

Book of Ceremonies of the Principality of Insulae Draconis



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Introduction

This is the second edition of the Insulae Draconis Book of Ceremonies. The first edition, prepared by Lord Jean-Loup de Fribois and Lord Robin Bowman of Dalriada, was written for Insulae Draconis as a Crown Principality, and following Insulae Draconis becoming a Principality, a revision was needed. This has been orchestrated by Lord Asbiorn inn eyverski, Rockall Herald, with a great deal of assistance in creation of the new ceremonies provided by Master Robert of Canterbury. Further assistance in various stages of the project was provided by other members of Drachenwald's College of Heralds within Insulae Draconis.

The ceremonies, as written here are intended as a base for Court Heralds to work from. They can be used exactly as written, but particularly for the minor ceremonies, alterations as needed are to be encouraged to prevent courts becoming stale and repetitive. There are currently alternative versions provided for the Principality Officers' Oath and the Coronet's Oath of Fealty to the Crown. Which of these you use is up to you, and the Coronet you are working with.

If any members of the College of Heralds within the Principality have possible alternative versions of any of these ceremonies (from particular cultures, based upon particular period examples, etc) they should send them to Rockall for consideration for the next version of this Book.

I. The Coronets

1. Invocation of Principality Coronet Lists

Herald:

Their Highnesses command that all entrants to the tournament come forward and present themselves and their consorts before the Coronets of Insulae Draconis.

In order of precedence, each fighter proceeds one by one in front of the Coronet, their chosen herald (if present), announces them to both the Coronet and the populace, they kneel and the entrant introduces their consort to the Prince & Princess.)

Herald:

My Lords and Ladies, you know well that true gentles enter combat not for their own personal glory, but rather to advance the honour of their consorts; and to prove by their courtesy and valour upon the field, their being worthy of said honour.

Keep in your heart as you fight upon the field today your consort's honour as well as your own; for your consorts personify all honour, glory, strength, beauty and truth. They embody the one single great thing that is worthy of reward and that is love.

Therefore, today as you fight to become the Prince or Princess of Insulae Draconis remember that you do not fight to gain power for yourself, nor for just your own glory and honour. Instead, you fight for the honour and glory of the one who has granted you a favour as a token of love and esteem and whom you would advance by your valour, skill and courtesy.

Thus should victory be granted unto you this day, you and your consort will be declared as the next Prince and Princess of the fair lands of Insulae Draconis.

Prince:

You have heard the reasons for Our Lists. Each of you here today have a lady or lord whose favour you would advance, whom you would make Princess or Prince as your consort, should you prove yourself victorious upon the field. Is it still your desire to participate in these lists?

Entrants:

It is Your Highness

Princess:

Do each of you now affirm that you and your consort, fulfil all the requirements for fighting this day as set forth by Our Laws?

Entrants:

We do Your Highness

Prince:

And do you all here know the Rules of the Lists and swear to abide by them?

Entrants:

We do Your Highness

Princess:

Then bear your favours bravely into the field and prove the worth and virtue of your consorts, may it be in victory or in honourable defeat. You have Our Leave to withdraw and prepare for the tournament.

2. Acknowledgement of the Heirs

Herald:

Let the participants in today's tournament and their consorts present themselves before their Highnesses

An opportunity for the Coronet to address the Entrants

Princess:

Let _____ and _____ come before us.

Barons, Peers and assembled nobility of Insulae Draconis, rejoice. Rejoice and give thanks for we are delivered of Heirs to the Principality of Insulae Draconis

Herald:

We _____ and _____, Prince and Princess of Insulae Draconis hereby declare _____ and _____ our heirs apparent to our Fief of Insulae Draconis, to be invested this day in our Coronet Court.

Prince:

Bear these Chains of estate, as you are bound to the Succession,

Victors recieve Viceregal Chains

Princess:

Rise now, and go forth, to await our summons to your investiture.

Herald:

For the Heirs Apparent; *Vivat/Gaudete etc*

3. Rite of Succession

If space and venue allow, seating can be arranged for Barons and Baronesses to be seated on the right of the Thrones, Peers to the left.

Herald:

All rise All rise, and give reverence to Their Highnesses _____ and _____,
Prince and Princess of our fair lands of Insulae Draconis, Marquis and Marchioness
of the lands of Endor's Keep in the Far Isles, sworn vassals of Their Majesties
Drachenwald, _____ and _____.

Entry of their highnesses

You have Their Highness' leave to be seated. Here opens the last court of their
Highnesses _____ and _____, Princeps Princepissaque Insularum Draconis.

Normal court business, including dismissal of Retainers if necessary

Prince:

We stand before you as your rightful Prince and Princess, Invested as such by our
predecessors _____ and _____, and acknowledged by King _____ and
Queen _____ in like wise.

Princess:

In keeping with law, custom and our investiture oaths, we are bound to cede our
coronets and this our fief of Insulae Draconis to our lawful successors. Therefore
Rejoice, for we have heirs apparent, and their hour is come.

Optional – Processional (Gaudete) for entrance of the Heirs

Enter Heirs. With personal banners if possible, proceeded by a shield-bearer

Heirs' Herald:

Come now before you the Heirs Apparent to the Coronet of Insulae Draconis; _____
and _____.

Heirs Kneel some way before Coronet

Herald:

_____ and _____, triumphant this day, You are favoured to rise to the dignity of Prince and Princess, in earnest hope that by your rule these lands shall remain free and by the gift of peace be protected. Set you now your Arms aside, as you shall assume others yet more noble.

Shield & banners of heirs removed by retinue, Heirs advance and before the thrones, Principality Cloaks are placed about them.

Heirs Place hands between the hands of outgoing Prince and Princess

Principality Seneschal:

_____ and _____, will you hold Yourselfs to the laws and customs passed on to you by your predecessors and by the Barons and people of Insulae Draconis and observe their works?

Heirs:

I will.

Principality Seneschal:

Will you be the protector and defender of the Principality's Officers and their Ministries?

Heirs:

I will.

Principality Seneschal:

Will you rule and defend through justice the Principality of Insulae Draconis, held from the Crown of Drachenwald as a fief?

Heirs:

I promise that I will in all respects faithfully observe this oath.

Herald:

Oh ye people of Insulae Draconis, shall you subject yourselves to such a Prince and Princess as rulers to continue this principality, to anchor by firm faith and also to obey those commandments you might owe? Then cry let it be done! Let it be done!

Populace Response:

Let it be done! Let it be done!

Herald:

Now shall Your hands be anointed with this balm, of the earth of your field of victory, and of all other fields where the Coronets of these lands have been contested. For as you shall hold these lands in your hands, let there be bodily health in the land.

Principality Seneschal:

I Anoint you with this balm before your people, in the sight of your predecessors.

Anoint both heirs on palms. The balm is the earth of the tourney field mixed with oil.

Prince:

As you are the heirs apparent, acclaimed by the people, blessed by tradition and acknowledged by law and the officers of state, we can hold these Coronets no Longer.

Herald:

These Coronets signify the Royal glory and honour of these Dragon Isles, the work of courage and the value of inspiration. They proclaim you in all things the true supporters of law and the vigorous defenders of society against all adversities. You should appear the suitable executors and profitable rulers of the principality given to you as a fief, that raised up among the glorious, adorned with the jewels of virtue, and crowned with the reward of your labours, you may bring glory without end unto this Principality of Insulae Draconis.

Princess:

We accept and acknowledge you as our rightful successors.

Prince:

Accept the coronets of the principality, placed by our hands upon your heads.

Outgoing Prince and Princess place Coronets upon incoming Prince and Princess

If the Crown is present, this fealty oath should be included as part of the Royal Court

Herald:

We, _____ and _____ Prince and Princess of Insulae Draconis, rightful and lawful holders of the fief of Insulae Draconis, do hereby acknowledge _____ and _____, the heirs and successors of _____ and _____, as King and Queen of Drachenwald. We acclaim them as our rightful liege lords to whose line of succession our ancient predecessors William and Æringunnr, the heirs and successors of Thorvaldr and Fiona as Prince and Princess of Insulae Draconis, swore fealty as vassals for the said fief of Insulae Draconis. We will hold _____ and _____, and their heirs and successors, to be our rightful King and Queen, binding us, and our heirs and successors, in like wise to be vassals for the aforesaid fief of Insulae Draconis, delivering to them all those things which are theirs by right of law and custom and reserving those ancient liberties and customs as established in the time of our progenitors.

Prince and Princess:

So swear we _____ and _____.

Herald:

Oh ye people of Insulae Draconis, is this heard and witnessed?

Omnes:

Heard and Witnessed! Aye! It is! etc

Princess:

Rise up, and Reign in your own right.

Prince and Princess:

We greet you, our Prince and Princess.

Kiss of Peace. Prince and Princess take thrones.

Prince and Princess:

_____ and _____, you have our thanks and those of the Principality. Go now, with our blessing..

Business now proceeds to the first court of their Highnesses

4. Principality Officers' Oaths

Herald:

Let those Officers of the Principality here present who would swear their fealty to Their Highnesses come forward.

Officers come forward.

Will you, Officers of the Principality hold _____ and _____ your rightful Prince and Princess, throughout Their lawful reign, supporting Their royal might and justice, giving Them such obedience as is Their due, and obeying Their commands in such matters as are Theirs to command? Will you also be true Officers of the Principality discharging your duties with all your cunning, wit and power, undertaking to support, instruct and advance your Subordinate officers, deputies, and such persons as seek your counsel, to the common profit of the Principality.

Officers:

We so swear.

Prince:

And We swear in these things to aid and support you in your Office(s) after the course and form of our Laws and Customs used in like case afore this time.

So say we, _____ Prince.

Princess:

And so say we, _____ Princess.

Alternate form of Principality Officers' Oaths

Based upon the Oath of a Privy Councillor during the reign of Elizabeth I, 1571.

Herald:

Let those Officers of the Principality here present who would swear their fealty to Their Highnesses come forward.

Officers come forward.

You shall swear to bear true and faithful councillor to their Highnesses as one of their Highness' Officers. You shall not know or understand of any manner thing to be attempted, done or spoken against their Highness' person, honour, crown or dignity royal, but you shall let and withstand the same to the uttermost of your power, and either do or cause it to be forthwith revealed either to their Highness' self or to the rest of Their Privy Council. You shall keep secret all matters committed and revealed to you as their Highness' councillor or that shall be treated of secretly in council. And if any of the same treaties or counsels shall touch any other of the officers, you shall not reveal the same to him, but shall keep the same until such time as by the consent of their Highnesses, or of the rest of the council, publication shall be made thereof. You shall not let to give true, plain and faithful counsel at all times, without respect either of the cause or of the person, laying apart all favour, meed, affection and partiality. And you shall to your uttermost bear faith and true allegiance to their Highnesses, their heirs and lawful successors, and shall assist and defend all jurisdictions, preeminences and authorities granted to their Highnesses and annexed to the crown, against all foreign princes, persons, prelates or potentates, whether by act of parliament or otherwise. And generally in all things you shall do as a faithful and true councillor ought to do to their Majesties. So help you to all Good and by the form and contents of this book.

Officers:

We so swear.

Prince:

And We swear in these things to aid and support you in your Office(s) after the course and form of our Laws and Customs used in like case afore this time.

So say we, _____ Prince.

Princess:

And so say we, _____ Princess.

5. Retinue Fealty Oaths

Herald:

Let those members of their Highness' retinue who would swear fealty to them come now forward and make reverence before them.

Members of retinue come forward.

Herald:

Will you hold _____ and _____ your rightful Prince and Princess until the end of Their lawful reigns?

Retinue:

I so swear.

Herald:

Will you honour Them, assist them in their endeavours, and support Their Royal might and justice, obeying Their commands in such matters as are Theirs to command?

Retinue:

I so swear.

Prince:

We do hear and accept the fealty of our these, our retinue. We in turn affirm to protect and defend you with Our royal might and justice.

So say We _____, Princeps.

Princess:

And so say We _____, Princepissa.

6. Oath of Fealty to Drachenwald

Intended for use at Drachenwald Coronation, otherwise the Oath in the Rite of Succession can be used

Herald:

We _____ and _____ Prince and Princess of Insulae Draconis, rightful and lawful holders of the fief of Insulae Draconis, do acknowledge you, _____ and _____ as the heirs and successors of _____ and _____, to whom I/We swore fealty as vassal for the aforesaid fief of Insulae Draconis, and We will hold you as Our rightful King and Queen, binding Our heirs and successors in like wise to be Your vassals for the aforesaid fief, delivering to you all those things which are Yours by right of law and custom and reserving those ancient liberties and customs as established in the time of Your progenitors.

Prince:

So swear we _____, Prince.

Princess:

So swear we _____, Princess.

Alternative Oath of Fealty to Drachenwald

Adapted from the Kingdom book of Ceremonies

Herald:

Let all present and to come know that We _____, Prince of Insulae Draconis and _____, Princess of Insulae Draconis, acknowledge verily to You, _____ and _____, King and Queen of Drachenwald, and to your successors that We hold and ought to hold as a fief the Principality of Insulae Draconis.

For this We make homage and fealty with hands and with mouth to You, Our King and Queen, and to Your successors, and We swear that We will always be faithful vassals to You and to Your successors in all things in which a vassal is required to be faithful, and We will defend You and all Your successors, the Kingdom and Insulae Draconis against all malefactors and invaders, and We will give You power over all the castles and manors in the Principality, in peace and in war, whenever they shall be claimed by You or by Your successors.

And if We or Our heirs or their successors do not observe to You or to Your successors each and all the things declared before, and should come against these things, We wish that the aforesaid fief should by that very fact be handed over to You and to the Kingdom of Drachenwald and to Your Successors.

Prince:

So say we _____, Prince.

Princess:

And so say we _____, Princess.

II Awards

7. Viscounty

Herald:

Let _____ and _____ present themselves before their Highnesses, for they have greatly enriched Our Principality, and We would honour them.

Former Prince and Princess come forward.

Herald:

It is written that, heavy is the burden of the crown, and so it is, not from fear of treachery in this peaceful land, but from the weight of responsibility. As such, it is meet that those who have passed to other hands the rights and duties of the Coronet be rewarded for their attainments and service.

Prince:

_____, having won the Crown of this Our beloved principality, and having ruled honourably as Prince, We do hereby affirm you as Viscount. Will you accept this honour from Our Hand?

Viscount:

I will, Your Highness.

Princess:

_____, having by your beauty, grace, and virtue inspired your champion to win for you the Coronet of this, Our beloved Principality and having ruled as its gracious Princess, We do hereby affirm you as Viscountess. Will you accept this honour from Our Hand?

Viscountess:

I will, Your Highness.

Prince:

In consensus with the Peerage, make known Our Royal will.

If the scrolls are available, the herald reads each of them aloud. If not, read the scroll text below

Herald:

Know all men by these presents that We, _____ and _____, Prince and Princess of Insulae Draconis, in recognition that _____ and _____, have reigned as Prince and Princess of these Dragon Isles, do hereby style them Viscount and Viscountess. By Our hands and seal this ___ day of _____, Anno Societatus ____.

_____, Princeps; _____, Principissa

Herald:

For _____ and _____, newest Viscount and Viscountess of these Dragon Isles, Vivant! Vivant! Vivant!

8. Award of Arms

In Insulae Draconis, as in Drachenwald there is no set ceremony for the presentation of an Award of Arms, however the general format is as follows;

The herald calls the recipient into court, they kneel before the Coronet and at this time, if they so wish the Crown may render to the populace some commentary upon the deeds of the recipient which gained him/her this award.

After this, or if no Royal comment to the public is wished, the Herald will read the scroll wording to the populace whilst the Crown chats privately to the recipient.

If no scroll is available, either of the following wordings may be used.

Text A

Unto all Gentles, let it be known that We, _____ and _____, Prince and Princess of Insulae Draconis, have found the many works and services of Our noble and worthy subject _____ to be of great merit. Thus do We award unto him/her the right and dignity of Arms.

So given by Our hand, this ____ day of ____ A.S. ____

Text B

Whereas it has come to Our notice that through his/her divers great efforts in <insert area of interest or description of what recipient has done>, _____ has considerably enriched Our Principality. It is thus Our pleasure to reward him/her with an Award of Arms. We grant him/her the right and charge him/her with the responsibilities of this rank. And We also charge him/her to consult with Our heralds to determine suitable and unique Arms.

Done by Our hand this ____ day of ____ A.S. ____ in Our Shire of _____.

9. Company of Merit for Excellence and Example

Herald:

Their Highnesses bid all members of the Company of Merit for Excellence and Example to rise.

The members of the Company should rise, moving if necessary to avoid blocking others' view.

Herald:

As the Prince and Princess serve the people of Insulae Draconis throughout their tenure, they set an example of glory for all the people of the land. However they are not alone in being mighty examples of the excellence to which we all aspire.

There are those among us, who, by their very presence, enhance our Current Middle Ages to the betterment of all, by their demeanour, manners and enthusiasm for the activities we participate in.

Thus was formed the Company of Merit for Excellence and Example to hold up such individuals for all to see and strive to match and excel. The responsibilities of this company can be grave as they are expected to advise the Prince and Princess on many matters for the gain and growth of our Principality.

And so do the Their Highnesses call before them _____.

Coronet may make personal statements, the Herald reads scroll, or scroll text (Section 13, below)

Herald:

For _____, newest member of the Company of Merit for Excellence and Example, Vivat! Vivat! Vivat!

10. Order of Ffraid

Ffraid is pronounced approximately as "fried," as in fried egg.

Herald:

Their Highnesses bid all members of the Order of Ffraid to rise.

The members of the Order should rise, moving if necessary to avoid blocking others' view.

Herald:

As the Prince and Princess serve the people of Insulae Draconis throughout their tenure, they set an example of service for all the people of these lands. All who enjoy the beauty and prosperity that is Insulae Draconis are expected to render service when required, to the best of their abilities.

There are those few, however, whose service consistently exceeds the expectations of their offices or ranks and who are, therefore, especially worthy of reward.

The Order of Ffraid was created to honour the memories of those whose devotion, determination and selflessness is presented as exceptional in many a tale. By this example, it is given to those persons who have served Insulae Draconis above and beyond the normal contributions of any other gentle.

And so do Their Highnesses call before them _____.

Coronet may make personal statements, the Herald reads scroll, or scroll text (Section 13, below)

Herald:

For _____, newest member of the Order of Ffraid, Vivat! Vivat! Vivat!

11. Company of Merit for Artisans and Scholars

Herald:

Their Highnesses bid all members of the Company of Merit for Artisans and Scholars to rise.

The members of the Company should rise, moving if necessary to avoid blocking others' view.

Herald:

Our Principality has always prided itself on the abundance of skilled gentles that inhabit these lands. However, when an individual has been seen to excel in such skills and scholarly expertise, when they have not only displayed their own knowledge but also shared it with others, it becomes the solemn yet joyful duty of the Coronet to reward them and thereby encourage others to further develop their own skills, whatever they may be.

History is made of such gentles whose artistic talent were well known all over the world. Yet history would not be what it is without those who first set to write it.

Therefore was created the Company of Merit for Artisans and Scholars, to be granted as a sign of the Prince and Princess's recognition of the exceptional skills which these individuals bring to increase the beauty and wisdom of Insulae Draconis.

And so do Their Highnesses call before them _____.

Coronet may make personal statements, the Herald reads scroll, or scroll text (Section 13, below)

Herald:

For _____, newest member of the Company of Merit for Artisans and Scholars, Vivat! Vivat! Vivat!

12. Order of the Fox

Herald:

Their Highnesses bid all members of the Order of the Fox to rise.

The members of the Order should rise, moving if necessary to avoid blocking others' view.

Herald:

In ancient times there were kings, revered by many, who shaped these lands we know today and whose names filled many a tale and legend. They nobly fought many foes and were a great inspiration to their men at arms and people.

Such individuals, sure of character and prowess, an inspiration to all who espy them, and whose noble demeanour brings glory and honour to Insulae Draconis are few in number. However, be it in armoured combat, fencing or archery, these few are especially deserving of just reward.

Thus does the Coronet recognise such individuals by admitting them to the Order of the Fox, that all may know these gentles and be instructed by their example.

And so do Their Highnesses call before them _____.

Coronet may make personal statements, the Herald reads scroll, or scroll text (Section 13, below)

Herald:

For _____, newest member of the Order of the Fox, Vivat! Vivat! Vivat!

13. Scroll Texts that can be used for Principality Orders

Company of Merit for Excellence and Example:

_____ and _____, By Grace of God Prince and Princess of Insulae Draconis, unto all these present lettres seeing reading or hearing know, whereas our Forebears in time past have founded the most ancient and Honourable Company of Excellent Ensaumple to be comprised of those who most enrich our realm by their deeds, achievements, bearing and franchise therefore do we on account of his/her own bearing, franchise and many deeds and Accomplishments witnessed and attested to by very many Peers, Barons, Lords and Commons alike of these lands of Insulae Draconis in keeping with the Law and customs of the land enrol into the most Honourable Company of Excellent Example _____ with all the customary attendant benefices rights and honours, including but not limited to the right to bear the token of Said company, to whit the Sun and Chalice from this day forth.

Done by our hands, this ____th day of _____, A.S. _____ at (event) in (shire name)

_____ Prince _____ Princess

Order of Ffraid

Praise and just reward are due to those who, like unto Blessed St Ffraid who in past time by miraculous increase fed the needy, do labour to the common profit of the realm, by charitable acts of corporal mercy and civic labours both. Therefore was our Order of Ffraid established that virtuous men/women, especially discreet and capable of labouring, might by their merits and renown be known to all. We _____ and _____ Prince and Princess of Insulae Draconis, finding our Noble subject _____ to be virtuous and deserving of such honours do invest them in our order of Ffraid to join the number of that noble company in observing its Ordinances.

Given at _____ in _____shire, the _____ day of our reign.

Company of Merit for Artisans and Scholars

Forasmuch as Artisans, Artificers, Scholars, Craftsmen, Clerks, Cooks, (*Include the art of the recipient here*) and all others of fruitful and creative profession are greatly necessary to the prosperity of our realm, and that the increase of craft mysteries and secrets amongst the aforesaid Artisans et Alia being likewise necessary to their continuance, We _____ and _____ Prince and Princess of Insulae Draconis, do require our Worshipful Company of Artisans to admit _____ as a member of the Worshipful Company that they may lawfully share the mysteries and secrets of (*Recipients art*) under the laws, articles and customs of the Company,

By our Hands this ____th day of _____, A.S. _____ at (event) in (shire name)
_____ Prince _____ Princess

Order of the Fox

Know Ye, that whereas the defence of our Lands and the keeping of our Principality's peace are foremost in our concerns, being mindful of our coronation oaths, we _____ and _____, Prince and Princess of Insulae Draconis, therefore to the furtherance of the said defence and peace of Insulae Draconis, hereby increase our Order of the Fox by addition of _____ to their number, charging the Said _____ to maintain arms as set down in our assizes and to set himself under any Justice of the peace of his shire in such matters as are lawful just and necessary

By our hands this ____th day of _____, A.S. _____ at (event) in (shire name)
_____ Prince _____ Princess