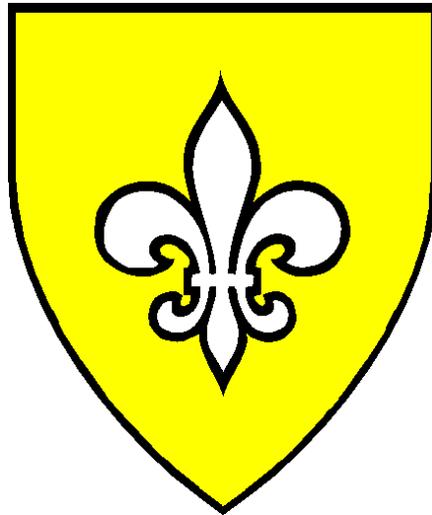


The Adrian Empire, Inc.

CEREMONIES and OATHS of the Adrian Empire



as compiled by the Church of Adria

September 2002

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Anyone is welcome to point out any error or omission that they may find.

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PREFACE

The documents you hold in your hands have taken much time and research to compile. This was not the work of one person but rather of several individuals. This document is and will always be a living document. As subdivisions grow and new groups are added there will be additions to add. This document shall be updated on a yearly basis to keep astride of such things. Hopefully this document helps to illustrate the diversity of cultures as seen through the variety of ceremonies that exist within the Adrian Empire.

If you have comments or additions you feel need to be made please contact us. The Church of Adria sees its responsibility of holding all these items in a trust for all of Adria as a firm and solemn commitment.

Respectfully,
Frere Auberon Dela'Reve
Scribe of the Church of Adria
Penned the 24th of April 2002

I. BLESSINGS

Within Adria, there is no real-life religion. However, the Church of Adria was formed to provide the ambiance, pomp and circumstance that was so prevalent in the Middle Ages. To that end, many times the Church of Adria will participate in the ceremonies of Adria.

A. REAL-LIFE RELIGION

Real-life religion does not normally play a part in the ceremonies of Adria. The exception to this is a knighting ceremony. This is considered to be a personal ceremony, to be performed according to the wishes of the knight combatant.

If there is to be any sort of real-life religious content, the populace must be informed, and given the opportunity to withdraw (without dishonor, embarrassment or forfeiture of any kind). Content shall include such things as:

- Prayers
- Blessings

There are no real-life religious ceremonies or gatherings in Adria. If there is an overnight event, and someone wishes to get together for a ceremony, they shall withdraw as much as possible from the event site. At no time shall they disturb the event, or the attendees.

B. SIGN OF THE FLEUR-DI-LIS

In the Middle Ages, as well as today, the sign of the cross is often made in a blessing or benediction. In Adria, we acknowledge that this is an important symbol and part of the blessing, but to remove its real-life connotations, we use a fleur-di-lis instead of a cross.

After making the sign of the fleur-di-lis, repeat one of these phrases (or one like it) to complete the benediction:

- **En nomine Adriae non sanctum** (in the name of Adria non-sacred)
- **En nomine iglesiae, populi et senati Adriae** (in the name of the church, people and estates of Adria)

C. **SAMPLE COMBATANT BLESSING (ANDORRA)**

Suggested time and location: Immediately after the sword oath.

Items to have available:

- Sword

People who may be present:

- Cleric
- Combatants

Cleric (to the populace): **Some of our combatants have expressed a desire to be blessed before their combat. This blessing shall not have any real-life connotations, but if anyone here is uncomfortable, let them withdraw in honor and courtesy for the few moments it will take to complete this ceremony.**

The Blessing: **May each person gathered here today upon this field compete with honor and chivalry with the utmost respect for all whom are present. Regardless of win or a loss may you each exemplify all that is of the chivalric ideal, and serve as shining examples for all that are present. May your arms be strong, and your minds sharp. May your feet be swift, and your blows true. Let your shield parry the blows that others shall hurl at you. Go forth with honor, courage, and virtue. Compete with dignity and to the utmost of your ability. Let no one say that you fought less then ye are able. May you be kept safe from injury and enjoy the fruits and labors of this day to their fullest. (The cleric shall kiss the sword and make the sign of the fleur-di-lis with benediction.)**

II. MINISTER'S OATHS

What follows are the oaths used in various parts of the Adrian Empire oaths of office.

A. **SWORD OATH (MARSHAL'S MANUAL)**

All combatants are brought together and asked to kneel. The Marshal shall hold a sword parallel to the ground with two hands. The combatants will touch the sword (or someone who is touching the sword) and repeat the Sword Oath.

Mandatory time and location: Before combat begins, all combatants are required to swear this oath.

Items to have available:

- Sword

People who must be present:

- Marshal (or other officiator)
- All combatants

Marshal (to the combatants): **Here do I swear by mouth and hand to conduct myself with honor and chivalry, to acknowledge all blows fairly given and received, to heed the words of the marshals and obey the rules of the lists.**

Combatants shall repeat the oath.

B. MARSHAL'S OATH (MARSHAL'S MANUAL)

The sword oath makes sure the combatants understand this, the marshals also need to be aware of their duties and responsibilities. No marshal will be allowed on the field until they have been have taken the marshal's oath.

Suggested time and location: Before combat begins. Since many marshals are also combatants, it is most convenient to swear one oath right after the other.

Items to have available:

- Sword

People who must be present:

- Marshal (or other officiator)
- All field marshals

Crown Marshal (to the field marshals): **Here do I swear by mouth and hand to conduct myself with honor and chivalry, to fairly and impartially call all blows, to enforce the rules of the lists, and to hold safety above all else.**

Field Marshals: shall repeat the oath.

C. ARCHER'S OATH

All archers are brought together and asked to kneel. The Range Master shall hold a bow parallel to the ground with two hands. The combatants will touch the bow (or someone who is touching the bow) and repeat the Archer's Oath.

Mandatory time and location: Before archery begins, all archers are required to swear this oath.

Items to have available:

- Bow

People who must be present:

- Range Master (or other officiator)
- All archers

Range Master (to the archers): **Here do I swear, by mouth and hand, to accept all blows fairly given and received, to obey the rules of the Range, to heed the words of the Range Marshal, and to conduct myself with honor and chivalry.**

Combatants shall repeat the oath.

D. RANGE MASTER'S OATH

As the archer affirm their intent to play honorably, so too do the Range Masters.

Mandatory time and location: Immediately after the archer's oath is administered.

Items to have available:

- Bow

People who must be present:

- Range Master (or other officiator)

Range Master (to the archers): **Here do I swear by mouth and hand to conduct myself with honor and chivalry, to fairly and impartially call all shots, to enforce the rules of the lists, and to hold safety above all else.**

E. ARTISAN'S OATH (ARTS AND SCIENCES MANUAL)

The artisan's oath affirms the commitment that the artisan makes when they enter the arts tournaments. While it is assumed that the artisan will honor the judges' commitment and will accept all comments in a chivalrous manner, it is good to affirm this from the beginning of the judging process.

Suggested time and location: As the artisan signs onto the list.

Items to have available:

- None

People who must be present:

- List Mistress (or other officiator)
- Artisan

List Mistress (to the artisan): **Here do I swear, by mouth and hand, to be an honorable and chivalrous competitor, to assume that those who judge my entry act in good faith and honor, and that I have executed this entry myself, and documented where I have not. So say I, (insert name).**

Artisan: shall repeat the oath.

F. JUDGES' OATH (ARTS AND SCIENCES MANUAL)

The artisan's oath makes sure the artisan understands the commitment that the judges make, but the judges need also to be aware of their duties and responsibilities. No arts judge should be allowed to judge until they have reaffirmed their commitment to the judging process.

Suggested time and location: As the list mistress assembles the arts judges.

Items to have available:

- None

People who must be present:

- List Mistress (or other officiator)
- Arts judges

Judges: **Here do I swear, by mouth and hand, to fairly and impartially judge all entries placed before me; to be constructive in my criticism, instructive in my comments, and freely praise all areas of excellence I may find. So say I, (insert name).**

G. GENERAL NEW MINISTER'S INDUCTION

The cabinet is usually sworn in at the coronation of a Crown. In those cases where a minister is sworn in at some other time, they need to swear an oath that they will do their job properly, etc. What follows is a very formal ceremony for inducting a minister. It can be much less formal, but should include the basics:

- Affirmation of their qualifications
- Minister's pledge that they will abide by the laws of Adria and do their job to the best of their ability
- Crown's pledge that they will train, support, and guide the minister in the completion of their duties

Suggested time and location: At audience, after Court.

Items to have available:

- Sword of State

People who must be present:

- Herald (or other officiator)
- Crown (or representative)
- Minister candidate
- Steward (or proxy)
- Chancellor (or proxy)
- Minister of Rolls (or proxy)

Herald (to the populace): **Every member within the Adrian Empire is eligible for office and advancement, subject to the requirements for such office or such advancement. Today, we are inducting a Minister of (title).**

Herald calls upon the new minister to come forward.

Crown (to the new minister): **Do you still wish to assume the responsibilities of the Minister of (title)?**

New Minister: must answer **YES** or the ceremony shall end at this point

Crown (to the new minister): **As required in the bylaws of the Adrian Empire, all ministers serve at the pleasure of the Crown and are responsible DIRECTLY to the Crown for the execution of their duties. All ministers shall submit regular reports to their senior counterparts and carry out the duties and responsibilities of the ministries, which they head. Are you prepared to do so?**

New Minister: must answer **YES** or the ceremony shall end at this point

Crown (to the Steward): **All ministers shall hold a participating or family membership and shall maintain such membership for the duration of their appointment. Is the membership of this individual currently up to date and have been good, fair, and just standing members of this kingdom (duchy or shire), as set forth in the Adrian Empire Bylaws?**

Steward: must answer **YES** or the ceremony shall end at this point

Crown (to the Chancellor): **A minister must not be barred from holding their office. Does this minister have any impediments to his holding this office?**

Chancellor: must answer **YES** or the ceremony shall end at this point

Crown (to the Minister of Rolls): **Does this minister have the rank and qualifications sufficient to the office?**

Minister of Rolls: should answer **YES**, or should affirm that the qualifications have been waived because there is no other member of suitable qualifications interested in holding the office.

The new minister kneels. The Herald removes the sword of state, holding it parallel to the ground. The minister touches the sword with his hands under the sword. The Crown also touches the sword (hands on top).

Minister: **Here do I swear by mouth and hand to serve as the Minister of <title>:
To uphold the bylaws, writs and codicils of the Adrian Empire and <chartered subdivision>:
To be a fair and loyal ministrator to the members of <chartered subdivision>:
To carry out my duties and responsibilities to the best of my abilities:
And to make myself available to the Crown and populace of <chartered subdivision>:
So say I <name of house lord>**

Crown: For our part, here do we swear by mouth and hand to acknowledge you as Minbister of <title>;
To uphold the bylaws, writs and codicils of the Adrian Empire and <chartered subdivision>;
To aid you in your duties and responsibilities to the best of my abilities:
And to make myself available to the Crown and populace of <chartered subdivision>;
So say We <name, ranks, titles>,
Crown of <name of Chartered Subdivision>.

H. SOME OPTIONS

In the above ceremony, the members seal their oath by swearing upon a sword. Other options include:

- Holding the hand of the Crown, and kissing their ring
- The Crown kissing each cheek of the minister
- Using a book (or other appropriate symbol of the office) instead of a sword

I. SAMPLE MINISTER'S OATH (ANDORRA)

Crown: Having the duly-appointed right by virtue of the Crown We wear, We call forth <name> whom We have appointed shall from this moment on be Our Minister of <title> for as long as they fulfill the obligations to the position and the Crown.

Crown (to the minister): Do you <name> solemnly swear to uphold the position for which you are appointed?

Know this is both an honor and a privilege. If you agree repeat after me:

I do now solemnly swear, by mouth and hand to support the Crown of Andorra:

To put truth and honor first in upholding the position of <ministry>:

To give good counsel, to promote the good of the Crown and the populace of my subdivision:

I swear to uphold the Bylaws of the Empire:

Always striving for excellence in all that I do, and to be a shining example for all to see:

I <name> do now swear this in front of the populace, and the Crown for all to witness.

Minister: shall repeat the oath.

Herald (to the minister): **By agreement with the Crown, you have this day accepted the position of Minister of <title>. A warrant is usually given to the new minister at this point.**

J. SAMPLE MINISTER'S OATH (ESPERANCE)

Minister: Here do I swear, by mouth and hand, to support the Crown of Esperance:

To put truth and honor first in upholding the position of <title>

And promoting the good of my Kingdom, the Crown, and the populace of Esperance:

To uphold the bylaws of the Adrian Empire and strive for excellence in all I do

And to help others to enjoy the game more.

Here do I swear, So say I <name>

III. OATHS OF ALLEGIANCE AND FEALTY

What follows are the ceremonies used in various parts of the Adrian Empire for officially recognizing the creation of Households, Baronies, Counties, Marches and Cantons. When a ceremony is particular to a specific subdivision it will be noted as such.

A. SQUIRING

This ceremony is written for when a knight takes a squire.

Suggested time and location: During the Audience after Opening Court

Items to have available:

- Sword
- Red belt (the symbol of a squire)

People who must be present:

- Herald (optional, the knight may preside over the ceremony)
- Knight
- Squire candidate

The **squire** shall answer each of these questions with the phrase “**I so swear**”.

Herald (to the squire): **Do you swear that it is your intent to become a Knight?**

Will you dedicate yourself to the quest of becoming a Knight, and to improve yourself physically, mentally, and spiritually in order to achieve this quest?

Will you be your Knight’s liege, accepting instruction with joy, praise with humility, correction with grace?

Will you honor your Knight’s oath of chivalry by upholding the Bylaws and serving the Empire?

Optional: **Will you honor the one whose favor your Knight bears and who speaks with his voice?**

Optional: **Will you serve your Knight’s household and always strive to be a credit to it?**

Will you uphold this Oath until the world’s end, or you both mutually agree to release you from your vow, or until you attain your own estate as a Knight?

Knight (to the squire): **For my part, I do promise and swear that I will guide my squire on his quest to become a knight, teaching her what I can and finding others to teach what I cannot:**

I will be my squire's liege lord and provide for her maintenance:

I will offer praise often and correction when necessary, but I will always be her advocate before others:

I will remember my squire is in my service but she is not my servant:

All these things I swear to do, upon my honour as a Knight, until the world’s end, or we both mutually agree to release my squire from her vow, or she attains her own estate as a Knight.

Knight (to the squire as he places a red belt around his waist): **It is customary for a squire to wear a red belt. It is not a badge of rank. It is a visible symbol of the quest you have undertaken. By this belt, let all men know that you are my squire. <insert the lineage of the knight, whom he/she squired under and so on> This is your lineage; honour and respect it.**

(to the populace): **Whosoever deals with my squire, deals with me. I will defend my squire's honour as vigorously as I defend my own. My lords and ladies, I present to you my squire, <name>!**

B. TRADITIONS

Red Belt: The red belt is the universal Adrian symbol of a squire.

Squire Hug: A traditional way to “close” the ceremony. All the squires present run forward and group-hug the new squire, thus welcoming him into the fellowship. This hug can sometimes get a little rowdy, so clearing the area is a good idea. If the squire does not wish such a boisterous welcome, the knight should inform the populace.

C. SAMPLE SQUIRES OATH (ESPERANCE)

Squire: Here do I swear, by mouth and hand, to be your man, to come and go, do and say as you shall command, until we break this bond, death takes me, the world ends, or I shall attain my Knighthood. So say I <name>.

Knight: For our part, we do swear to give you our support, in goods and wisdom, to give you our protection, to be a lamp of chivalry unto you, to support your causes as our own, and to be a worthy liege lord until we break this bond, or death takes me, the world ends, or you shall come into your estate. So say I, <name>.

D. SAMPLE DOMAIN FORMATION (ESPERANCE)

NOTE: The formation of a domain is an Imperial prerogative. This ceremony, however, can be adjusted for use in the creation of a guild or other order.

Vassal: Here do I swear, by mouth and hand,
To pledge my honor, and efforts, my faith and fidelity, to my brethren in <domain name>:
To give freely of my knowledge and skills:
To give obedience to my lords, succor to my peers, and support to those beneath me:
To act with honor in all things and do nothing to tarnish the name of <domain name>.
All this I do swear. So say I <name>.

Chieftain: For our part, we do swear that the Domain shall make you one of our own:
To make your causes ours, to protect you against all enemies:
To provide training, succor, and support in all your efforts:
To be vigilant in our duties to you, the Guild and the Empire:
To act with honor in all things,
To be ever vigilant, relentless and merciless in protecting the Domain,
Its vassals and the causes of Chivalry, Domain and Empire.
All this do we swear. So say I <name>.

IV. KNIGHTING CEREMONIES

A knighting ceremony is an intensely personal ceremony for the knight candidate. Every effort should be made to accommodate their wishes, without sacrificing the barest minimum as given below. Some scripts of past knighting ceremonies are provided in a separate document (due to their size).

A. SECOND-LEVEL OR THIRD-LEVEL KNIGHTS

The vows of a second- or third-level knight does not need to be as formal as that of a first-level knight. They may simply re-affirm the vows they have already sworn – they are already members of the Order of Chivalry. The creation of a third-level knight is also the creation of an Imperial Peer. Every effort should be made to have this ceremony performed by an Imperial Crown, or their representative. This should also be done in Opening Court, rather than during Audience. Since this creation brings with it a permanent vote on the Imperial Estates, there should be double diligence in verifying the qualifications of the knight candidate.

B. TRADITIONS

Blue Belt: The blue belt is the universal Adrian symbol of a knight.

Spurs: Spurs are a symbol that a knight may ride unhindered throughout the lands of Adria.

Sword: Many knight combatants accept a sword as a symbol of their particular path to knighthood.

Last Blow: As part of the ceremony, the knight candidate is dealt the last blow he will ever receive unanswered. (As a knight, he is expected to answer the blows). For a knight combatant, this is usually a coulee from another knight combatant. For a knight minister, this could be a slash across their hand with a pen. The last blow can be made personal to the knight, and the path the knighthood was achieved.

Challenges: After a knight is elevated, they will usually accept challenges. These should come from other knights in the same path, of the same rank or higher. If the schedule is crowded, these may take place after the ceremony. It is nice to have someone nearby, writing down the challenges as they are accepted.

C. CEREMONY

What follows is a normal ceremony for joining the Order of Chivalry.

Suggested time and location: During the Audience after Opening Court

Items to have available:

- Sword
- Blue belt (the symbol of a knight)
- Spurs (a second symbol of a knight)

People who must be present:

- Herald (or other officiator)
- Crown (or other knight the candidate wishes to have perform the oath)
- Knight candidate
- Steward (or proxy)
- Chancellor (or proxy)
- Minister of Rolls (or proxy)

Usual sequence of events:

- The knight candidate comes forward into the presence of the Crown
- The Steward will verify the candidate's membership status
- The Chancellor will verify there are no impediments to the candidate's acceptance of rank
- The Minister of Rolls will verify that they have fulfilled all the requirements of the rank
- The Crown stands, and the candidate kneels, each holding a sword to swear the oath on.
- The candidate makes his oath
- The Crown makes their oath
- The candidate receives the blue belt (with explanation to the populace)
- The candidate receives the spurs (again with explanation to the populace)
- The Crown dubs the candidate (both shoulders and head, in the name of three entities)
- The knight receives the last blow
- The knight rises and is presented to the populace by the Crown
- The knight will accept challenges by other knights of the same rank or higher

D. BASIC OATH

What follows is the basic oath for joining the Order of Chivalry.

Knight Candidate: Here do I swear, by mouth and hand, to be a lamp of chivalry unto others, to share my knowledge and teach others, to give good counsel, to obey the writs and codicils of the Kingdom and to uphold the bylaws of the Adrian Empire. So say I <name>.

The Crown: For Our part, this We do hear, and return that which is given: Fealty with service, and oath-breaking with vengeance. You shall have Our ear, Our heart, and Our respect.

E. SAMPLE KNIGHT'S OATHS

To the Knight Candidate: Do you swear, by mouth and hand, to be a lamp of chivalry unto others, to give good counsel, to obey the writs and codicils of your Kingdom and uphold the bylaws of the Adrian Empire? To teach what you know, to learn what you can, to listen as well as to speak? To remember that you are human, and the lamp of chivalry may dim from time to time, and in those times, to seek counsel and comfort from among the Order of Chivalry? (oath provided by Maedb Hawkins)

V. CORONATIONS

Coronations are a VERY personal ceremony, in which both the outgoing Crown, and the incoming Crown are honored. There are certain items, and sequences of events that **MUST** take place. Those are outlined here. Complete scripts for past coronations are presented in a separate document (due to their size).

A. CEREMONY

What follows is a typical ceremony for joining a coronation.

Items to have available:

- Sword of State
- Crowns (and any other regalia, including chains, rings, orbs, etc.)

People who must be present:

- Herald (or other officiator)
- Outgoing Crown
- Heirs Apparent
- Steward
- Chancellor
- Representative of the Church of Adria
- Highest-ranking knights combatant (preferably Knights Champion)
- Representatives of the Regions (Imperial Coronations)
- Representatives of the Estates
- Representatives of the Chivalry
- Representatives of the Populace
- Incoming Ministers

Usual sequence of events:

• **The Last Court:**

The outgoing Crown holds their last court, in which the following usually takes place:

- Releasing of Guards, Ladies-in-Waiting, Champions, and Ministers (except for Chancellor and Steward)
- Presentations from the Monarchs to those who have aided them throughout their reign.
- Presentations to the Monarchs from their grateful subjects.
- Awards presented by the Monarchs to their subjects.
- Knightings for those who wish to be Knighted as one of the Monarchs' final acts.

• **The Last Walk And Divestiture Of The Outgoing Monarchs**

There is usually a short break between the last court and the divestiture. After the break, the Monarchs will walk in one last time to be divested of their regalia. The herald will announce them into the hall (with the primary monarch being named first in all things in this ceremony).

- The Crown (or the herald) summons the Chancellor and Steward. The Chancellor should be carrying the sword of state, and they should be accompanied by the highest-ranking knights combatant present.
- The Chancellor is asked if he is prepared to act as Guardian of the Crowns and the Empire.
- The Steward is asked if he is prepared to take the Crowns into his custody under the Guardianship of the Chancellor.
- The knights combatant (preferably Knights Champion) are reminded that they are sworn to defend the Empire (or kingdom, duchy) and asked if they are prepared to protect and defend the Crowns in the absence of a monarch.
- The Chancellor stands behind the Crown (holding the Sword of State point down) while the Crown removes their regalia (crowns, chains, rings, etc.) and presents them to the Steward.
- The outgoing Crown leaves at this point.

• **The Changing of the Regalia**

If there is to be new regalia, now is the time for the Church to conduct a small ceremony, blessing the area in the name of the Church, People, and Estates of Adria, and exchange the old crowns (or other regalia) for the new ones.

• **The Coronation**

- The Heirs Apparent enter the hall, and their herald announces them. The Chancellor issues a challenge (by what right, etc.), and their herald answers, with full introductions. The Chancellor permits them to enter.
- Once given permission, the Heirs Apparent approach the Thrones, and take a seat.
- The Church blesses the Sword of State, and the Chancellor administers the oath
- The Church blesses the Chains of State, and places them on the necks of the Heirs.
- The Church blesses the Crowns, and places them on the heads of the Heirs.
- The Church pronounces them the Crown, and the herald leads the cheer.

• **Oaths of Allegiance**

Oaths of allegiance shall be given by two representatives of each of the following (and the rest of the members of that estate are encouraged to kneel in support during the administration of the oath):

- Regions (Imperial Coronations)
- Estates
- Chivalry
- Populace
- Ministers

• **First Court of the new Monarchs**

- It is traditional for the new Monarchs to grant Boons as part of their First Court. Their Majesties may or may not be in the mood to grant Boons – the Herald will announce this if it happens.

- The Investiture of the Retired Monarchs with the titles of that were granted by the Estates.
- Usually there are knightings that are part of the First Court.
- There will undoubtedly be other business from Their Imperial Majesties.

B. BASIC OATHS

These are geared for an Imperial Coronation, but can easily be changed to suit the needs of a smaller subdivision.

Blessing of the Sword, etc.: *Benedictus hic gladius, possum hic intego enervis et cautum Adriae usque abusque impugnationis. In nomine iglesiae, senati, et populi Adriae.* (Bless this sword, may it protect the powerless and guard Adria continuously from attacks. In the name of the church, the estates, and the populace of Adria.

Oath of Office for the Crown: Here do I swear by mouth and hand
To uphold the bylaws and laws of the Adrian Empire;
To enforce the laws and will of the Estates;
To represent the populace, the chivalry, the nobility, and the royalty of the Adrian Empire;
To provide good governance to the best of my ability;
To defend the rights of the populace, the chivalry, the nobility and the royalty of the Adrian Empire;
To lead and guide in uprightness and honor in service to the Empire.
So swear I, <name>

Oath of Allegiance for the Estates: <Estate>: Do you swear that accept these two people as your lawful Empress and Emperor, and Do you swear by mouth and hand, To obey the Constitution, Bylaws, Laws, and Writs of the Adrian Empire, To advise the Throne on all matters pertaining to the Welfare of the Empire and the Regions, To represent your people faithfully before the Imperial Estates and the Imperial Crown, To execute judgement and justice in accord with your rank and duties, And be a support and aid to the Empress and Emperor of this land?

VI. CEREMONIES OF FORMATION

What follows are the ceremonies used in various parts of the Adrian Empire for officially recognizing the creation of Households, Baronies, Counties, Marches and Cantons. When a ceremony is particular to a specific subdivision it will be noted as such.

A. GENERAL ESTATE FORMATION

This ceremony is written for the formation of a house, but it can be used for the formation of a barony, county, or march just as easily. Simply substitute the appropriate titles.

Suggested time and location: During the Audience after Opening Court

Items to have available:

- Sword of State
- Collar of State (optional)

People who must be present:

- Crown
- Herald (or other officiator)
- House Lord
- House members (number as required by law or codicil)
- Chancellor (may be by proxy)
- Steward (may be by proxy)

Herald (to the populace): Some of our populace has desired to establish a House within the borders of this Subdivision. If the name is found, charter is in order, heraldic coat of arms drawn up, and appropriate members present, as set forth by Imperial standards, will those who seek to form this House please approach the Crown.

Crown (to the House representatives): Do you still wish to form this subdivision?

House representatives: must answer YES or the ceremony shall end at this point

Herald calls upon the local Steward to come forward.

Crown (to the Steward): Are the memberships of these individuals currently up to date and have been good, fair, and just standing members of this kingdom (duchy or shire), as set forth in the Adrian Empire Bylaws?

Steward: must answer YES or the ceremony shall end at this point

Crown (to the House representatives): Who has been selected to represent this House as its Head?

Herald calls upon the local Chancellor to come forward.

Crown (to the Chancellor): Is this candidate under any Judicial Ban, serving any current punishment, or have been found guilty with any current faults that would impede their accepting this position, as set forth by the bylaws of the Adrian Empire?

Chancellor: must answer NO or the ceremony shall end here

Herald removes Sword of State.

Herald (to the House Lord or Lady): Please kneel before the Crown, and place your hands upon the sword. (Note: The House Lord shall place his hands on the bottom of the sword. The Crown shall place their hands on the top of the sword.)

Herald (to the House Lord): Repeat after me:

Here do I swear by mouth and hand:

Fealty to the Imperial Crown, and support to the Adrian Empire:

To uphold the bylaws, writs and codicils of the Adrian Empire and <chartered subdivision>:

To be a fair and loyal administrator to the members of this house:

To place this house under the banner of <chartered subdivision>:

To listen to my members:

To protect my people and dispense justice when appropriate:

And to carry out my duties to the best of my abilities:

So say I <name of house lord>

Crown: For our part, here do we swear by mouth and hand;

To acknowledge your fealty to the Imperial Crown;

To aid you in your duties as head of this house;

To acknowledge this house under the banner of <chartered subdivision>;

To offer council and guidance in your efforts;

To protect your house and dispense justice when appropriate;

and to champion your cause as house of <house name>;

So say We <name, ranks, titles>,

Crown of <name of Chartered Subdivision>.

Herald (to the House Lord): *As set forth by the Bylaws of the Adrian Empire, You are responsible for administration of this subdivision. You shall report routinely to the corresponding Crown. As you are part of the Estates Minor, you are entitled to a seat on the local Estates. You shall administrate until you resign, are removed as a result of failure to maintain the membership status as determined by the Steward and Minister of Rolls, or removed by your members.*

Herald (optional) shall place a collar of state upon the neck of the House Lord: *This chain binds you to your Oath to the Imperium, the Bylaws of the Adrian Empire, and your members. You may be styled as Lord.*

Herald (to the members of the House): *Members of the House <name of house>, please place your hands underneath the Sword, as a sign of support. (Note: One person may touch the sword, while all others touch that person, as in taking of the Sword Oath in Combat.)*

Herald (to the House members): *Will the members please repeat after me:
Here do I swear, by mouth and hand:
Support to the house of <name of house> and its head:
To uphold the bylaws, writs, and codicils of the Adrian Empire:
To be good and loyal members to our lord:
To follow and support the banner of the <chartered subdivision>
So say I, <name of member>*

House Lord (to the house members): *On my part, here do I swear by mouth and hand:
To acknowledge the support of the members of the house of <name of house>:
To champion your cause, protect you and dispense justice when appropriate:
To be a fair and loyal administrator to my members:
And to carry out my duties to the best of my abilities:
So say I <name of house lord>*

The house members may now rise and face the populace, and the Sword may be put away.

Herald presents the new house to the populace with these words: *Populace of <name of chartered subdivision>; I do hereby give you House of <name of house>.*

B. SOME OPTIONS

In the above ceremony, the members seal their oath by swearing upon a sword. Other options include:

- Holding the hand of the Crown, and kissing their ring
- The Crown kissing each cheek of the house lord

C. CANTON FORMATION

A canton is very different from an estate. An estate is a free-association grouping of members from within the chartered subdivision. Any member may be a part of an estate anywhere in the chartered subdivision. A canton is an administrative region (usually far from the core of the chartered subdivision), with geographic borders and no political voice. Yet the actual ceremony which forms the canton can be much the same.

The main difference is with the oaths that the Crown swears. After the canton swears fealty, the Crown acknowledges that fealty, the following is added:

Crown: As set forth by the Bylaws of the Adrian Empire,
You are responsible for administration of this subdivision.
You are responsible for having developed ministers;
As these will be official deputies to the Crown Ministers, they shall report to these local counterparts.
You shall report routinely to the corresponding Crown.
As a Viceroy, you will act as a Crown Minister; but as such, you are not entitled to a seat on the local Estates.
You may hold Court and may present local Canton awards;
However, you may not grant titles or perform prerogative Knightings
You shall administrate until you resign, are removed as a result of failure to maintain the membership status
as determined by the Steward and Minister of Rolls, or removed by your members.

D. SAMPLE ESTATES FORMATION: ANDORRA, HOUSE (2001)

Herald (to the populace): It has recently become known that some of our populace has desired to establish a Household within the borders of Andorra. Would those seeking an audience with the Crowns please step forward and present the proposed Charter, a copy of the proposed Arms and the names of all whom will compose this House at present?.

Crown (to the house representatives): Do you still wish to form this subdivision?

House representatives: YES

Crown (to the house representatives): Who has been selected to represent this Household as its liege lord?

House representative (hands paper to the Crown): I, XXX, have been selected to rule as Lord of the proposed house of <name of house>.

Crown (to the house representative): Are the documents I now hold accurate and consistent with the facts before us?

House representative: YES

Crown (to the house representative): Do you <name of house lord> still wish to form this Household within the borders of the fair lands of Andorra??

House representative: YES

Herald calls upon the local Steward to come forward.

Crown (to the Steward): Are the memberships of these individuals currently up to date and have been good, fair, and just standing members of Andorra, as set forth in the laws of Andorra and the Empire?

Steward: Your Excellency, the personage known as <name of house lord> is free of any misdeeds and is current with all tithes owed the Court and the Empire of Adria as a whole.

Herald calls upon the local Chancellor to come forward.

Crown (to the Chancellor): Is this candidate under any Judicial Ban, serving any current punishment, or have been found guilty with any current faults that would impede their accepting this position, as set forth by the bylaws of the Adrian Empire?

Chancellor: Your Excellency, the personage known as <name of house lord> is free of any misdeeds and any other charges that would impede his ability to take on this mantle of responsibility.

Crown (to the house lord): Kneel now, <name of house lord> and take my hand.

Herald (to the house lord): Repeat after me:
Here do I swear by mouth and hand:
Fealty to the Imperial Crown, and the Crowns of Andorra;
To uphold the bylaws, writs and codicils of the Empire and Andorra:
To be a fair and loyal administrator to the members of this house:
To place this barony under the banner of Andorra;
To listen to the council of my subjects;
to protect my people,
and dispense justice when appropriate with an even and just hand;
And to carry out all of my duties to the best of my abilities;
Upon my honor this do I <name, ranks, titles>,
Crown of <name of Chartered Subdivision> swear, in front of the Viceroy and subjects of Andorra.

Crown: To you <name of house lord> do We now say the following:
For our part, here do we swear by mouth and hand;
To acknowledge your fealty to the Imperial Crown;
To acknowledge your fealty to the Viceroy of Andorra;
To aid you in your duties as head of this house;
And to acknowledge this house under the banner of Andorra;
To offer council and guidance in your efforts so long as they are just;
To protect your household and dispense justice when appropriate with an even and just hand;
To uphold the bylaws, writs, and codicils of the Empire, and of Andorra;
To champion your cause, as the House of <name of house >;
Upon our Honor, this we swear; <name, ranks, titles>, Viceroy of Andorra.

We do therefore command the following,
As set forth by the Bylaws of the Adrian Empire;
You <name of house lord> are responsible for and charged with administration of the House of .
You shall report routinely to the Crown of Andorra and do so at the pleasure of the Crown.
You shall administrate until you resign, are removed as a result of failure to maintain the membership status
as determined by the Steward and Minister of Rolls, or removed by your members.

Do you agree to these conditions and responsibilities I have laid forth before you? Signify your assent by
kissing the ring.

House representative <kissing the signet ring of the Viceroy>: YES

Herald (to the house lord): Now <name of house lord> rise and receive the blessings of the Vicar of
Andorra. (Note: participation by the Church of Adria is optional, and meant to provide pomp and
circumstance, not to imply any religious content in the ceremony.)

Vicar: In my hand I hold the token that all members of this house shall wear and such will be recorded so
that all may know of their allegiance to House <name of house> I have blessed it and I now show it to the
Populace of Andorra for all to see and take witness to. Know that forever more those wearing the
<name/description of the symbol> shall be known as part of the House of <name of house>. Please kneel..

Vicar (presenting tokens to the house lord): May the great divine honor and bless this commitment and may
it be fruitful for all concerned in all the days to come. <Make the sign of the fleur-di-lis over the house lord>
In nomine iglesiae, populi et senati Adriae (In the name of the church, people and Imperial Estates of Adria.)

The Vicar offers his hand with the ring for it to be kissed, then sets his hand upon their shoulders and bids
them to rise.

Herald presents the new house to the populace with these words: My lords and ladies may I now present to
you the lord of House <name of house>?

E. SAMPLE ESTATES FORMATION: EKATERINEGOROD, HOUSE (2001)

Herald: Some members of our populace have expressed their desire to establish a <subdivision> within the borders of Ekaterinegorod. A <subdivision> consists of at least <5, 15, 35 or 50> members, as set forth by the Bylaws of the Adrian Empire.

If the name of your <subdivision> has been found, your charter is in order, your heraldic coat of arms drawn up, and if, by the Traditions of many Adrian lands, two thirds of the members who wish to form this <subdivision> are present to participate in this Ceremony, will those who seek to form this <subdivision> please approach the Throne.

The members approach the throne.

Herald (to the house representatives: **Do you still wish to form this subdivision?**)

Herald presents the new house to the populace with these words: **My lords and ladies may I now present to you the lord of House <name of house>?**

House representatives: **YES**

Herald calls upon the local Steward to come forward.

Crown (to the Steward): **Are these individuals before you currently holders of Memberships in the Adrian Empire, as set forth in Articles III and IV of the Bylaws of the Adrian Empire, Inc.?**

Steward: must answer **YES** or the ceremony shall end at this point

Herald (to the house representatives: **Who has been selected to represent this <subdivision> as its head?**)

House representative identifies himself.

Herald calls upon the local Chancellor to come forward.

Crown (to the Chancellor): **Is this candidate under any Judicial Ban, or currently serving any other punishment, that would preclude them from accepting this position, as set forth in Article IX of the Bylaws of the Adrian Empire?**

Chancellor: must answer **NO** or the ceremony shall end at this point

The Crown thanks the Chancellor and dismisses Steward and Chancellor, then removes the sword of state from its scabbard.

Herald (to the House Lord or Lady): **Please kneel before the Crown, and place your hands upon the sword.** (Note: The House Lord shall place his hands on the bottom of the sword. The Crown shall place their hands on the top of the sword.)

Herald (to the House Lord): Repeat after me:

Here do I swear,

Support to the Imperial Crowns and the Crowns of Ekaterinegorod,

To support the activities of Ekaterinegorod to the best of my ability,

To uphold the Bylaws, Writs and Codicils of the Adrian Empire,

To uphold the local Writs and Codicils enacted by the Crowns and the Estates of Ekaterinegorod,

To be a fair and loyal administrator to the members of this <subdivision>,

To support the members of <subdivision> to the best of my ability,

To listen to your members' interests and opinions,

To represent your members interests and opinions fairly and equitably to the Crowns and Estates of Ekaterinegorod and the Empire, even when those opinions may disagree with your own,

To fly the banner of the <subdivision> wherever the <subdivision> is present,

To protect your people and dispense justice when appropriate,

And to carry out all of your duties to the best of your abilities.

So say I <State Your Name>

Crown: For our part, here do we swear;

To acknowledge your support to the Imperial Crowns and the Crowns of Ekaterinegorod;

To aid you to the best of our abilities in your duties as the Head of this <subdivision>;

To acknowledge this <subdivision> under the banner of Ekaterinegorod;

To offer counsel and guidance in your efforts;

To protect your <subdivision> and assist you in dispensing justice when appropriate;

To uphold the Bylaws, Writs and Codicils of the Adrian empire;

To uphold the Writs and Codicils enacted by our Estates, and

To champion your cause as the <subdivision> of Ekaterinegorod

;So say We <name, ranks, titles>,

Crown of Ekaterinegorod

As set forth in Article VIII, Section E of The Bylaws of the Adrian Empire,

You are responsible for administration of this, the <subdivision>.

You shall report on the activities of your <subdivision> routinely to us, your Crown, as stated in Article VII, Section B of the Bylaws of the Adrian Empire.

You are hereby granted a seat on the Estates Minor of Ekaterinegorod,

per Article IX, Section D, Item <7, 10, 12, or 15> of the Bylaws of the Adrian Empire.

Furthermore, as stated in Article VI, Section F, Item 7:

You hereby have the right to hold Ceremonial Courts for your <subdivision>,

You hereby have the right to appoint <subdivision> Ministers for Marshalling, Heraldry, and Rolls,

after consulting with the Minister of that office and with approval of the Crowns of Ekaterinegorod for each such Minister appointed.

You hereby have the right to make war on other Estates Minor

with the consent of the Crown and the Minister of War and Joust.

You hereby have the right to give non-precedence bearing awards as your <subdivision> may devise.

<If it is a march> You are further granted a seat on The Imperial Grand Assembly as a part of the Great Estates, per Article IX, Section D, item 7. as stated in Article VI, Section F, Item 6, in addition to the rights thus far listed, as a Great Estate, You hereby have the right to hold Civil Courts for your <subdivision>, You hereby have the right to appoint <subdivision> Ministers for any office after consulting with the Minister of that office and with approval of the Crowns of Ekaterinegorod for each such Minister appointed.

You hereby have the right to make war on other Great Estates.

You hereby have the right to give Noble Orders as delineated in Article IX, Section B, Item 3 of the Bylaws of the Adrian Empire.

You hereby have the right to Advise the Crowns of Ekaterinegorod.

You shall administrate your <subdivision> until

- 1.) You resign your position,
- 2.) Are removed from your position as a result of failure to maintain a membership in the Adrian Empire, as determined by the Steward and Minister of Rolls, as stated in Article III of the Bylaws of the Adrian Empire,
- 3.) Are removed by your members or have your Subdivision dissolved for any of the reasons stated in Article VIII, Section E of the Bylaws of the Adrian Empire.

Herald (to the members of the House): **Members of the House** <name of house>, **please place your hands underneath the Sword, as a sign of support.** (Note: One person may touch the sword, while all others touch that person, as in taking of the Sword Oath in Combat.)

Herald (to the House members): **Will the members please repeat after me:**

Here do we swear,

To support the activities of the <subdivision> of <subdivision name> and its Ruling Noble,

To uphold the Bylaws, Writs, and Codicils of the Adrian Empire,

To uphold the Writs and Codicils enacted by the Crowns and Estates of Ekaterinegorod,

To be good and loyal members to our Ruling Noble,

So say we, <names of members>.