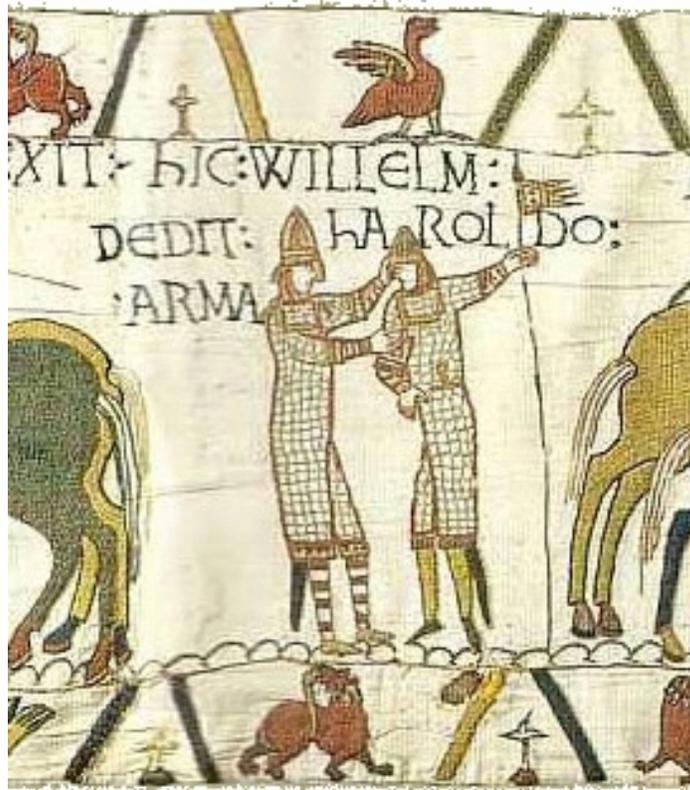


Sir Galen's Guide to
Knighthood
in the
Society of the Middle Ages



By Sir Galen of Bristol

Sir Galen's Guide to
nighthood

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Society of the Middle Ages

by
Paul T. Mitchell,

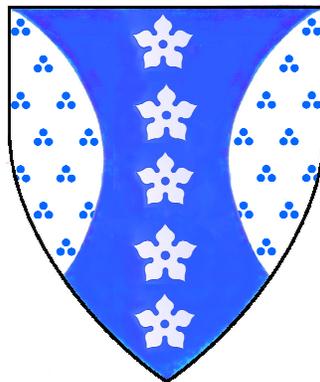
also called
Sir Galen of Bristol,
KBGQ, KBGM, KBGC, CV, LO
Bordure King of Arms,
Founding Seneschal of Stokeford-Upon-Trinity,
Leader of Willowbourne Castle

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First Edition: August 30th, 2022

Dedication

This poor work is dedicated to my lady wife of so many years, the mother of my children, that kind and noble lady, Dame Chiara da Milano, whose kindness, hospitality, and leadership has brought cheer to so many, and whose love inspires me to greater heights of chivalry.



Quotations

*A knyght ther was and that a worthy man
That fro the tyme that he first bigan
To riden out, he loved chivalrie,
Trouthe and honour, fredom, and curteisie.
Ful worthy was he in his lordes werre,
And therto hadde he riden, no man ferre,
As wel in Cristendom as in hethenesse,
And evere honoured for his worthynesse..."*

- Geoffrey Chaucer
The Canterbury Tales

*If you would not be forgotten
Soon as you are dead and rotten
Either write things worthy reading
Or do things worth the writing.*

- Benjamin Franklin

Acknowledgements

My sincerest thanks go out to Sir Edewart von Dzierzgon, Society Seneschal, Sir Madoc Arundel, Muskatour King of Arms, Sir William of Gloucester, Solumbria Seneschal, and Dame Alexandra Notte Clare, for their feedback and encouragement in this project.

Introduction – What it is

This pamphlet is written to fulfill several needs that I have lately perceived: First, as a handy reference to the qualifications for and armory of the various orders of knighthood in the SMA, and the guidelines and traditions that are already springing up. Second, to share the ceremonies and oaths that are already developing around our knighthood. And third, to offer some reflections on how to be a knight to those who are newer to medieval re-enacting. I hope to explain the official documents and policies already promulgated elsewhere, and provide a single point of reference for everything a person needs to get started on the paths of knighthood.

Disclaimer – What It Isn't

This pamphlet is not a governing document of the SMA, and any inadvertent conflicts between this pamphlet and any governing documents of the SMA, such as the *Codex Societatus* or the Administrative Handbook of the College of Heraldry, should be resolved in favor of those documents. It is also not an official publication of any office of the SMA (despite the fact that the author holds three such offices).

The Purpose

As a child, stories of King Arthur and his Knights of the Round Table were among the many stories that stirred, delighted, and inspired me. When, at 16 years old, I first encountered medieval re-enacting, and learned that it was possible for me to become a knight in some sense, I jumped at the opportunity, and never looked back. It took me about eight and a half years to achieve my goal. Along the way, there were people who did all they could to help and guide me. In my own time, I have done whatever I could to help others in the same way.

If you have likewise been inspired by the tales of knights, ladies, and kings; stories of heroes, quests, tournaments, wars, rescues, exploits, and monsters slain; and of the ideals of chivalry, courage, perseverance and personal honor, then this pamphlet is written for you. As we work to launch a new society, it's my hope that, with this small work, I can help and guide you to achieve the highest ideals of knighthood you can.

Organization

Knighthood in the Society of the Middle Ages is organized into three orders, to recognize achievement in combat-related activities, the arts & sciences, and service. These are the Order of the Golden Chain, the Order of the Golden Maunche, and the Order of the Golden Quill, respectively. Within each of these orders is three ranks of knighthood: Knight Bachelor, Knight Banneret, and Knight Commander. Each of these ranks has its own badge for each order.

Precedence And Universality

The three orders of knighthood in the SMA are universal, that is, society-wide, and apply to all the kingdoms of the Society. The precedence of each rank is the same between orders, no order is given greater precedence than either of the others.

A Word About The Qualifications

As you review the qualifications for these orders, you will quickly see they are focused on *events*. The Society isn't meant to exist on-line. Its primary expression is the gathering of its membership at specific times and places in the real world, and it's at our events that recognition is earned.

You'll also quickly see that to earn higher levels of honor, you need to become a mentor. It's not enough to climb the ladder, you must help others to do the same.

Another point to notice is that to achieve the highest levels, a candidate must have also achieved recognition on at least one of the other paths. This sort of versatility promotes cooperation, and discourages overspecialization.

Titles And Styles

The standard titles that accompany each of the ranks are:

- for Knights Bachelor, "Sir" or "Dame"
- for Knights Banneret, "Lord" or "Lady"
- for Knights Commander, "Baron" or "Baroness"

Also, if you are the leader of a castle, as a banneret, you can be styled as "Sir" or "Dame" with your name, followed by "Lord" or "Lady" and the name of your castle. Thus, a knight banneret named Hugh who leads a castle called Sheriffmuir might be styled, "Sir Hugh, Lord Sheriffmuir." Likewise, knights commander can be styled as "Baron" or "Baroness" of their castle. In the SMA, a barony is simply a castle led by a baron or baroness.

Regalia Of Knighthood

The official regalia for knighthood in the SMA is:

- for Knights Bachelor, gold spurs.
- for Knights Banneret, an ornate circlet
- for Knights Commander, a baronial coronet

Whose Job Is It To Make Sure People Are Recognized?

In the first year of our Society, this is one of the questions I have been asked most often. As a local seneschal, I consider it an important part of my job to keep track of who among my people is doing what, and what honors they're earning. But I quickly learned that I can't fully keep track of everybody by myself.

The newly approved *Codex Societatis* states that "Requirements towards knighthood will be tracked via the kingdom clerk's office."

As we make more knights, I believe that it must be incumbent upon the existing knights to be paying attention, to be recommending to their local seneschals and to the Crown just who around them has earned knighthood. Too, the qualifications provide a built-in incentive for us to do that.

And that's an important part of my reason for writing this pamphlet: with a handy compendium of the qualifications for each Order and rank, it's easier for all of us to understand what we must do to earn recognition.

There's a set of worksheets in Appendix F of this pamphlet that will help you track a candidate's qualifications. Print those pages to help you keep track of your (or others') progress.

Primarily, it's for the royalty of the kingdom or principality to bestow knighthood, but the *Codex* also specifies that knights banneret and knights commander will have the authority to elevate people to a lower level of knighthood in their own order. That means that a Knight Banneret can make a qualified candidate a Knight Bachelor. A Knight Commander can make a qualified candidate a Knight Bachelor and even a Knight Banneret.

The wording of the *Codex*, however, clearly excludes the possibility of a non-royal knight making or elevating a knight of a different order. As a Knight Banneret of the Golden Chain, you couldn't create a Knight Bachelor of the Golden Quill.

But in every case, whether it's the royalty or just a senior-ranking knight doing the elevation, the candidate must be "certified" as having met the requirements.

An important note: if you're involved in elevating a new knight, please be sure the appropriate reports are sent to the Bordure King of Arms, so that the new knight is listed in the Order of Precedence.

A Word About Fealty

While an in-depth discussion of fealty in period and my opinions about fealty among re-enactors would far exceed the scope of this pamphlet, I think it would be incomplete without mentioning the topic.

The *Codex Societatis* states (in VII.A):

All knights are required to maintain themselves in fealty to the royalty of their kingdom or principality. This fealty may be sworn directly to the royalty or may be sworn to a higher ranking knight who is in fealty, either directly or through another, higher ranking knight, to the Crown.

Fealty in medieval re-enactor groups is often taken very seriously by the participants. If this is something you have experience with, then you've probably already decided on your approach to this topic.

But if you're new to re-enacting, here's a couple of thoughts on how to begin to approach fealty.

- A. If you swear fealty to someone, you shouldn't swear fealty to anyone else without that first person's permission. If you're a squire to a knight, you shouldn't swear fealty to anyone else without your knight's permission.
- B. Both the person swearing fealty and the person receiving fealty should be committed to each treating the other with respect and consideration. Beyond this, it's always good to communicate about expectations.
- C. You should do some reading about what fealty meant in the medieval period, and how it was used.

A Word About Squires

There are no rules in the SMA around squires. Traditionally, a squire is someone who is being trained and/or mentored by a knight. In my experience, it is a personal relationship, unique to each knight and each squire. In the SMA, I believe that formal knight-squire relationships should be short-lived, as it shouldn't take years for a determined squire to participate in the three events necessary to earn the rank of Knight Bachelor, and begin taking squires of his own. On the other hand, there is no reason why a knight should stop learning from another knight, if the mentoring relationship is of value to him. And the SMA's structures of personal castles, and the above quotation from the *Codex* regarding fealty, certainly seems to suggest that relationships that begin as knight-squire can certainly continue beyond the squire's promotion to knighthood.

Traditions around squirehood are already beginning to form, and they merit mention. Sir Edewart, who was the first of our knights to take squires, did it with a public oath of fealty, and a belt (red with a white stripe down the middle) for the squire to wear to symbolize the relationship. By contrast, I've simply made a public announcement, often on-line, when I've entered a new knight-squire relationship; but the details were concluded privately.

I strongly encourage anyone just getting started in the SMA (or anyone who has been in for a while who might feel that they lack recognition that they've earned), to find a nearby knight bachelor to become a squire to. That knight bachelor, to promote to knight banneret, will need to help you earn your knighthood, and so he'll be encouraging you, and trying to help you to get what you need to get and do what you need to do, not only out of the generosity of his heart, but also from his own self-interest.

Some squires enjoy making a show of serving their knight, but I've never demanded that. I've always considered my squires to be colleagues. And I've always found that nothing hones my skills like teaching does.

On Being A Knight

When I first joined the SMA and encountered the "paths" of knighthood, it was a very different concept of how to re-create medieval knighthood than what I was familiar with from another organization. I was knighted over thirty years earlier under a system that ostensibly had a list of requirements, but this list was never closely adhered to. Further, the greatest emphasis was always on the subjective judgments of a king and a group of knights about a given candidate's qualifications and personal quality, and the standards that were applied varied widely from person to person, or even from day to day. This often led to the unfortunate result that a worthy candidate might languish for years, striving for a recognition that was always just out of reach.

In the SMA, I encountered a different solution: A short, simple list of qualifications, with no subjective element to it. Do these things, get knighted. Virtually every person who approaches this activity seriously and applies himself can be knighted. For most, the first honor they are granted will be knighthood. Higher titles, like "Lord" or "Baroness", would come later. There was no mention of "peers" or "arms". I found this system *very* appealing. I still do. And I hope you do, too.

In the modern day, we have greatly idealized actual period knighthood. Knights started out as an elite warrior class. Still in period, both the civil and the religious institutions of the day did their

best to co-opt knights to advance their causes. For some, knighthood became a profession. For others, it became an avenue to financial or social achievement.

Among re-enactors today, knighthood is what we make it. In our new society, my intention is to bring to bear the best of the experiences I've had, and the examples I've been given, and to learn from what I think might not have been done right. I invite you to join me.

Whatever your path, Quill, Robe, or Sword, you have an important contribution to make, and the SMA won't prosper without people like you each making their contribution. Imagine yourself as a knight. And then, try to imagine what you can do to do more – to improve yourself, your skills, and your presentation.

“How can I be a better knight?” is a question we should be asking ourselves every day. What can you do in your life to be a better knight? A better crafter, a better worker, a better fighter? What is lacking in your local group, that you can supply? (And if you don't have a local group, what are you doing to try to pull a few people together?) How can you improve your armor, your tools, your heraldic display?

And in answering those questions, here's another question to start with: “How did the people in our period of study cope with these problems?” When you understand that, you might find that the path forward is clearer than you would have thought.

Please don't think that I am holding myself out the exemplar of knighthood. I also ask myself daily what I can do to improve, and no one is as aware of my own failings as I am. Your own imagination can probably provide for you a better exemplar of chivalry and excellence than I could ever be.

One of the greatest knights in history, Sir William Marshall, rose to prominence, rank and wealth due to his hard work, his intelligence, and his courage, but first and foremost due to his great skill at arms. He placed his life on the line in ways that most of us will never be called to do.

But while physical prowess is an important attribute of knighthood, it is not the most important. To my mind, the most important attribute of knighthood is pageantry. A tournament is more than an athletic competition, and a melee is more than a scrimmage. What is a tournament without the colorful heraldry on shields, banners, surcoats and tabards? Who can follow the action without the cry of the heralds announcing the names and titles of the knights, the voices raised in challenges, the battle cries, the salutes to the ruling nobles, and the tributes to the ladies? For most events, the tourney is the center of the activity. We shouldn't be in a hurry to “get it over with”, but should savor and enjoy it, with virtually everyone taking a hand.

If you are a knight of the Golden Chain, your contribution is clear. Acts of chivalry and prowess, gestures of grace, piety, and honor, displays of heraldry, gifts of largesse, all these are the province of the Path of the Sword.

But if you are a knight of the Golden Maunche, you too have a contribution to make. Who makes the surcoats, the armor, the banners? Who provides the music beside the list field? It is for those on the Path of the Robe to make the day beautiful.

And without those on the Path of the Quill, the day could not come at all. Who conceived the event, arranged the site, promoted the date, and set up the field and the pavilions? Knights of the Golden Quill can make a powerful contribution to the magic of the day – and it wouldn't be the same without them!

Too, the ladies in attendance should be, to use the modern words, *intentional* in their attendance, and truly *present* in their participation. Even if a lady is not part of the entourage of one of the knights or squires competing, there is sure to be someone in armor who has no lady to represent on the field. Please ladies, take part in the tournament yourself, by seeking out such a fighter and finding him worthy to bear your favor on the field.

I say, the knight whom no lady finds worthy to represent her should be embarrassed. To the fighter who bears no favor, find a lady, even if only at the last minute, to represent on the field, to help you guard your own honor by also taking responsibility for hers.

For the knight who represents another will not so easily fail to acknowledge blows, or take unfair advantage, if the honor he stains is not only his own, but that of a lady he respects.

By proper use of pageantry, everyone at the tournament becomes a participant.

Now, let me also offer a caution, on your path to knighthood. Don't fall victim to the fault that I still have: I put too much value on awards like these. You should be doing these activities, fighting, archery, arts, helping with events, teaching, serving in office, etc., because you *love to do them!* Not because they're going to give you an award for them. Trust me, when the award comes without you angling for it, it means so much more.

But if, like me, you just can't resist working your way through the process, you can use the worksheets in Appendix F to help you keep track of your efforts.

Find what you're good at, and build on your strengths. Attend to the things that life has given you to attend to. Don't worry about the things outside your control. And the better you get at attending to what you have in front of you, the more your purview will expand, and more things will come under your influence. Self-improvement should be your crusade, and excellence your goal.

Finally, never forget that knighthood is an honor, not an entitlement. Remember the knightly virtues of humility, piety, generosity, hospitality, and service, alongside those of puissance, franchise, and glory.

In your imagination, put that title "Sir" or "Dame" in front of your name, and dream of what you can do to inspire others to want to seek greatness like yours. And above all, remember your charge:

 **Be Thou a Good Knight!**

Service – The Path of the Quill

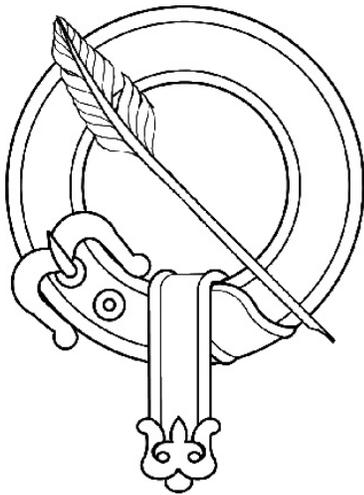
Diligence and leadership are important foundations of our Society.

The Order of the Golden Quill

I don't believe that there is any volunteer organization anywhere that doesn't have some form of recognition for outstanding service to the group, and the SMA is no different.

Knight Bachelor

The qualifications for the rank of Knight Bachelor in the Order of the Golden Quill are:



*(Fieldless) A garter surmounted
by a pen bendwise argent.*

- A. Be a paid member of the Society.
- B. Be seen to have consistently behaved honorably at SMA events and activities.
- C. Have successfully completed at least one of the following services or two thirds of two of the following three services:
 - 1. Have been on staff of at least three events since becoming a paid member.
 - 2. Have held a local ministry in good standing for at least one year since becoming a paid member.
 - 3. Aided the Crown/Coronet for the duration of a reign such as having traveled and served as royal entourage to at least three events, or the construction and/or donation of items such as regalia, largess, award tokens, and other paraphernalia used by royalty.

Knight Banneret

The qualifications for the rank of Knight Banneret in the Order of the Golden Quill are:

- A. Be a paid member of the Society.
- B. Mentor at least three other people to the level of Knight Bachelor.
- C. Have a persona-appropriate heraldic display in a banner or some other form.

D. Be seen to have consistently behaved honorably at SMA events and activities.

E. Have successfully performed two or more of the following six services:

1. Have been the event steward or deputy for at least three local events.
2. Have been a primary member of the event staff for at least three, principality, kingdom, or multi-kingdom events, or taken a secondary role in the event team for a week-long or longer event.
3. Have held a kingdom/principality ministry in good standing for at least one year.
4. Have held a local ministry or a deputy kingdom/principality ministry in good standing for two years.
5. Have served as a primary member of a royal entourage such as the head of entourage or primary herald for at least two full reigns.
6. Construction and/or donation of items such as regalia, largess, award tokens, or other paraphernalia for two different reigns.



(Fieldless) A garter surmounted by two pens in saltire argent

Knight Commander

The qualifications for the rank of Knight Commander in the Order of the Golden Quill are:



(Fieldless) A garter surmounted by two pens in saltire Or

- A. Be a paid member of the Society
- B. Train and mentor at least three knights and prospective knights at all lower levels of the Path of the Quill.
- C. Be skilled in at least three multiple fields of service (such as event stewarding, holding office, entourage, cooking feasts, etc.).
- D. Have achieved at least the first level of knighthood for either the Path of the Sword or the Path of the Robe.
- E. Be seen to have consistently behaved honorably both on and off the field.

- F. Have successfully performed one or more of the following three services:
1. Have been an event steward or deputy for at least three principality or kingdom events, or local events that were at least a week long, since becoming a Knight Banneret.
 2. Have successfully held a major kingdom or Society office for at least one term, or successfully held a major kingdom/local office for a full term that included the first year of the Society's existence.
 3. Have been the event steward or deputy for six local events since becoming a Knight Banneret.

Arts – The Path of the Robe

Beauty, craftsmanship and scholarship are among the foundations of our Society.

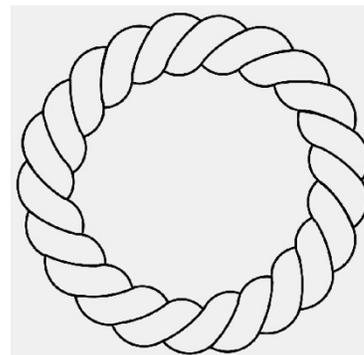
The Order of the Golden Maunche

There are many organizations that study medieval combat, but do not study or re-create the gentler arts and sciences of the period. Our Society would be much poorer without these pursuits.

Knight Bachelor

The qualifications for the rank of Knight Bachelor in the Order of the Golden Maunche are:

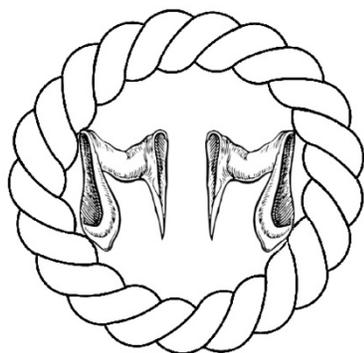
- A. Be a paid member of the Society.
- B. Have participated in at least three displays or competitions of five or more entrants or taught at least three scheduled classes at events since becoming a paid member. Participation as a principal in performance arts, scientific displays and scholarly papers can count as a display.
- C. The arts/sciences that are practiced by the candidate must be correct to the historical periods and geographical locations that are recreated in the SMA
- D. Be seen to have consistently behaved honorably at SMA events and activities.



(Fieldless) A torse in annulo argent

Knight Banneret

The qualifications for the rank of Knight Banneret in the Order of the Golden Maunche are:



*(Fieldless) Two maunches in fess
addorsed within and conjoined to a
torse in annulo argent*

- A. Be a paid member of the Society.
- B. Have participated in at least three displays or competitions of five or more entrants since becoming a Knight Bachelor. Participation as a principal in performance arts can count as a display.
- C. Have recognized skill in their primary art form as determined by advancement in the appropriate Guild.
- D. Be skilled in multiple art forms, or in multiple periods of arts (such as costuming or armoring or oral performance and writing of poetry), that changed significantly over time.

- E. Train at least three other artisans to the level of knighthood.
- F. The arts/sciences that are practiced by the candidate must be correct to the historical periods and geographical locations that are recreated in the SMA
- G. Have a persona-appropriate heraldic display.
- H. Promote other artisans by providing word fame and/or personal tokens in recognition of their talent.
- I. Be seen to have consistently behaved honorably at SMA events and activities.

Knight Commander

The qualifications for the rank of Knight Commander in the Order of the Golden Maunche are:

- A. Be a paid member of the Society
- B. Conduct ongoing teaching of multiple knights and prospective knights at all levels.
- C. Be recognized as a master of one art form as determined by the appropriate guild and at least proficient in two other art forms. The differing art forms can be separate arts or complimentary arts such as different styles/eras of poetry.
- D. Have achieved at least the first level of knighthood for either the Path of the Sword or the Path of the Quill.
- E. Be seen to have consistently behaved in an honorable manner.



(Fieldless) A monk's robe Or within and conjoined to a torse in annulo argent

Combat – The Path of the Sword

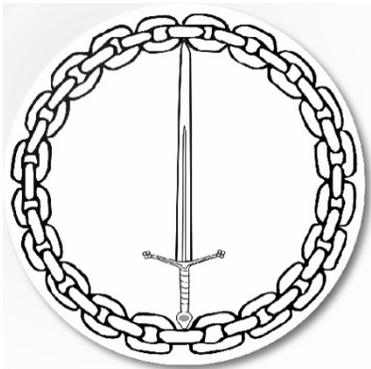
Chivalry, honor, and pageantry are important foundations of our Society.

The Order of the Golden Chain

From chivalric combat with rattan weapons, to historical combat with steel weapons, to archery, to thrown weapons, equestrian, and more, the pageantry brought by our combat endeavors gives color and purpose to our events.

Knight Bachelor

The qualifications for the rank of Knight Bachelor in the Order of the Golden Chain are:



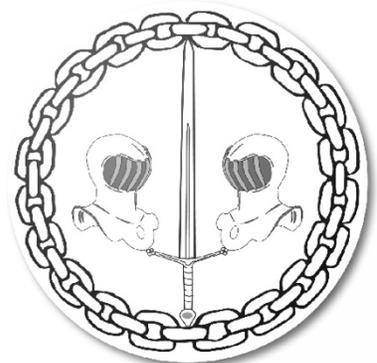
(Fieldless) A claymore within and conjoined to an annulet of chain argent

- A. Be a paid member of the Society.
- B. Have participated in or marshaled a combined total of at least three competitions of five or more entrants held on separate days, and/or have participated in three separate full days of battles in wars since becoming a paid member.
- C. Have all of their own equipment for their primary form of combat, with no visible non-period elements.
- D. Be seen to have consistently behaved honorably both on and off the field.

Knight Banneret

The qualifications for the rank of Knight Banneret in the Order of the Golden Chain are:

- A. Be a paid member of the Society.
- B. Have participated in or marshaled a combined total of at least six competitions of five or more entrants held on separate days, and/or have participated in three separate full days of battles in wars since becoming a Knight Bachelor.
- C. Place in the top fifty percent of at least half the competitions in the knight's primary form of combat (such as rattan, steel weapons, live weapons, etc.) entered in the past year.



(Fieldless) A claymore maintaining by its quillons two peer's helms respectant within and conjoined to an annulet of chain argent

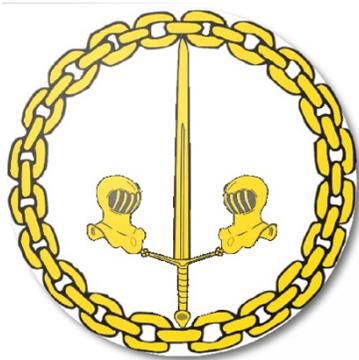
D. Train at least three fighters to the level of Knight Bachelor. If, for reasons of health or age, a knight must refrain from combat, each required competition in number 2 above may be replaced with an additional squire trained to the level of Knight Bachelor.

E. Have a complete fighting kit for their primary form of combat, free of visible modern elements and suitable to the era and culture of their persona, complete with appropriate heraldic displays and tournament field equipment. Modern elements required for safety reasons, such as a bar grill on an open-faced helm, may be permitted.

F. Be seen to have consistently behaved honorably both on and off the field.

Knight Commander

The qualifications for the rank of Knight Commander in the Order of the Golden Chain are:



*(Fieldless) A claymore maintaining by
its quillons two peer's helms
respectant within and conjoined to an
annulet of chain Or*

A. Be a paid member of the Society.

B. Have sponsored and conducted at three competitions (with five or more entrants) and/or led the forces of his branch to battlefield victory at least three times in his or her primary form of combat since becoming a Knight Banneret.

C. Conduct ongoing training of multiple knights and squires at all levels.

D. Be authorized and proficient in multiple weapons forms/styles.

E. Have achieved at least the first level of knighthood in either the Path of the Robe or the Path of the Quill.

F. Be seen to have consistently behaved honorably both on and off the field.

Appendix A:
Knighting Ceremony for the Kingdom of Ålandia
(KNIGHT BACHELOR)

(Wherever “KING” is specified, the Queen may speak instead.)

HERALD: In times of old, kingdoms and their people were defended by an elite class of warrior-servants. In English-speaking lands, these were called “knights”. In our Society, knighthood is earned on three paths: The Path of the Quill, for service to the realm and the Society; the Path of the Robe, for work in the arts and sciences; and the Path of the Sword, for endeavors with weapons of war. Lord King, Lady Queen, there are candidates who have qualified themselves for knight-bachelorhood in the Order of the Golden _____ according to our traditions.

KING: Let them be called forward.

HERALD: *(Calls the candidates.)*

(The candidates come forward.)

KING: Candidates, will you accept knighthood at our hand?

(They agree.)

(KING takes sword of state – if this is for knighthoods of the Sword, the sword should be drawn. For other orders, leave it sheathed.)

KING: Then kneel and place your hands on the sword of state, and repeat the oath of a knight of our realm.

HERALD *(Administers oath)*: Here do I, *[state your name]*, solemnly pledge that I will take up the mantle of knighthood as a knight bachelor of our society, that I will treat justly with all manner of folk, that I will staunchly defend the weak, bravely face up to the strong, boldly stand out for what is right, loyally serve the Crown, piously respect the Church, rigorously maintain my skills, and offer prudent counsel and wise teaching, all the days of my life. All this I do swear,

KING *(to each candidate, gently striking each shoulder and the top of the head)*: Accepting your oath, I dub thee [Sir/Dame] “*Name*”. Arise, and be thou a good knight!

HERALD: It is now time for all to hear your oath of fealty to the Crown. Therefore, kneel again, and place your hand once more upon the sword.

HERALD *(Administers oath)*: I, *[your name]* do now become your man *[woman]* of life and limb, and of earthly worship, from this day forward, and unto you shall be true and faithful, and bear to you faith for the office you have entrusted to me, saving only the faith that I owe to God. *[So help me God.]*

KING AND QUEEN: We hear your oath, and swear in return to be a faithful liege to you, and to reward your service and faithfulness in kind. [And may God and St. Edward so help us.]

(King re-sheathes sword and hands it to attendant.)

[If this is for knighthoods of the Sword:]

KING *(to each recipient in turn)*: Accept from me now, your last un-answered blow. *(Strikes the candidate forcefully.)*

HERALD: For [Sir/Dame] *(names)*! AVE! AVE! AVE!

Appendix B:
Knighting Ceremony for the Kingdom of Ålandia
(KNIGHT BANNERET)

(Wherever "KING" is specified, the Queen may speak instead.)

HERALD: In times of old, kingdoms and their people were defended by an elite class of warrior-servants. In English-speaking lands, these were called "knights". In our Society, knighthood is earned on three paths: The Path of the Quill, for service to the realm and the Society; the Path of the Robe, for work in the arts and sciences; and the Path of the Sword, for endeavors with weapons of war.

Furthermore, within each order of knighthood there were different ranks. Above the basic rank of knight bachelor was the that of Knight Banneret. The Knights Banneret were those knights closest to the crown, the advisors and officers to the Crown.

Lord King, Lady Queen, there is a knight here who has qualified himself to be elevated to the rank of Knight Banneret in the Order of the Golden _____ according to our traditions.

KING: Let him be called forward.

HERALD: *(Calls the knight.)*

(The knight comes forward. If possible, he should be accompanied by the three knights bachelor he mentored, and by his heraldic display. If a knight of the Sword, he should be in full armor, or have with him his primary weapons. If he is the leader of a castle, the castle banner should accompany him, if an officer of a branch, the branch banner should be there. A herald should announce him.)

KING: Sir Knight, will you accept at our hand elevation to the estate of knight banneret?

(He agrees.)

(KING takes sword of state – if this is for knighthoods of the Sword, the sword should be drawn. For other orders, leave it sheathed.)

KING: Then kneel and place your hands on the sword of state, and renew your oath as a knight of our realm.

HERALD *(Administers oath)*: Here do I, *[state your name]*, solemnly pledge that I will take up the mantle of knighthood as a knight banneret of our society, that I will treat justly with all manner of folk, that I will staunchly defend the weak, bravely face up to the strong, boldly stand out for what is right, loyally serve the Crown, piously respect the Church, rigorously maintain my skills, and offer prudent counsel and wise teaching, all the days of my life. All this I do swear,

KING (*gently striking each shoulder and the top of the head*): Accepting your oath, I dub thee [Lord/Lady] "*Name*", knight banneret, and I charge you, be thou a good knight!

(If he is the leader of a castle:

KING (*putting the ornate circlet on him*): And further, I confirm you in your title as [Lord/Lady] "<*Castle name*>".

KING: And now, we will hear you renew your oath of fealty:

HERALD (Administers oath): I, [your name] do now become your man [woman] of life and limb, and of earthly worship, from this day forward, and unto you shall be true and faithful, and bear to you faith for the office you have entrusted to me, saving only the faith that I owe to God. [So help me God.]

KING AND QUEEN: We hear your oath, and swear in return to be a faithful liege to you, and to reward your service and faithfulness in kind. [And may God and St. Edward so help us.]

(King re-sheathes sword and hands it to attendant.)

HERALD: For [Lord/Lady] (*names*)! AVE! AVE! AVE!

Appendix C:
Knighting Ceremony for the Kingdom of Ålandia
(KNIGHT COMMANDER)

(Wherever "KING" is specified, the Queen may speak instead.)

HERALD: In times of old, kingdoms and their people were defended by an elite class of warrior-servants. In English-speaking lands, these were called "knights". In our Society, knighthood is earned on three paths: The Path of the Quill, for service to the realm and the Society; the Path of the Robe, for work in the arts and sciences; and the Path of the Sword, for endeavors with weapons of war.

Furthermore, within each order of knighthood there were different ranks. The highest rank in our realm is that of Knight Commander. Knights Commander are the foremost Ministers, Nobles, and Generals for the realm.

Lord King, Lady Queen, there is a knight here who has qualified himself to be elevated to the rank of Knight Commander in the Order of the Golden _____ according to our traditions.

KING: Let [him/her] be called forward.

HERALD: Let <candidate> now come forward!

(The candidate comes forward with his entourage)

KING: [Sir/Dame] Knight, we know well your worth to our realm, and are rightly grateful for your service. Will you accept at our hand elevation to the estate of knight commander? Consider well your answer, for this is a solemn responsibility, to accept so high an honor.

CANDIDATE: Sir king, I do accept elevation at your hand.

(KING takes sword of state, un-sheathed if for a Knight of the Golden Chain, otherwise sheathed.)

KING: Then kneel and place your hands on the sword of state, and renew your oath as a knight of our realm.

HERALD *(Administers oath)*: Here do I, <name>, solemnly pledge that I will take up the mantle of knighthood as a knight commander of our society, that I will treat justly with all manner of folk, that I will staunchly defend the weak, bravely face up to the strong, boldly stand out for what is right, loyally serve the Crown, piously respect the Church, rigorously maintain my skills, and offer prudent counsel and wise teaching, all the days of my life. All this I do swear,

KING *(gently striking each shoulder and the top of the head)*: Accepting your oath, I dub thee [Sir/Dame] <name>, knight commander, and I charge you, be thou a good knight!

KING (*holding up the coronet*): And further, we are pleased to recognize your nobility, your leadership, and your inspiration of your people, by creating you [Baron/ess] <castle name>. (*Places the coronet on [his/her] head.*)

KING: And now, we will hear you renew your oath of fealty:

HERALD (Administers oath): I, <name>, do now become your liege man of life and limb and of earthly worship, from this day forward, and unto you shall be true and faithful, and bear to you faith for the honor you have bestowed upon me, saving only the faith that I owe to God [so help me God].

KING AND QUEEN: We hear your oath, and swear in return to be a faithful liege to you, and to reward your service and faithfulness in kind. [And may God and St. Edward so help us.]

(*King re-sheathes sword and hands it to attendant.*)

HERALD: For [Sir/Dame] <name>, [Baron/ess] <castle name>, Knight Commander of the Golden _____! AVE! AVE! AVE!

Appendix D:
Oath of Fealty for the Kingdom of Ålendia

KING: And now, we will hear your oath of fealty:

HERALD (Administers oath): I, [your name] do now become your man [woman] of life and limb, and of earthly worship, from this day forward, and unto you shall be true and faithful, and bear to you faith for the [office/honor] you have entrusted to me, saving only the faith that I owe to God. [So help me God.]

KING AND QUEEN: We hear your oath, and swear in return to be a faithful liege to you, and to reward your service and faithfulness in kind. [And may God and St. Edward so help us.]

Appendix E: A Note on Ceremonies

In my role as the Society's first Bordure King of Arms, I have taken it upon myself to draft standard ceremonies for knighthoods, coronations, a standard oath of fealty, etc. This is an ongoing project, some of the fruits of which may be reviewed in the preceding appendices.

I'd like it to be clear that these ceremonies are intended to be starting points, not the final word on anything. The goal of these is to offer people words and actions that have recognizable meaning.

If you love them, feel free to use them as they are. If you're having a ceremony, and would like to use one of these as the basis for it, you're welcome to change it as you wish. And if you're having a ceremony and have an idea for something completely different, and can get the other people involved to agree, then I won't feel bad that you didn't use what I wrote.

Appendix F: Knighthood Progress Worksheets

How To Use The Worksheets

First, print out the next three pages. (If you're reading this pamphlet printed out on paper, then photocopy the next three pages.)

Put your name at the top of the first empty column. Put the names of your squires or those whom you are mentoring at the top of the subsequent columns. Print more pages if you need more columns.

Enter the date each milestone is completed, or just a checkmark. When you have a section filled in, talk to your seneschal about how to send a recommendation to the crown so that the earned knighthood can be bestowed.

Here's an illustration:

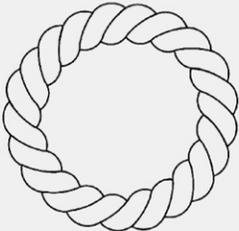
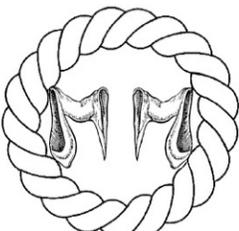
Order of the Golden Chain Qualifications
(enter a checkmark, or the date completed, for each task)

Rank/Task:					
Names:		Galen	Alexandra	Reinhard	Hrolfr
Paid Member of the SMA		✓	✓	✓	✓
	Participated in 3 competitions of 5 or more entrants, or three separate full days of wars.	1/22/2022, 4/2/2022, 6/25/2022	4/2/2022, 6/25/2022, 6/26/2022	4/2/2022, 6/25/2022, 6/26/2022	6/25/2022, 7/23/2022
	Own all their own equipment for primary form of combat, with no visible non-period elements.	✓	✓	✓	✓
	Honorable behavior on and off the field.	✓	✓	✓	✓
	KNIGHT BACHELOR	6/25/2022			
Paid Member of the SMA		✓			
	Participated in 6 competitions of 5 or more entrants, or three separate full days of wars since becoming a Knight Bachelor.	6/26/2022, 7/23/2022			
	Place in the top 50% of at least half the competitions in the last year.	✓			
	Trained three fighters to the level of Knight Bachelor.				
	Have a complete fighting kit for primary form of combat, free of visible modern elements, and heraldic display.	✓			
	Honorable behavior on and off the field.	✓			
KNIGHT BANNERET					

Order of the Golden Chain Qualifications
 (enter a checkmark, or the date completed, for each task)

	Rank/Task:				
	Names:				
	Paid Member of the SMA				
	Participated in 3 competitions of 5 or more entrants, or three separate full days of wars.				
	Own all their own equipment for primary form of combat, with no visible non-period elements.				
	Honorable behavior on and off the field.				
	KNIGHT BACHELOR				
	Paid Member of the SMA				
	Participated in 6 competitions of 5 or more entrants, or three separate full days of wars since becoming a Knight Bachelor.				
	Place in the top 50% of at least half the competitions in the last year.				
	Trained three fighters to the level of Knight Bachelor.				
	Have a complete fighting kit for primary form of combat, free of visible modern elements, and heraldic display.				
	Honorable behavior on and off the field.				
	KNIGHT BANNERET				
	Paid Member of the SMA				
	Have sponsored and conducted at least three competitions with 5 or more entrants, and/or led the forces of his branch to victory three times since becoming Knight Banneret.				
	Ongoing training of multiple knights and squires at all levels.				
	Knighthood in either of the other paths.				
	Honorable behavior on and off the field.				
	KNIGHT COMMANDER				

Order of the Golden Maunche Qualifications
 (enter a checkmark, or the date completed, for each task)

Rank/Task:				
Names:				
	Paid Member of the SMA			
	Participated in 3 displays or competitions of 5 or more entrants, or taught at least three schedule classes.			
	Art or science must be correct to the SMA's period and culture.			
	Honorable behavior at SMA events and activities.			
	BACHELOR			
	Paid Member of the SMA			
	Participated in three displays or competitions of 5 or more entrants.			
	Have recognized skill in primary art form.			
	Skilled in multiple art forms.			
	Train at least three other artisans to knighthood.			
	Art or science must be correct to the SMA's period and culture.			
	Persona-appropriate heraldic display.			
	Promote other artisans by word-fame or gifts.			
	Honorable behavior on and off the field.			
	BANNERET			
	Paid Member of the SMA			
	Conduct ongoing training and teaching of multiple knights and prospective knights at all levels.			
	Recognized master of one art form and at least proficient in two other art forms.			
	Knighthood in either of the other paths.			
	Honorable behavior on and off the field.			
	COMMANDER			

Order of the Golden Quill Qualifications
 (enter a checkmark, or the date completed, for each task)

	Rank/Task:				
Names:					
	Paid Member of the SMA				
	Consistently behaved honorably at SMA events and activities.				
	One of the following:				
	+ On staff of three events.				
	+ Local ministry in good standing for at least 1 year.				
	+ Served as royal entourage for a reign, or constructed/donated regalia or other paraphernalia used by royalty.				
	BACHELOR				
	Paid Member of the SMA				
	Mentor at least three to the level of Knight Bachelor.				
	Persona appropriate heraldic display.				
	Consistently behaved honorably at SMA events and activities.				
	2 or more of the following:				
	+ Event steward or deputy for three local events.				
	+ Primary member of event staff for 3 principality, kingdom, or multi-kingdom events.				
	+ Kingdom/principality ministry in good standing for 1 year.				
	+ Local ministry or deputy in good standing for 2 years.				
	+ Primary member of entourage for 2 reigns.				
+ Construction or donations of regalia or other paraphernalia used by royalty.					
BANNERET					
	Paid Member of the SMA				
	Train and mentor at least three knights and prospective knights at all lower levels of the Path of the Quill.				
	Be skilled in at three 3 fields of service.				
	Knighthood in either of the other paths.				
	Consistently behaved honorably at SMA events and activities.				
	COMMANDER				

**Appendix G:
The Knights of the SMA
As of August 30th, 2022**

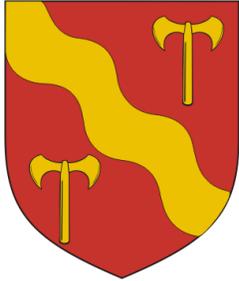
12/4/2021	Conull MacCoinnich	Knight Commander	Order of the Golden Quill
9/25/2021	*Hengist Helgessone	Knight Bachelor	Order of the Golden Chain
9/25/2021	Esteban Benguera de Marion	Knight Bachelor	Order of the Golden Chain
9/25/2021	Edewart Von Dzierzgon	Knight Bachelor	Order of the Golden Chain
9/25/2021	Hughes de Gaines	Knight Bachelor	Order of the Golden Chain
9/25/2021	Alexander Brighthelmson	Knight Bachelor	Order of the Golden Chain
9/25/2021	Ubba of the Red Fjord	Knight Bachelor	Order of the Golden Chain
9/25/2021	Brian Scott	Knight Bachelor	Order of the Golden Chain
9/25/2021	Garrison of Cornwall	Knight Bachelor	Order of the Golden Chain
9/25/2021	*Eirene Peristeri	Knight Bachelor	Order of the Golden Maunche
9/25/2021	*Elizabeth Cateline Grey	Knight Bachelor	Order of the Golden Quill
9/25/2021	Alexander Brighthelmson	Knight Bachelor	Order of the Golden Quill
9/25/2021	Alexander McBain	Knight Bachelor	Order of the Golden Quill
9/25/2021	Anya Al-Kahina	Knight Bachelor	Order of the Golden Quill
9/25/2021	Asbrand of Norway	Knight Bachelor	Order of the Golden Maunche
9/25/2021	Bronwyn O'Neill	Knight Bachelor	Order of the Golden Quill
9/25/2021	Ciaran mac Dughail	Knight Bachelor	Order of the Golden Quill
9/25/2021	Don Scott	Knight Bachelor	Order of the Golden Quill
9/25/2021	Egil Haraldsson	Knight Bachelor	Order of the Golden Quill
9/25/2021	Frederick Alton	Knight Bachelor	Order of the Golden Quill
9/25/2021	Hughes de Gaines	Knight Bachelor	Order of the Golden Quill
9/25/2021	Isabelle de Châteaumichel	Knight Bachelor	Order of the Golden Quill
9/25/2021	Kat Mac Lochlainn	Knight Bachelor	Order of the Golden Maunche
9/25/2021	Laurita Estella Solomon	Knight Bachelor	Order of the Golden Quill
9/25/2021	Máire ingen Fheirgil	Knight Bachelor	Order of the Golden Quill
9/25/2021	Melissa Falleinwell	Knight Bachelor	Order of the Golden Quill
9/25/2021	Melissa Falleinwell	Knight Bachelor	Order of the Golden Maunche
9/25/2021	Melissent La Chavronne	Knight Bachelor	Order of the Golden Quill
9/25/2021	Patricia de Châteaumichel	Knight Bachelor	Order of the Golden Maunche
9/25/2021	Tatiana Heinemann	Knight Bachelor	Order of the Golden Quill
9/25/2021	Ubba of the Red Fjord	Knight Bachelor	Order of the Golden Quill
9/25/2021	William of Gloucester	Knight Bachelor	Order of the Golden Quill
9/25/2021	Wyndie ingen Dughail	Knight Bachelor	Order of the Golden Quill
9/25/2021	Yzabels Jeanne D'Este	Knight Bachelor	Order of the Golden Maunche
9/26/2021	Iðunn	Knight Bachelor	Order of the Golden Quill
9/26/2021	Raven Wildhair	Knight Bachelor	Order of the Golden Quill
9/26/2021	Robert Anderson	Knight Bachelor	Order of the Golden Quill
9/26/2021	Theresa of Dalwhinnie	Knight Bachelor	Order of the Golden Quill
9/26/2021	Moyai Nidun	Knight Bachelor	Order of the Golden Chain
9/27/2021	Alainn of White Rose Abbey	Knight Bachelor	Order of the Golden Quill
9/27/2021	Ally	Knight Bachelor	Order of the Golden Quill
9/27/2021	Katerine of the Red Fjord	Knight Bachelor	Order of the Golden Quill
10/9/2021	Aaron Brandson	Knight Bachelor	Order of the Golden Quill
10/9/2021	Adelaide Gregory	Knight Bachelor	Order of the Golden Quill
10/9/2021	Hafþora Kristna	Knight Bachelor	Order of the Golden Maunche
10/9/2021	Zada d'Auray	Knight Bachelor	Order of the Golden Maunche
1/22/2022	Æinar Sigþórsson	Knight Bachelor	Order of the Golden Quill
1/22/2022	Alizan Le Fevre	Knight Bachelor	Order of the Golden Quill

1/22/2022	Anastasia de Lamoure	Knight Bachelor	Order of the Golden Quill
1/22/2022	Asgarr Ward	Knight Bachelor	Order of the Golden Quill
1/22/2022	Chulain ap Canam	Knight Bachelor	Order of the Golden Quill
1/22/2022	Edward Harbinger	Knight Bachelor	Order of the Golden Quill
1/22/2022	Jehanne d'Avignon	Knight Bachelor	Order of the Golden Quill
1/22/2022	Jibril al-Basir	Knight Bachelor	Order of the Golden Quill
1/22/2022	Johann Wolfgang Von Aue	Knight Bachelor	Order of the Golden Quill
1/22/2022	Katerina McGilledoroughe	Knight Bachelor	Order of the Golden Quill
1/22/2022	Madoc Arundel	Knight Bachelor	Order of the Golden Quill
1/22/2022	Murdoch McArthur	Knight Bachelor	Order of the Golden Quill
1/22/2022	Robert de Tyr	Knight Bachelor	Order of the Golden Quill
4/30/2022	Murdoch McArthur	Knight Bachelor	Order of the Golden Chain
4/30/2022	Chiara da Milano	Knight Bachelor	Order of the Golden Quill
4/30/2022	Cordeilla verch Rosser	Knight Bachelor	Order of the Golden Quill
4/30/2022	Edewart Von Dzierzgon	Knight Bachelor	Order of the Golden Quill
4/30/2022	Galen of Bristol	Knight Bachelor	Order of the Golden Quill
4/30/2022	Renée DuValier	Knight Bachelor	Order of the Golden Quill
4/30/2022	Svea Iojannsdottir	Knight Bachelor	Order of the Golden Quill
6/25/2022	Alexandra notte Clare	Knight Bachelor	Order of the Golden Quill
6/25/2022	Alun ap Gwilym	Knight Bachelor	Order of the Golden Maunche
6/25/2022	Alun ap Gwilym	Knight Bachelor	Order of the Golden Quill
6/25/2022	Alun ap Gwilym	Knight Bachelor	Order of the Golden Chain
6/25/2022	Athena nic Raghnaill	Knight Bachelor	Order of the Golden Quill
6/25/2022	Caradoc ap Cadwgan	Knight Bachelor	Order of the Golden Quill
6/25/2022	Caradoc ap Cadwgan	Knight Bachelor	Order of the Golden Chain
6/25/2022	Chiara da Milano	Knight Bachelor	Order of the Golden Maunche
6/25/2022	Daniel MacTavish	Knight Bachelor	Order of the Golden Quill
6/25/2022	Daniel MacTavish	Knight Bachelor	Order of the Golden Chain
6/25/2022	Eleanor Gardiner	Knight Bachelor	Order of the Golden Quill
6/25/2022	Friederike von Stokeford	Knight Bachelor	Order of the Golden Maunche
6/25/2022	Galen of Bristol	Knight Bachelor	Order of the Golden Maunche
6/25/2022	Galen of Bristol	Knight Bachelor	Order of the Golden Chain
6/25/2022	Giovanni Rocco	Knight Bachelor	Order of the Golden Chain
6/25/2022	Jehanne d'Avignon	Knight Bachelor	Order of the Golden Maunche
6/25/2022	Johnathon von Stokeford	Knight Bachelor	Order of the Golden Chain
6/25/2022	Melisende Bernard	Knight Bachelor	Order of the Golden Maunche
6/25/2022	Melisende Bernard	Knight Bachelor	Order of the Golden Quill
6/25/2022	Mora MacPhersone	Knight Bachelor	Order of the Golden Quill
6/25/2022	Ulla Carveson	Knight Bachelor	Order of the Golden Quill
6/25/2022	William of Gloucester	Knight Bachelor	Order of the Golden Chain
6/25/2022	Pórgrímr Haukarson	Knight Bachelor	Order of the Golden Maunche
6/25/2022	Pórgrímr Haukarson	Knight Bachelor	Order of the Golden Quill
6/25/2022	Pórgrímr Haukarson	Knight Bachelor	Order of the Golden Chain
6/26/2022	**Alexandra notte Clare	Knight Bachelor	Order of the Golden Chain
6/26/2022	**Reinhard Siebert	Knight Bachelor	Order of the Golden Chain
7/23/2022	Hafþora Kristna	Knight Bachelor	Order of the Golden Quill
7/23/2022	Hrólfur Hengestes sunu	Knight Bachelor	Order of the Golden Quill
7/23/2022	Loptr Weillardsson	Knight Bachelor	Order of the Golden Quill
7/23/2022	Ylva Hrodebertsdottir	Knight Bachelor	Order of the Golden Quill
7/23/2022	Edewart Von Dzierzgon	Knight Bachelor	Order of the Golden Maunche
7/23/2022	Susanne Le Loup Blanc	Knight Bachelor	Order of the Golden Quill

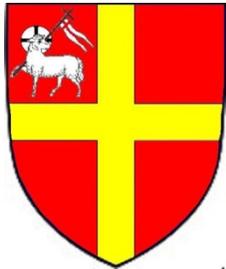
*Principal of the Order **Placed on vigil, to be knighted a later date

About the Author

Paul Mitchell has been involved in medieval re-enacting since 1979. He is a knight in four medievalist organizations, the first coming in 1987. He has founded branches, traveled, taught, learned, helped, led, and followed for over four decades. Many of his best relationships have been with people he met through this hobby.



In the Society for Creative Anachronism, he is a Viscount, Knight of the Society, Master of the Pelican, and Baron of the Court.



He is the founder of the Knights of the Pascal Lamb.

In the Company of the Lynx Argent, he has been honored as a knight bachelor.

In the Society of the Middle Ages, for whose members this pamphlet is written, he is a Knight Bachelor of the Orders of the Golden Quill, Golden Maunche, and Golden Chain, a holder of the Lion d'Or, a Companion of the Order of Vigilance, and is an active fighter (chivalric and historical), archer, herald and bard. He is the founding seneschal of the Canton of Stokeford-Upon-Trinity, and the first Bordure King of Arms (the herald in charge of ceremony and precedence). He is also a regional knight marshal.

He lives in Plano, Texas, near Dallas, with Karie, his wife of 27 years, and four of their five children. He is sixty years old. He can be reached at: sirgalen@gmail.com

Sir Galen of Bristol is an English knight of the 14th century, and the leader of Willowbourne Castle.



The author, Tulsa, OK, April, 2022.