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Uncommon East Kingdom Awards: The Order of the Troubadours

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Welcome to the third installment of Uncommon East Kingdom Awards!

I'm relentless. What's that you say? Oh – yes, I AM going to work my way through that entire section of Law and Policy. Sorrynotsorry.

Today's installment: The Order of the Troubadours!

And for those who are wondering (if anyone is actually reading these things...), I cite IX.D.1 every time so that each of these stands on its own. It's easy to assume that *of course* people understand how the award structure fits together, and that's how we end up with misunderstandings. That said – here it is:

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 our specifics:

4. The Order of the Troubadours (established October 6 A.S. 14, 1979, by Vissevald and Embla, revised June 20 A.S. 45, 2010, by Edward and Marguerite)

- a. This award, signified by a token chosen by The Crown, may be awarded to recognize a gentle's vocal entertainment, and especially for encouraging others to join in or respond in kind. It may also be awarded to recognize a gentle's talent in performing and entertainment arts, like musical performance, theater, jester, etc. This list is not exhaustive to leave room for other arts which may flourish as historical evidence and study will be furthered.
- b. Companions of the Order are encouraged to communicate among themselves in order to expand their collective repertoire and knowledge.

NOW we're getting to some of the awards I had in mind when I began this series. Because while the Troubadour was fairly commonly given when I started, I don't see it given out very often at the moment. It IS given but seldom enough that when I see one reported I take notice and say something original like "Why don't they give those out as much anymore?" Hence these posts. Want me to stop? Start writing in some Troubadours and Terpsichores (future posts to look forward to.)

So – the Order of the Troubadours. You'll notice that thirty-one years after it was established, it was revised. If I recall correctly – and don't quote me on this because I could be misremembering badly – the revision was to include other performance and entertainment arts beyond vocal

entertainment. Let's look at what the award calls for at the base: entertainment, and especially encouraging others to join in or respond in kind. The things that many of us commonly refer to as "bardic" fit well in here, as well as commedia. I particularly like that it is specified that the list of examples is not exhaustive – that's leaving yourself some good wiggle room there.

The Troubadours are awarded for entertaining and engaging the crowd. This could mean by busking at a camping event; entertaining at feast; performing a play during the day; juggling for a crowd - it's a fairly wide open field. Are they entertaining the populace? This might be an Order for them!

And now I'm going to crack open the can of worms that gets people all hot and bothered: authenticity. Those of you who know me know that I'm fairly hard core, and getting moreso all the time. And I'm going to say that *personally,* were I to write someone in for this Order, authenticity would NOT be a deciding factor. If it is there, I will definitely be pleased, and I will definitely laud it in the recommendation letter. But if it is not, but the person is question is adding value to the SCA by their presentations, bringing joy to their audience, and engaging people – I will still write them in for a Troubadour. My line personally is *overtly* modern presentations that "break the mood." To use filk songs as an example: "Burden of the Crown?" Yes. "Fire in the Sky?" No. That's a personal opinion.

Remember – while the Peerages and the Orders of High Merit require a polling, ALL awards are at the will of the Royalty. Write them in. If the Royalty are feeling it - you're good!

While it is not written into Law, and I cannot find a registration for it with the College of Arms (There are SO many resources available to look these things up. And they're all online! What a brave new world we live in...), traditionally the token given to a new member of the Order is a small cup. As many people find it convenient to hang a cup from their belt, this is an Order where checking the Order of Precedence will be your friend.

Are you seeing someone whose performance brings pleasure to the populace? Someone that you hear people say "I hope she's performing today?" Check the Order of Precedence (see the prior paragraph,) and write them in!

Some current subjects of the Barony Beyond the Mountain who are members of the Order of the Troubadour: Aelfgifu of the Hazel Thicket, Ernst Nuss von Kitzingen.

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

Okay, yes, I went out to a museum website and found a picture of a period cup. Because it's me. But really, any cup acceptable to the Royalty will do. You can find this cup here: <https://www.metmuseum.org/art/collection/search/469910?fbclid=IwAR3LkrIQAp8Hr1VmnLmgsLtqwIQSHt3ChocRDNNEMOrdHYpx-ZaUJanJnE>.

