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(Please note that since the publication of this article, the award is in the process of being changed to the "Consort's Order of Courtesy.")

Uncommon East Kingdom Awards: The Queen's Order of Courtesy

Mistress Eloise of Coulter

Good morning Beyond the Mountain!

It seems that we always talk about award recommendations right before deadlines, which really isn't efficient. So this is the first post in a series that I'm going to inflict upon you, exploring the awards of the East Kingdom. We all know about Awards of Arms, and the "Silvers" - the armigerous orders (i.e. conveying an Award of Arms) are currently very popular. The Orders of High Merit, conveying a Grant of Arms and requiring a polling are well known, as of course are the Peerages. We may discuss all of those later, depending on how loudly you all scream for me to Just Stop.

But I would like to discuss the Orders of Honor, and what are lyrically listed as "Other East Kingdom Awards" in Law. Because there's some pretty good stuff in there.

So let's begin! Today we will look at the Queen's Order of Courtesy.

East Kingdom Law and Policy, Section 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.
2. The Queen's Order of Courtesy (established October 19 A.S. 9, 1974, by Cariadoc II and Diana II)
 - a. The Queen's Order of Courtesy may be awarded by the Queen to such gentles as She deems worthy by reason of their consistently exemplary courtesy to gentles of all ranks in the East Kingdom and the Society at large.
 - b. The Companions of the Order will be bound, insofar as they are able, to maintain the standard of courtesy which entitled them to induction into the Order.
 - c. The Queen may call upon the Companions of the Order for assistance with their aid or advice in encouraging courteous behavior or concerning nominations to this Order, as She sees fit. The Companions will be bound to assist Her to the best of their ability when called upon in this fashion.

As you can see, the Queen's Order of Courtesy (or "QoC," often pronounced "qwok,") is a very old award in the East, and one that has never fallen out of fashion. It is an award given solely by the Queen, at her discretion. The badge of the order is a white, right-handed glove, adorned on the

back of the hand with a blue and gold double rose. The token is often a physical glove, but I have also seen pins. From experience, I can tell you that it can be difficult to figure out how to wear that glove, and woe betide the person who loses theirs!

So what is the QoC given FOR? As it is an award that is very much an individual gift of the Queen, that will vary from Queen to Queen. Sometimes it will be in recognition of the handling of specific issues. Sometimes it will be for an overall pattern of behavior. Her Majesty Gabrielle expressed to me when she awarded it that she was recognizing what was basically "grace under fire" - handling difficult situations willingly and graciously.

So if you know someone whose demeanor and behavior epitomizes a grace and courtesy worthy of emulation, or someone who has handled difficult situations with aplomb... think about recommending them for a Queen's Order of Courtesy. Check their Order of Precedence first - always a good first step - and then write them in!

Some subjects of the Barony Beyond the Mountain who hold the Queen's Order of Courtesy: Salaamallah the Corpulent, Adin Tinkar, Cadell ap Hubert, Eloise of Coulter, Randall Vihar Farkas, Alexandera Cupbearer, Allyn Min Teanga, Ernst Nuss von Kitzingen, Sisuile Butler.

The various East Kingdom awards are described here, beginning on page 24.

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

You can recommend people for ANY award here:
<http://surveys.eastkingdom.org/index.php/945932/lang-en>

#uncommoneastkingdomawards

