and thought a refresher course might be in order.

Titles are the name of a person's job or a word used before someone's name to indicate their status - Mister, Miss, Doctor, Mayor, Queen, Baroness, Lord, etc.

Forms of Address are like fancy pronouns, to be used in place of a person's name. He/Him, She/Her and They/Them are simple pronouns. Her Majesty, His Grace, Your Excellency are the fancy pronouns we use to refer to someone's rank while talking about or to them.

Think of it this way. If you were called to jury duty and were in front of Judge Parker answering questions, you wouldn't call them, "Your Honor Parker", would you? No, It would be "Judge Parker" OR "Your Honor". The same rationale goes for titles and forms of address in the SCA.

To put it another way, saying "HRM Nerissa" is the same as saying "Her Nerissa". Try instead, "Queen Nerissa" OR "Her Royal Majesty". If you want to get super fancy, say, "Her Royal Majesty, Queen Nerissa".

Examples:

<i>Title (with example name)</i>	<i>Form of Address (aka fancy pronoun)</i>
King Bela	His Majesty
Queen Nerissa	Her Majesty
Crown Princess Anne	Her Royal Highness
Duchess Aziza	Her Grace
Eorl Mordygan	His Excellency
Baroness Cinara	Her Honor
The Honorable Lady Hannah	Her Ladyship

Are you ready for some second level stuff?

Landed Barons and Baronesses shouldn't be referred to as Baron X, Baroness X. They are essentially holding an office and haven't achieved the permanent rank of Baron/Baroness. They still get "Your Excellency" as a form of address, but it refers to the office and not the person. For example, Rowland de Grey of Lincolnshire is the Baron of al-Barran, but he isn't Baron Rowland. The proper way of announcing him would be "Sir Rowland, Baron of al-Barran".

It gets a little tricky when the person holding the office also happens to have a Court Barony. For instance, Ymanya Murray is the Baroness of al-Barran. Because she has a Court Barony, you would be technically correct in addressing her as Baroness Ymanya, but that doesn't refer to the office of the Baroness of al-Barran. It would be more correct to say, "Mistress Ymanya, Baroness of al-Barran".

If you have any questions about this or any other heraldic or protocol things, please do not hesitate to ask. Chances are good that others have the same question and the answer might turn out to be a helpful article!

Yours Assured,
Countess Matilda Seton
Weel Herald