

Coronation Ceremony: Options

The traditional Lochac coronation ceremony is rarely substantially altered, but there are still a number of choices to make between common variations. These should be discussed between the Incoming and Outgoing Crowns in advance, and the Court Herald informed before the event of what decisions were made.

If larger changes to the Coronation ceremony are desired, the Incoming and Outgoing Crowns should discuss this with Crux and/or Bombarde, so that they can help make sure all requirements are still met.

Crowns

The traditional silver crowns of Lochac are usual for coronation, but if there is a strong preference for the early-period-style alternate crowns, and the Incoming and Outgoing Crowns are in agreement, these can be used instead.

Robes of State

The Robes of State are an optional item of regalia, and may be omitted if preferred (e.g. due to weather considerations). If they are present, either the Incoming or Outgoing Crown can choose to have them held by attendants rather than worn.

Fealty to the Kingdom

When the Incoming Crown swear fealty to the Kingdom, they generally each place their hands over the hands of the person in front of them (sovereign to sovereign, consort to consort). If they prefer to emphasise that they, as a pair, are accepting a duty passed on from the previous Crown, as a pair, they may each place one hand over the hands of the Outgoing Sovereign, and one hand over the hands of the Outgoing Consort.

The Incoming Crown may choose to swear their fealty to the Kingdom in unison, or one at a time. Note that if they are being prompted by the herald, it is generally in the interests of time for them to recite the oath in unison, though they may still say the final “So say I, [Name]” one at a time.

Crowning of the Incoming Consort

The Incoming Consort may be crowned by the Outgoing Consort, or the Outgoing Consort may give the crown to the Incoming Sovereign.

The former emphasises the Crown as an equal pair. The latter emphasises that the Consort has gained the throne through the Sovereign, which may be a reminder of our chivalric traditions, or simply personally meaningful.

As the main place where the words of the ceremony may be different, this decision is especially important to communicate to all involved.

Optional Inclusions

At times in the past, coronation ceremonies have sometimes included a Cupbearer offering a form of toast after the departure of the Outgoing Crowns, and/or members of the general populace being invited to do homage to the new Crown after all fealties have been sworn.

These are now unusual, but scripts for them are included below.

End of Ceremony

As the coronation ceremony is very long, it is generally a court to itself.

However, it is sometimes followed directly by the County/Duchy ceremonies of the Outgoing Crown before the court ends. This can emphasise that the Royal Peerage is part of the end of their reign, and it fully releases the Outgoing Crown from court duties for the remainder of the event.

Having the Royal Peerage ceremonies in the next court allows the Outgoing Crown to get changed if they prefer, and gives them their moment in focus when the populace is fresh and better able to appreciate it.

The Cupbearer

Immediately after the departure of the Outgoing Crown, the Cupbearer comes forward holding cup/s and offers them to the new Crown.

Cupbearer: Your Majesties, accept these cups in token of the hopes of your Kingdom, that you will drink deep of happiness in your reign.

The Crown should accept with thanks and drink from the cup(s), then hand them back to the Cupbearer, who then departs.

Homage

After all Peers have sworn fealty:

Herald: Would all those subjects of the Kingdom of Lochac who wish to do homage to their Majesties come forward and kneel before them.

Subjects come forward and kneel before the Crown.

Herald: Do you now promise to honour [Name] and [Name], your undoubted [Title] and [Title], to support them in any way that is within your power, and to obey such lawful commands as they shall give?

Subjects agree.

Crown: We do hear and accept the homage of these our subjects, and We affirm what We have sworn before, that We will protect and defend them with all Our power, for as long as We may reign.

So say We, Lochac.

Subjects depart.