

Coronation Ceremony: Participants

Lochac's traditional Coronation Ceremony involves many participants, and many significant items. This document provides a guide to the people who have a role to play, and what they may need to do to make sure they are prepared.

Court Herald

The Court Herald for Coronation should ensure that they know what variations within the ceremony are being used, and that all people listed below are aware of and prepared for their roles. They should also discuss preferences for prompting with the Outgoing and Incoming Crowns.

As the most senior herald of Lochac, Crux Australis Herald is traditionally considered the most appropriate person to conduct the ceremony if they are available and willing. However, not all those who serve as Crux Australis specialise in court heraldry, and it is not remarkable for another herald to be asked instead.

Crux Australis

Crux Australis will be called forward to present the Book of Ceremonies as a symbol of their office. While doing so, they say the scripted line: *"Your Majesties, I deliver into Your hands the Book of Ceremonies of the Kingdom, symbol of the word and majesty of the Crown."* Note that the Book of Ceremonies is often represented by an ornate leather slipcover with the arms of Lochac on the front, and this slipcover may or may not contain an actual ceremony book. If Crux Australis is unable to attend the event, they should send a deputy officer to speak on their behalf.

They will also need to swear fealty with the other Greater Officers of State, or send a letter of fealty (see below).

If Crux Australis is serving as the court herald for the ceremony, they will need to make sure there is an alternate court herald for these two sections.

Outgoing Crown and their Attendants

The Outgoing Crown are, of course, completely essential to the ceremony, but they are only involved until the Heirs are crowned. The key things they do are:

- Summon the Earl Marshal and agree to honour the Heirs' claim to the throne;
- Make one longer speech each asking the Heirs individually if they are willing to take up their new station;
- Hold the Sword of State while the Heirs swear fealty to the Kingdom;
- Remove the Robes of State (if worn) so the Heirs can put them on after being crowned, and hand them to a pair of attendants;
- Crown the Heirs while saying scripted words;
- Bow and kneel to acknowledge the new Crown;
- Process out with any retinue once they are dismissed.

To prepare for their scripted words, the Outgoing Crown should consult with the Court Herald about their preferences for prompting. The Outgoing Crown should discuss with the Incoming Crown whether the Robes of State will be worn, held by attendants, or absent. If the Incoming Crown strongly prefers to be crowned with the early-period-style alternative crowns, this should be discussed with the Outgoing Crown so they can be worn during the ceremony.

The Outgoing Crown should also plan with their retinue how they will depart court once they are dismissed. If they wish, they can display personal banners at any point from the moment their successors are crowned, as in this moment they give up the arms of Lochac and resume their personal arms.

Incoming Crown

The Incoming Crown are responsible for deciding which variations within the coronation ceremony are being used (in consultation with the Outgoing Crown and their court herald), and are of course the focus of the ceremony itself. (See *Coronation Ceremony: Options*.)

The key things they do in the ceremony are:

- Process into court with any attendants, wearing the Principality Coronets;
- Agree to become Crown and remove their coronets, passing them to attendants;
- Swear fealty to the Kingdom on the Sword of State;
- The Heir by Right of Arms may crown the Heir by Inspiration, if preferred;
- Rise when crowned and don the Robes of State (if being used);
- Thank and dismiss the Outgoing Crown with scripted words;
- Accept their symbols of office with scripted words of thanks;
- Accept and return the fealty of Landed Baronages, Greater Officers of State, and Peers of Lochac.

To prepare for their scripted words, the Incoming Crown should consult with the Court Herald about their preferences for prompting.

Incoming Crown's Attendants

The Incoming Crown will need one or two attendants each during the ceremony, but are often accompanied by a larger retinue when they process into court. This retinue must be prepared to peel off and move to the edges of the room or court space once they reach the Royal Presence, so that space is clear for the populace to witness and for groups that are called forward to swear fealty. If any of the retinue are carrying personal banners of the Incoming Crown, these should be furled or lowered at the moment they are crowned, as a sign that they have set aside their personal arms to take up the arms of Lochac.

The attendants who remain with the Incoming Crown have two duties. One attendant each should accept the Principality Coronets when they are removed, and should hold those coronets respectfully (flat on their hands) until the Incoming Crown take their throne. The other attendants should assist the Incoming Crown with putting on the Robes of State, or should accept the Robes of State and hold them on the Incoming Crown's behalf, if those Robes of State are being used. When the Incoming Crown take the throne, all attendants should move behind the thrones, and can discreetly put down the coronets and robes.

Earl Marshal

The Earl Marshal is involved at several moments in the coronation ceremony. If they are unable to attend the event, they should give careful thought to who will represent them. This representative should ideally have personally witnessed Crown Tourney, and may be a deputy Marshal, the marshal of Crown Tourney, a Royal Peer who has been Sovereign, or a senior member of the Order of Chivalry.

The Earl Marshal (or representative) is first summoned to confirm that the Crown Tournament was conducted appropriately. They should carry the Sword of State when they come forward, and say "*Yes, Your Majesties*" when the Crown asks them about the tourney. When they are dismissed, they should then go to stand behind the thrones, rather than returning to the populace.

The second duty of the Earl Marshal in the ceremony is to present the Sword of State to the Crown when it is needed for fealty oaths, and accept it back when the oaths are complete. There are no spoken words from the Earl Marshal in this section.

The third duty of the Earl Marshal in the ceremony is to present the new Crown with the Sword of State. They will be called forward to do so, and then say the scripted line: "*Your Majesties, I deliver into Your hands the Great Sword of State, symbol of Your power of arms.*" When dismissed, they can return to the populace, or to stand behind the thrones again.

The final duty of the Earl Marshal in the ceremony is to swear fealty along with the other Greater Officers of State. If the Earl Marshal is not personally in attendance, they should send a letter of fealty in their stead. (See *Other Greater Officers of State* below.)

Kingdom Seneschal

The Kingdom Seneschal will be called forward to present the Great Book of Law as a symbol of their office. While doing so, they say the scripted line: *“Your Majesties, I deliver into Your hands the Great Book of Law of the Kingdom, symbol of Your power of justice and law.”* If they are unable to attend the event, they should send a deputy officer to speak on their behalf.

They will also need to swear fealty with the other Greater Officers of State, or send a letter of fealty (see below).

Other Greater Officers of State

Minister of Arts and Sciences, Chancellor of the Exchequer,
Chronicler, Chirurgeon, and Constable

The Greater Officers of State are required to swear their fealty at Coronation. If in attendance, they simply come forward when called, and say *“I do so swear”* when appropriately prompted. If they are unable to attend the event, they should make sure a physical letter of fealty from them is presented by another Greater Officer or a representative. (If the representative is not a Greater Officer, they simply present the letter and step back; they do not swear fealty.)

The wording of this letter is not formally determined, but a written form of the oath sworn in the ceremony is:

To [Name] and [Name], undoubted [Title] and [Title], I hereby swear fealty to the Crown and Kingdom of Lochac.

I swear that I will uphold their Majesties’ honour, obey their lawful commands in all matters that concern the Kingdom, faithfully discharge my Office, and mindful that the harmony of the Kingdom springs from my deeds, treat all persons with courtesy, whatever their degree or station, until the Crown depart their Throne, death take me, or the world end.

So say I, [Name], [Office].

Landed Baronages

The Landed Baronages are required to swear their fealty at Coronation, if present, or to send a physical letter or scroll of fealty to be presented by a representative if they will be absent. (If the representative is not another Landed Baron or Baroness, they simply present the letter and step back; they do not swear fealty.)

The wording of the letter is not formally determined, but a written form of the oath sworn in the ceremony is:

To [Name] and [Name], undoubted [Title] and [Title], we hereby swear fealty to the Crown and Kingdom of Lochac.

We swear that we will uphold their Majesties' honour, obey their lawful commands, hold and administer their Barony, support all our people in their various endeavours, bring all good works to the notice of their Majesties, and, mindful that the harmony of our Barony springs from our deeds, treat all persons with courtesy, whatever their degree or station, until the Crown depart their Throne, or death takes us, or the world end.

So say we, [Name] and [Name], [Title] and [Title] of [Barony].