

INTRODUCTION

- What is a Laurel?
- What do Laurels do?
- What are the expectations of the Laurel community in Avacal of candidates?

WHO ARE THE LAURELS,
AND WHAT DO THEY DO?

WHAT IS THE ORDER OF THE LAUREL?

- The Order of the Laurel is one of the polled Peerages, equal in standing with the Knights, Pelicans, and Masters of Defense. It is the highest award given in the SCA for excellence in the Arts and Sciences. Laurels attempt to inspire others to create beautiful and authentic works by teaching and example.

Why are the Masters of Arts and Sciences called “Laurels”?

- A laurel wreath has been the symbol of excellence since Ancient Greece, where the wreath was awarded to great scholars, artists, soldiers, and those athletes who won in competitions such as the Olympic Games. The tradition survives to this day: in England, the Queen appoints a Poet Laureate from amongst the foremost poets of the day, a position the poet holds for life.

LAURELS OF AVACAL

(ACTIVE)



Mistress Dragoslava 'Slava' Vladislasa doch, OL



Mistress Kataryna Tkach, OL



Monna Caterina Etc., OL

LAURELS OF AVACAL



Viscountess Sina Erdeneva, OL



Master Thorvald Grimsson, OP, OL



Mistress Dryfinna the Wanderer, OL

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Duchess Inga in hraustliga, OL, OP



Viscountess Sadb ingen Thuathail, OL, OP



Master Ark, OL

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Mistress Guillaime Rosalind de Gaulle, OL



Master Michael O'Byrne, OL



Viscountess Issabella Kendal, OL

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Mistress Margaret of Newark Abbey, OL



Viscountess Maiosara thugater Azarionos, OL



Master Cennet ap Llangollen, OL

LAURELS OF AVACAL

WHAT ARE LAURELS REQUIRED TO DO?

As taken from Corpora, the duties of a Laurel are:

- To enrich the kingdom by sharing his or her knowledge and skills.
- To set an example of courtesy and chivalrous conduct.
- To respect the Crown of the kingdom; to support and uphold the laws of the kingdom and the governing documents of the Society.
- To advise the Crown on the advancement of candidates for the Laurel (usually via Laurels meetings at Crown events).

WHAT HAPPENS AT LAURELS MEETINGS?

In Laurels meetings we generally discuss:

- How best to encourage the Arts and Sciences: E.g. Should we do a prize tourney? How well is the A&S village received and how can we build on it?
- Any items that Royalty wish to bring before us
- Our relationship with the populace in general: E.g. Would a Web Page be a Good Thing? Do people actually know who we are and what we do (this presentation, DINGDINGDING)? How can we connect with the populace?
- General goals and directions of the Order
- The progress lists of potential Laurel candidates.

HOW DO THE PROGRESS LISTS WORK?

- The list tends to look something like this:
 - Presentation needed (people who fulfill 91-100% of the Laurel requirements. Candidates usually have two presentations before the council and TM's before a recommendation for elevation is given.)
 - Imminent (people who are at ~80-90% requirements)
 - Close Watch (people who are at ~65-79% requirements)
 - Distant Watch (people who are at ~64% or below on requirements)

HOW ARE CANDIDATES SELECTED?
WHAT ARE THE REQUIREMENTS FOR
PEERAGE?

MAIN REQUIREMENT COMPONENTS FOR CANDIDATES

- Mastery/Excellence
- Research
- Peer-Like Qualities (PLQ's)



MASTERY/EXCELLENCE/RESEARCH

WHAT DOES MASTERY/EXCELLENCE MEAN?

"Excellence" is one of those vague terms that everybody has a different definition of. In this context, it includes:

- Research*
- Demonstrated application of the results of that research
- Craftmanship
- Performance
- Artistry
- Teaching

There are several ways these qualities can be combined to create potential candidates. They each include the above requirements, but in different proportions:

- **Innovation** -- Break new ground and explore an area/craft/art which is not generally practiced
- **Mastery** -- Demonstrate superior skills in an existing field and make your own contribution to it
- **Renaissance** -- Demonstrate skill/competency across a several different fields without necessarily being the best in any one
- **Impact** -- Become a "household word," have a major effect on and enrich the arts/crafts aspect of Avacal and the Known World

PEER-LIKE QUALITIES

WHAT ARE PEER-LIKE QUALITIES?

Social Graces:

- Lack of social-ineptness; a candidate doesn't have to be the most socially capable person on the planet, but they shouldn't be inept. The job of a Laurel is a social one, you need to be able to handle social situations with at least a little grace.
- Courtesy to great and small, especially small – most people treat those they respect and admire well, how do they treat people they have no reason to be nice to? Are they kind to newcomers? Patient with the local socially-inept? How do they act when there isn't anyone 'important' around? Courtesy is also more than just holding the door when someone has a package in their hands, it's treating people with respect and caring about how your actions impact others.
- Grace under pressure – does the candidate flip out in a stressful situation or can they remain level headed?

WHAT ARE PEER-LIKE QUALITIES?

Humility:

- Honesty - Represent yourself truly as you are, warts and all. Admit the limitations of your work, where you don't know things for sure and where you've got a plausible theory.
- If the only person a candidate can talk about or be concerned with is themselves, they're not going to be able to talk about other candidates or properly mentor and encourage others. Also they can't "know it all" because then they'll stop growing and you gotta keep growing.
- Willing to admit when they're wrong, including when much beloved theories are proven wrong by some new archeological find or other.
- They are not jealous of the success of others; if your humility is intact you can say "Way to go, you!" without whimpering "what about me??"
- Takes criticism well. Doesn't get defensive when their theories, entries, or research are questioned (this can be really hard!)

WHAT ARE PEER-LIKE QUALITIES?

- Loyalty
 - Keeping one's word
 - Striving to be more than you are
 - Courage
 - Good Judgement
 - Leadership
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WHAT IF THERE ARE PROBLEMS?

If someone/s feels there is a good reason why a candidate should not be a Peer, this is also discussed at meetings. If it is a problem with the physical work or research, we try to arrange help or tutoring. If it is the Peer-Like Qualities, this is more difficult. We as a council have become very wary of offering this kind of mentoring or coaching as it tends to have negative effects reflected on us. All we can do is try to guide by example, by encouraging positive qualities, and by the odd word of advice now and then.

However, if the problem is essentially that someone has done something really stupid (e.g. opened your mouth and shoved your foot in it up to your neck, totally lost it in combat, been a boor and an idiot when you were drunk), this does not necessarily mean they'll never be a peer. All of us are human, and we do understand everyone has their off days. We firmly forget things like this, provided the candidate doesn't keep on doing it (pattern of behavior). Also realize some time must pass after said incident/s before we're convinced the candidate is now the sort of person the council and the kingdom can point to as a good example.

WHO MAKES A LAUREL?

WHO MAKES A LAUREL?

- King and Queen? It is the King and Queen's responsibility and privilege to elevate worthy candidates, after taking council with the order
- The Laurels' Council? It is the duty of the order to advise the King and Queen of candidates worthy of the peerage who will be an asset to both the order and the kingdom in a leadership role

YOU DO



SUMMARY

- Laurels are the Peers of Arts and Sciences
 - Laurels Role:
 - Encourage Arts and Sciences in the community
 - Monitor/mentor/tutor/advise interested candidates
 - Advise the Crown
 - Continue to grow
 - Three main components of peerage: Mastery/Excellence, Research, PLQ's
 - Who makes a Laurel? You do
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ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

- Lochac Laurels Webpage:
 - <https://www.sca.org.au/laurels/>
- Acknowledgment Mistress Milisent Vibert, OL via Ian the Green
 - <https://sites.google.com/site/ianthegreen01/home/peer-like-qualities>

QUESTIONS?