

INTERIM RULING

re: Field Coronations

Friday, May 3, 2002

Unto Their Imperial Majesties,

Your servant, Sir William, sends greetings and offers this Interim Ruling in answer to Your subject Your subject, Dame Aislynne de Chartier:

". . . based on Aragonian precedence, Field Coronations are not permissible." and, "Per the bylaws, the Heirs Apparent have the right to determine the time and location of their Coronation. Umbrian precedence shows Field Coronations for the last two reigns, the most recent of which was our current Crowns TRM Phillippe and Justina, two weeks before the required end of the Reign of James the Red. There are no laws in Umbria that dictate a timeframe for Coronation, nor that preclude Field Coronations."

Interim Ruling:

No, the Aragon precedent is that, 1. in compliance with Article VI.F.b.i., Royal Crowns are authorized to interpret law locally unless it conflicts with Imperial Interpretation; and, 2. the interpretation of Aragon's Crown was that his reign could not be terminated early without His consent. HRM Gwyllum, after consulting with his Chancellor, the Imperial Chancery, and the Imperial Crowns, determined that while the reign may not exceed one year (Article XIV.B.) nor could it be shorter without His consent unless He was removed by the Estates (Article VI.F.4.c.ii.) or Civil War (Article XV.B.). His decision was to compromise with His successors stepping aside a month early but giving Himself and His officers time to finish their business.

Interestingly, since Aragon had no precedent, HRM Philippe of Umbria was consulted in reaching the decision in Aragon. Last year, HRM James' reign ended at about the time of the War and He notified the contenders that they had to be ready to take the throne then. It was HRM Philippe understanding that Field Coronation required Crown permission.

The Imperial Chancery also notes the following: Article V.B., Crown sanction required for official event; Article V.A.and B., only Crown may waive notice requirement (exception, see Article XV.A.and B.1. Civil War no notice requirement for populace); Article IX.D.3.b.and c. titles of Prince and Princess for Heirs Apparent; in Article XIV.E.4., Imperial practice of Crown War in September and Coronation in November, also in E. Coronation timetables are to be set by the Imperial Estates, Kingdoms and other chartered subdivisions and be made known throughout the subdivision and the Empire.

From discussion with past Chancellors, one explanation of why Article XVI.C. states that the Heirs Apparent proclaim the date and location, is that it serves to remind all involved that it is the successors' day --their celebration not that of the outgoing sovereigns. But that proclamation is not made in a vacuum--other law indicates that it is a joint decision. The Crown and successors may agree to "anything." But the Crown cannot be forced out early except as provided in law.

Field coronations are not prohibited--they require Crown consent. Each chartered subdivision is required to set its coronation timetable in law, not doing so has created this controversy. If the Kingdom Estates fail to establish their own law, the Crown right to interpret local law is likely to produce decisions consistent with Crown preference. Perhaps, the Imperial Estates needs to address this issue to adopt consistent law throughout the Empire.

In Service,

Sir William Baine, Chancellor, Adria

5/3/02