

## BITS OF TRIVIA AND HISTORY

*(This was written in the fall of A.S. XXXV and updated in the spring of A.S. LIII)*

Unto all who come by these letters does Countess Matilda Seton send greetings-

I address first the subject of Royal Regalia and its historic places within the Coronation Ceremony, and perhaps some little bits of interesting trivia.

**The Ancient Crowns of the Outlands:** They are made of copper with brass overlay in five pointed sections, each section depicting leaping stags in a Celtic pattern centered with a stone of malachite. (The design of the Crown matches the design on the Royal Axe, Thunderhead, from our Principality days, and also the hilt and pommel of the Sword of State, Lightning; the Royal Crowns are a group effort of 5+ people coordinated by Kathryn of Iveragh). They are used sparingly, but definitely at Coronation.

**Thunderhead, the Great Axe:** It is the oldest piece of regalia the Outlands has. It was made by Master Zoltan Kovacs (Kirby Wise) during Prince Gunwaldt's tenure, and carried by every Prince and King of the Outlands. In most Coronation Ceremonies, it is called the "Voice of Tradition and mighty in Lore." Kings are directed to "Honour this Axe as you Honour the counsel of those who are steeped in the traditions of the Outlands."

During the ceremony it is entrusted by the outgoing King to either a member of the Chivalry or the Warlord. When it is given to the new King, it represents the Chivalry when the three peerage orders are called.

**Lightning, the Sword of State:** Also made by Master Zoltan Kovacs, with designs that match the original crowns, it is the symbol of the King's might and justice. The Outgoing King's Champion is often entrusted to give it to the rightful heir. The King's Champion has the privilege to bear the sword in court for the King. In the Champion's absence, the King often chooses a knight present to hold it.

**Signet Rings:** Made by Master Waltari (the Premier Laurel of the Outlands), the bag they are carried in was made by THL Etain of Durham, which is why there is a Drygestani blasted tree on one side. They traditionally are passed by the Pelican chosen by the outgoing Crown to give to the new Crown. When they are handed off, the Crown has in the past been charged to "guard well the peace and foster unity throughout Your Realm". In one ceremony (Johann III and Monika), they were referred to as "the symbol of (the Crown's) Marriage to the Realm."

**The Great Seal:** Made by Master Waltari and repaired by Master Tore. It is entrusted to a member of the Order of Defense. It is the symbol of justice, equality and the administration of the kingdom. The current Seal is the second one the Outlands has had. The original was given to Jarl Gunwaldt and Countess AElflaed by King Cameron and Queen AnneAliz after the new one was completed.

**The Sceptre:** It is passed by the Laurel, representing the Arts and Sciences. In the past, Crowns have been directed to "foster the growth of courtesy and chivalry throughout all Your lands."

**Tempest, the Queen's Champion's Spear:** For a time, an Axe named Sunshine (made by THL Angus Montgomery the Forrester) was the regalia for the Queen's Champion. That was retired in LIII when a spear was presented to King Bela IV and Queen Anna. The spear was wrought by Eorl Muiredach MacGregor and Master AElric Kyrri in Master Raymond the Quiet's shop. On the shaft is inscribed in Anglo Saxon runes, "Swift as wind, I AM TEMPEST". Inscription was done by THL Akilina Ianikitova.

I will write now of traditions and what is requisite for Outlands Coronations.

**Kings Crown Kings.** Since Gunwaldt was crowned the first Prince of the Outlands by King Deaton of Atenveldt, every Prince and King was crowned by his predecessor, except when we became a kingdom and King Brion of Atenveldt crowned Gunwaldt King. We have never been a usurper kingdom. There is an unbroken chain of rulers, each crowned by his predecessor, passing on strength and continuing the unity of the realm. The king acknowledges the legitimacy of the heir's claim to the throne by taking his oath, and crowning him with his own hand.

**Fealty.** As per Corpora, the only people required to swear fealty are landed Barons and Baronesses and Knights. Some think that it is not right for the Kingdom Seneschal to swear fealty, because their service is to the kingdom, above all other things. During the Coronation of Johann III and Monika, all peers of the realm were allowed, if they so chose, to reaffirm their oaths of peerage.

**Service.** Great Officers are required to swear Oaths of Service, which is not the same as Fealty. Lesser officers may also be called to swear, but it is not necessary as they are bound by their superior officer's oath.

**Acknowledgment of predecessors.** If the Crown's predecessors are not already Duke/Duchess, then the Crown must, per Corpora, acknowledge their attainment of the rank of Count/Countess or Duke/Duchess. Crowns don't make Royal Peers, they recognize them for successfully completing their reigns. A former Consort also has the privilege of becoming a Lady of the Rose, which is an honor that predates SCA Countesses and Duchesses. This could be done as a separate ceremony.

Here are other things which are expected by and familiar to the populace.

**Fealty of the Laurels, Pelicans, Defense, Royal Peers and Populace.** People of varying rank and wisdom desire to swear fealty. It is a courtesy to those good people and valuable to the Crown to hear those oaths and return pledges of service to them.

**Passing of the White Scarf and Sharparrow Gloves.** The White Scarf and the Sharparrow Gloves that the Queen wears are considered minor pieces of regalia. The Outgoing Queen chooses members of those Orders (sometimes the Premiers present) to keep the scarf and gloves until the new Queen calls for it.

This is just a small part of our Outlandish heritage, and it is my wish that these brief words will inspire a desire for further knowledge.

Yours Assured,  
Matilda