

Opening and Closing Court

Opening Court

There is no standard formula for opening a royal court, and actual practice will vary according to the preferences of the Crown, the customs of the region, and the habits of the herald. At minimum, the opening call from the herald usually includes an oyez, some sort of instruction to pay attention, and a statement of whose court is taking place. The following examples are generally applicable, and demonstrate some of the range:

Oyez, Oyez! Gather and pay heed to the court of Their Majesties, [Name] and [Name], [Title] and [Title] of Lochac!

Oyez, Oyez! All rise for the court of Their Majesties, [Name] and [Name]!

Oyez, Oyez, my lords, my ladies, good gentles all! Gather and attend for the court of Their Majesties, [Title] [Name] and [Title] [Name], undoubted Crown of Lochac!

After the Crown is seated, quietly ask their permission for the populace to make themselves comfortable, then announce:

You have Their Majesties' leave to make yourselves comfortable.

If necessary, add an instruction for the populace to draw nigh.

Closing Court

The closing of a royal court is very consistent, with the exception of the final cheer. Its purpose is to acknowledge those not named in the ‘long live’ cheers, and it can be varied according to the customs of the area and the preference of the herald. One example is given below.

After quietly checking with the Crown that there is no further business:

There being no further business, all rise if able!

Populace rises.

Long live the [Sovereign Title]!*

Long live the [Consort Title]!*

(If there are Heirs:)

Long live the Heirs!

For the Baronages, Peers, and populace of Lochac,
(Hip hip, etc.)

Court is ended!

Note: If the Sovereign and Consort use the same title, they may prefer for these cheers to be announced together (e.g. “Long live the Kings!”), as was the practice in the reign of Ariston and Jochen, or for them to be cheered with their title and first name (e.g. “Long live King [Name]!”), as was the practice in the reign of Thibault and Jayne.

Consort's Champion



Token: Personal token from the Consort.

Herald: Though [*Sovereign Title*] [*Name*] was inspired to victory as the champion of [*Consort Title*] [*Name*], while [*he/she*] serves as Sovereign, it is not right that [*he/she*] should take the field of combat for the honour of any save the Kingdom. For that reason, [*Consort Title*] [*Name*] has need of another to stand as [*his/her*] Champion.

Consort: [*Name*], will you do me that honour?

Recipient: I will.

Herald: [*Name*], do you hereby swear, before the Crown and the Kingdom, to protect and defend your [*King/Queen*], in all ways that are in your power, to come to [*his/her*] aid whenever [*he/she*] has need, to defend [*his/her*] reputation as well as [*his/her*] person, to bring honour to [*his/her*] name by your actions, and to do nothing that would dishonour or displease [*him/her*]?

Recipient: I do so swear.

Consort: (*Personal words as they see fit, and bestowal of token.*)

Herald: Know all that [*His/Her*] Majesty, [*Title*] [*Name*], has this day made [*Name*] her Champion! (*Hip hip, etc.*)

Fealty Renewal: Baronages



Herald: Let those landed Baronages who have not yet sworn fealty come forward and kneel before their Majesties.

The Landed Barons and Baronesses kneel before the Crown.

Herald: Before [Name] and [Name], your undoubted [Title] and [Title], do you swear fealty to the Crown and Kingdom of Lochac, and do you swear that you will uphold their Majesties' honour, obey their lawful commands, hold and administer their Barony, support all your people in their various endeavours, bring all good works to the notice of their Majesties, and, mindful that the harmony of your Barony springs from your deeds, treat all persons with courtesy, whatever their degree or station, until the Crown depart their Throne, or death take you, or the world end?

Baronages: I do so swear.

Crown: And We for Our part swear fealty to you, Our Barons and Baronesses, and swear to support, protect and defend you and your Baronies with all Our power, until We depart Our Throne, or death take Us, or the world end.

So say We, Lochac.

Rise, and join our Court.

Baronages return to their thrones.

Fealty Renewal: Officers



Herald: Let those Greater Officers of State who have not yet sworn fealty come before Their Majesties.

The Greater Officers kneel before the Crown.

Herald: Before [Name] and [Name], your undoubted [Title] and [Title], do you swear fealty to the Crown and Kingdom of Lochac, and do you swear that you will uphold their Majesties' honour, obey their lawful commands in all matters that concern the Kingdom, faithfully discharge your Offices, and mindful that the harmony of the Kingdom springs from your deeds, treat all persons with courtesy, whatever their degree or station, until the Crown depart their Throne, death take you, or the world end?

Officers: I do so swear.

Crown: And We for Our part swear fealty to you, Our Officers, and to those who serve with you, and swear to protect and defend you with all Our power, until We depart our Throne, or death take Us, or the world end.

So say We, Lochac.

You have our leave to depart.

Officers depart.

Fealty Renewal: Peers



Herald: Let the Peers of Lochac who have not yet sworn fealty and wish to do so come before their Majesties.

Peers come forward.

Herald: Before [Name] and [Name], your undoubted [Title] and [Title], do you swear fealty to the Crown and Kingdom of Lochac, and do you swear that you will uphold their Majesties' honour, obey their lawful commands in all matters that concern the Kingdom, and mindful that the harmony of the Kingdom springs from your deeds, treat all persons with courtesy, whatever their degree or station, until the Crown depart their Throne, death take you, or the world end?

Peers: I do so swear.

Crown: And We for Our part swear fealty to you, to protect and defend you and your households with all Our power, until We depart our Throne, or death take Us, or the world end.

So say We, Lochac.

You have Our leave to depart.

Martial Peers salute the Crown with their preferred weapons, and all Peers depart.

Invitation to Peerage



Preparation: It is best not to surprise a candidate with a public invitation unless you are very confident they will respond well. If the offer has not been made privately first, consult with their teacher or a member of their household to confirm their preferences.

Herald: Let the members of the Order of [*Order Name*] attend their Majesties!

Order comes forward.

Crown: Your Order is mighty, but we feel that it should grow, and on consultation, we find you are in agreement.

If Candidate was not summoned at the beginning, summon them here.

Crown: (*Such personal words as they see fit.*)

Herald: [*Name*], there is no doubt that you are worthy to join the Order of [*Order Name*], but to be a Peer of the realm is a weighty duty, and to refuse it is no dishonour. Would you prefer time to consider this offer?

Candidate responds with their preference.

(If the Candidate says yes:)

Crown: Then we place you on vigil until such time as we may elevate you to your new station.

Herald: For the newest vigilant of the Order of [*Order Name*],
(*Hip hip, etc*).

(If the Candidate asks to consider:)

Crown: Then go, and consider this offer until such time as you are ready to give us your answer.

Herald: For the newest invitee to the Order of [*Order Name*],
(*Hip hip, etc*).

(If the Candidate says no:)

Crown: We thank you for your honesty, and bid all know that though your station will not change, you are no lesser in our eyes than any member of the [*Order Name*].

Herald: For the deeds of [*Name*], (*Hip hip, etc*).

Kingdom Officer Changeover



(If Outgoing Officer is present:)

Herald: Let the outgoing and incoming [*Title of Office*] come before their Majesties.

Officers come forward.

Herald: [*Name*], you have served Us well as Our [*Title of Office*], but the time has come for Us to release you from your duties. Have you found a worthy successor?

Outgoing: I have.

Herald: Then we ask you to surrender your regalia and badges of Office. We thank you for your service, and release you from your duties.

Outgoing Officer gives any regalia to the Crown, and departs.

(If Outgoing Officer is not present:)

Herald: [*Outgoing Officer*] has served the Kingdom well as Our [*Title of Office*], but the time has come to release them from their duties. Let the successor to this office come forward.

Incoming Officer comes forward.

Herald: [*Name*], have you been instructed in all the duties of [*Office*]?

Incoming: I have.

Herald: And is it your will to take on this Office?

Incoming: It is.

(If a Greater Officer - Seneschal, Crux Australis, Earl Marshal, A&S Minister, Exchequer, Chronicler, Chirurgeon, or Constable:)

Herald: And as [*Title of Office*], will you swear fealty to the Crown and Kingdom of Lochac?

Incoming: I will.

Herald: Before [*Name*] and [*Name*], your undoubted [*Title*] and [*Title*], do you swear fealty to the Crown and Kingdom of Lochac, and do you swear that you will uphold their Majesties' honour, obey their lawful commands in all matters that concern the Kingdom, faithfully discharge your Office, keeping good account of your deputies and subordinates, and mindful that the harmony of the Kingdom springs from your deeds, treat all persons with courtesy, whatever their degree or station, until the Crown depart their Throne, death take you, or the world end?

Incoming: I do so swear.

Crown: And We for Our part do swear fealty to you, our [*Title of Office*], and to those who serve with you, and do swear to protect and defend you with all Our power, until We depart Our Throne, or death take Us, or the world end.

So say We, Lochac.

Herald: Then let the office pass.

Crown bestows any regalia on the Incoming Officer.

Herald: For [*Name*] and [*Name*], outgoing and incoming [*Title of Office*], three cheers! (*Hip hip, etc.*)

Royal Household

Token:	Determined by the Crown.
--------	--------------------------

Herald: It is right and proper that those who bear the Crown have others to support them, assist them, and advise them. Thus, it is our custom for each Crown to form a Royal Household of those who aid and defend them, and it is right that those who serve in this household should be known to all.

Crown: *(Personal words as they see fit, and bestowal of any tokens.)*

Herald: For the new members of the Royal Household, three cheers!
(Hip hip, etc.)