

An Incomplete Field Guide to Recognizing Royalty

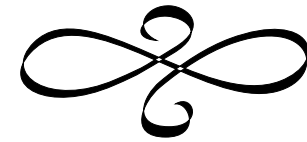
Title	Recognize By	Address As
King/Queen	highly ornamental crowns	Your Majesty
Crown Prince/Princess	less highly ornamental crowns	Your Highness
Territorial Prince/Princess	less highly ornamental crowns	Your Excellency, Their
Territorial Baron/Baroness	circlets, raised pearls or spheres above upper edge or on band	Excellencies [name of barony] Your Grace
Duke/Duchess	circlet adorned with a pattern of strawberry leaves	Your Excellency
Count/Countess	embattled coronets (blocky cutouts along top edge)	
Viscount/Viscountess	coronets	
Baron/Baroness	circlets, raised pearls or spheres above upper edge or on band	



For more information about the Society or the local branch, you can find us on the web:
<http://www.avacal.antir.sca.org>
<http://ca.geocities.com/avacalchatelaine>
or please contact the local Chatelaine;

Talk the Talk

How to Avoid Putting Your Foot in Your Mouth... too Often!



Principality of Avacal

My Lord or Milord?

The Society assumes all of it's members to be "of noble birth", regardless of persona, SCA experience, mundane status. This assumptions means each of us is accorded, and therefore should accord, honour, courtesy, and respect to all we meet.

In practice, this means polite forms of address, assistance where needed, and a certain adherence to the concepts of chivalry.

Even if you don't know a person's Society status, you can address everyone you meet as "My lord", or "My lady". No one should be offended by politeness. Be aware there is a difference between referring to someone as "milord" or "milady" and "Lord Verence" or "Lady Millicent". The first is a general polite form of address, the second is a proper title, as granted by the Crown.

When in doubt, opening a statement or request for help with "Noble lord..." will get you far.

Ye Old Pop Can?

Everyone attending an event has a responsibility to make the medieval atmosphere "happen". To achieve this, it is expected that you change into your garb as soon as you arrive on site (in the case of camping events, you may want to set up your tent first, so you have a place to change in!). It also helps if you keep mundane items out of site as much as possible - most SCA members would prefer to see you use the world's ugliest beer stein or tankard, than leave a modern pop can on the table.

Please try to keep modern topics of conversation to a minimum. Sadly, this is the hardest habit to break, since for modern SCA members, much of our information exchange takes place on electronic forums, thereby peppering conversation with references to electronic mail and lists, and related hardware or software issues.

There are ways to couch conversations in medieval jargon, but even for long-term SCA members, it's a lot of work to think that way - we certainly don't expect novices to master a skill we don't employ regularly ourselves (though sometimes it motivates us to improve...).

Buddy System

Be aware that some people at events play their persona very seriously. This may make them seem more challenging to talk to, especially if some of them clue into the fact that you're new and decide to make sport with you. If you find dealing with someone's persona isn't to your liking, don't take it as a measure of the Society in general - the friendly people are out here and willing to talk to you. This is one of the best reasons for attending your first event with someone who has some SCA experience, as it can make introductions and integration that much smoother.

A basic rule of etiquette that will help you in most event situations is simply: "When in Rome, do as the Romans do"... and no, this doesn't mean racing chariots around the feast hall and setting lions on Christians. It means watching what other people around you are doing, and determining your own actions accordingly.