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Uncommon East Kingdom Awards: The King's Order of Excellence

Mistress Eloise of Coulter

My schedule for the evening slid, and I have some time, so let's do another installment of Uncommon East Kingdom Awards!

Tonight an award near and dear to my heart: the King's Order of Excellence.

East Kingdom Law and Policy

IX.D

1. There are Orders of Honor in the East Kingdom, and their recipients are known as Companions of their respective Orders.
 - a. Companions of each Order of Honor will rank equally with Companions of the other Orders of Honor in the Order of Precedence.
 - b. Except as otherwise expressly stated below, scrolls for induction into Orders of Honor are optional.

And the specifics!

6. The King's Order of Excellence (established March 16 A.S. 25, 1991, by Rhys and Elaina)
 - a. The King's Order of Excellence may be awarded by the King to such gentles as He deems worthy by reason of their consistent efforts to maintain a high standard of authenticity in their dress, behavior, personae, and goods; in the feast hall, in their encampments, and on the field of honor.
 - b. The Companions of this Order will be bound, insofar as they are able, to maintain the standards of authenticity which entitled them to induction into the Order.

I lovelovelove this award. Those of you who know me, understand why. So let's talk about it!

I remember this award being created. When it was first established, peers were not eligible, based on the idea that these are things that peers are already *supposed* to be doing. I support that change for two reasons, the first being that I believe that even those who are already peers – in whichever peerage – should be recognized when they up their game to high standards of authenticity. The other reason is that it was established shortly before I became a peer, my kit was NOT the equal of my scribal game at the time, and when I started improving it, I really wanted one! But I digress.

This award is not one that has been given out very often – at the time of this writing, there are only sixty-seven members of the Order. If you think about it, that makes sense. The SCA requires “an attempt,” and the KoE as it is often abbreviated, is awarded for “high standards.” For most of us, our kit is a progression from that initial attempt – often from Gold Key – through some levels of improvement. Some people never move off a beginner's attempt. Some people travel a certain distance down that path, and find a comfortable stopping point. Some people push on – changing their kit, following the research, changing their kit again as the research changes. These are the people for whom this award is intended, and they will always be a minority.

But what IS it? Let's look. It is for those deemed "worthy by reason of their consistent efforts to maintain a high standard of authenticity in their dress, behavior, personae, and goods; in the feast hall, in their encampments, and on the field of honor." It is for doing it ALL. Not just foregoing polyester and princess seams; but ALSO carrying yourself appropriately for your station; and ALSO knowing details and history and the life of your persona; and ALSO losing the can of Pepsi and covering the plastic cooler. It's for being the Whole Package.

It's for Doing it Right.

Don't misunderstand me – I am NOT saying that all the non-KoE members out there are somehow doing it "wrong." Because they're not. Remember the requirement? An "attempt." This level of kit and persona play is NOT for everyone, and if it's not your thing, trying to do it wouldn't be very much fun at all – and this is supposed to be fun. But those people who are working at that level... they are an inspiration to us all. It's a level I have aspired to for years.

This is normally where I would tell you about the badge or token for the award. But because of the nature of the KoE – there isn't one. The very nature of the award precludes it, because what is appropriate and matches one persona would be wildly inappropriate for another. Although to some extent, the members themselves ARE the badge in their own persons. To a large extent, you CAN spot the members by looking at them.

So when you see that person whose kit is just amazing down to the details and accessories – that person who looks like they stepped out of a manuscript or a portrait; that person who knows all the things about their persona's day to day life... check the Order of Precedence, and write them in for a King's Order of Excellence.

Current subject of the Barony Beyond the Mountain who is a member of the King's Order of Excellence: Eloise of Coulter.

The various East Kingdom awards are described here:

<https://seneschal.eastkingdom.org/docs/EKLAW.pdf>, beginning on page 24.

The Order of Precedence may be found here: <https://op.eastkingdom.org/op.php>.

You can recommend people for ANY award here:

<https://surveys.eastkingdom.org/index.php/945932/lang-en>.

#uncommoneastkingdomawards

I'm going to be tied up for a bit, so these may take a break. Have a great weekend if I don't get back to it for a couple of days. We'll be picking back up with the Tyger of the East!