

Overview of Coronation Event

General planning notes:

Coronation consists of at least three Courts, with various required Ceremonies. It is long and complex, with two sets of Royalty and at least one Herald needing to communicate at some length about arrangements. All too often this communication is left to the last minute, making for stress, mistakes and over-runs of time.

The Crown and their Heirs need to negotiate numerous situations to agree who will do what. While Coronation is definitely the Heirs' big event, it needs to be remembered that it is also the Crowns' last opportunity to shine. Especially when there are themed reigns, consideration and negotiation needs to be employed. While discussions should be started as quickly as possible after Crown Tourney has been won, don't fall into the trap of thinking that because you've already talked, you are all on the same page. Things will change right up to the last minute, and it's all too easy to assume everyone knows what decisions you've made, forgetting that you may have discussed it with your partner or household, but not the Crown/the Heirs.

Likewise, all too often it is left to the very last moment to discuss the day with the Herald(s). Coronation is a large, complicated theatrical production, and the Herald acts as director, producer, prompt and major cast member. A professional actor would struggle if thrown in with an hour or so notice, yet royalty frequently do this to Heralds in the SCA, for no other reason than thoughtlessness and lack of prior organisation. The Court Herald(s) should be given **at least** one week with the tailored ceremonies to practice, and it is **strongly** recommended that the Crown, the Heirs and the Court Herald(s) meet **before** the day of Coronation for final plans, and travel plans should be made accordingly. Meeting for dinner the night before Coronation is not an uncommon way of doing it.

On that note, it is the responsibility of the Crown and especially of their Heirs to ensure that their Households understand that when the Crown is consulting with the Herald(s), under no circumstances are they to be disturbed. While sorting what clothes are to be worn, who is to process, etc, are naturally foremost in the mind of the incoming Royal Household, it is incredibly difficult to organise court when constantly being interrupted, and both members of the Royal Couple need to be involved and completely focussed on the discussion with the Herald.

General Schedule

Friday night before Coronation:

- If at all possible, Crown, Heirs and the Court Herald meet to make final plans for the several Courts of the weekend, including who shall give which awards in which court.
- Herald checks Canon Law to ensure proposed awards have not been previously given to recipients.

Saturday of Coronation:

- Last Royal Court - business of the outgoing Crown (i.e. final giving of awards, etc.)
- Final Court (i.e. formal Final Court to release household, etc. May be run on from previous)
- Coronation (may run on from previous, but is only the Coronation ceremony – no other business – and it is clearly identified when the Coronation ceremony starts)

- First Court (may run on from previous, but only after making clear the coronation is completed), includes:
 - investing of County/Duchy**
 - investing of the Lady of the Rose ‡
 - investing the Champion and Lord/Lady of Lochac (if they are present).
 - presentation of the Nail †
- Peerage meetings (optional)

** Note that this is variable. The outgoing Crown may already have their Duchy, or they may not both have their County/Duchy; the New Crown may decide to invest their predecessors immediately following Coronation Court but separately from the First Court, or they may have their First Court immediately after the Coronation Ceremony, or they may wish to have a break between Coronation and First Court.

Whichever is chosen, if the outgoing Crown are to receive a County/Duchy, this should be the **first** thing the new Crown does after the Coronation Ceremony ends. Precisely when this is done should be negotiated and agreed upon by both sets of Royals beforehand.

‡ Note that this is only required when a first-time Queen steps down.

† Note that this is a tradition, and not officially required nor always honoured.

Sunday of Coronation:

- Peerage meetings
- Rapier Tourney
- Heavy Tourney
- Royal Court

Things to consider:

1. TIME:

- It is **very** easy to lose track of how long the various requirements of courts for a Coronation will take. The Coronation Ceremony alone usually takes an hour, and that does not include the time spent during the Crown's Final Court during which any number of cyphers, gifts, etc may be given with words of farewell. As a general rule, assume 5 minutes per person(s) called up. This may feel like much too much time, but this includes the time it takes people to come up, kneel, the Crown to speak to them, speak of their deeds and why they are being recognised, any personal words, and then getting up, making bows and leaving: five minutes goes very quickly.
- The Herald should draft a rough time schedule for the courts, and have a watch to keep track of how long things have been going for. If things are over-running, a discrete word to the Crown should be made to let them know. The Crown should recognise that the patience of the watching populace is limited, and act accordingly.
- The Crown may also appreciate the reassurance of being told from time to time that they are on track, timewise – this should be discussed with the Herald(s) beforehand.

2. Other Events Scheduled on the day:

- When is it proposed to serve the feast? It is not easy to keep food waiting; the Crown should respect the proposed serving times and do their utmost not to allow Court to run into those times.

- What entertainments has the Steward planned? Especially if it is something that has had considerable investment, such as a play, try not to take so much time from the day that the entertainment needs to be abandoned for lack of time.
3. Presentations:
- Keep presentations in Court to an absolute minimum, e.g. from Landed B&Bs only.
 - Presentations can be made with theatre and ceremony during the feast, the following day, etc.
 - Presentations to outgoing Royalty are harder to schedule outside of Court; if it is a presentation from a single person or household, it may be better to ask for it to be made in a private audience before Final Court (assuming there is time.)
4. Baronial Courts:
- It is very likely that the hosting Barony will request to hold a Baronial Court during the event. Royalty is well within its rights to turn down this request, especially if there is a considerable amount to be done in Royal Courts.
 - It may be preferable to hold Baronial Courts on the day after Coronation.
5. Other Business in Royal Court:
- Several people may petition to hold business in the Royal Court on the day of Coronation. It is ultimately up to the Crown to decide who may have time within their Court, but if a refusal is made, the Herald should ensure the petitioner understands they can still have a Herald call them forth with theatre and ceremony to make their announcement **outside of court**. It is also possible for such things to be held in Court the following day, or in Baronial court (if being held).

Examples are:

- Formal changeover of Kingdom Officers (this should be done in royal court)
- Announcements of winners of the Kingdom and Guild A&S competitions
- Presentations of Scrolls by the College of Scribes
- Official announcements by Kingdom Officers
- Thanks, by the Steward to those involved in running the event
- Announcements about an upcoming big event