

**Proposal to the Board of Directors
to Create the Order of Valiance**

Valiance Omnibus Proposal

Omnibus Peerage Steering Committee
Revised December 15, 2019

The Order of Valiance

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Acknowledgements

The Omnibus Proposal Steering Committee wishes to sincerely thank the populace for their support of this effort. In particular, we wish to thank all those who participated in the Martial Peerage group on Facebook, and in the alternative omnibus discussion forum on the web. The exchange of ideas and discourse has been extraordinary, the shared passion for our hobby has been inspiring, and the bearing of the group members has exemplified the ideals of the Dream. It is through the discussion and feedback from these groups, and through the actions of these group members, that this proposal was made possible.

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Introduction

It has been almost five years since this proposal was submitted to the board. No action was taken on it at that time and we were told by the board that they would reconsider it in the future. Since it has not yet been reconsidered, we are resubmitting the Valiance Omnibus Proposal for your consideration. We hope that if any specific peerage proposals are included in the 2020 census, this will be included as well.

Executive Summary

This proposal asks for the creation of an omnibus peerage for all of the martial activities that fall under the purview of the Society Earl Marshal, with the exception of rattan and rapier, which already have stand-alone peerages. There is Society-wide support for such a peerage, and the documented history of the desire to create such a peerage dates back for at least 20 years. The lack of such a peerage adversely affects the non-rattan and non-rapier martial communities because inequitable means to recognize excellence in skill and contribution can, and often does, create the perception of being unappreciated, unrewarded for achievement in a martial activity, or unwanted. There is ample participation in non-rattan martial activities to justify the creation of a new peerage, it will resolve the exclusive nature of the current paths to peerage for martial activities, and it creates a means to address attrition in membership by considering the “lack of appreciation” aspect that causes members to cease participation.

We propose that the Board of Directors create the “Order of Valiance” as an omnibus peerage for the non-rattan and non-rapier martial communities.

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Valiance Omnibus Proposal

1. Introduction

This proposal asks for the creation of an omnibus peerage for all of the martial activities that fall under the purview of the Society Earl Marshal, with the exception of rattan and rapier, which already have stand-alone peerages. This currently includes target archery, thrown weapons, combat archery, equestrian, and siege. It would also cover any future martial activities that are developed and placed under the purview of the Society Earl Marshal.

2. Background

It is clear that there is Society-wide support for the creation of an omnibus peerage. A steering committee was created, composed of members of the Society from many Kingdoms, including peers from the Chivalry, Laurel, and Pelican. A Facebook group, "Omnibus Martial Peerage" was formed, and has attracted more than 1,104 members in support of this endeavor. A support badge was designed and is seeing use throughout the Known World.

Throughout its history, it has been the practice of the Society to recognize mastery in various period activities, when coupled with peer-like qualities, with a patent of arms. We have the Order of Chivalry, the Laurel, and the Pelican, and these orders have served us well. The Board of Directors has also seen fit to recognize the Order of Defense for rapier activities. However, it is time to create a new martial peerage, to cover all of the other martial activities.

Sir Jon Fitz Rauf, our first Society Archery Marshal, first identified this need in the communities with which he worked so closely. He saw a need to recognize and appreciate the skills of these martial participants. Target archery and combat archery started in the first and third years, respectively, of our Society and have grown tremendously in numbers and are practiced regularly in every Kingdom. Equestrian, siege and thrown weapons started later, but each has helped our Society grow and appeal to very different groups of people.

These activities have all developed by specifying rule sets that make medieval skills-at-arms intrinsically SCA. These activities add to our Society and make our events richer and more interesting. As a result, a great strength of our Society is its inclusiveness and appeal to many different people on many different levels. However, because skills in these martial activities do not fit into our existing peerages, those people who are peers within their communities, through their actions and in the eyes of their Royalty, cannot yet be recognized as the peers they are. This adversely affects these communities, as there is a perception that their activity is not truly appreciated or wanted.

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Seeing this in the target archery and combat archery communities, Sir Jon took steps to try and fix this disparity. As he collected like-minded people to work with him, he quickly realized there were other martial activities that were also being overlooked. He wrote and submitted the first omnibus proposal to the Board of Directors in 1999. Over the years, he has continued to work on this quest, seeking help from other dedicated people. He has written five different proposals, including one right after the 2010 census that made it clear that there was support for an omnibus martial peerage. This has been an on-going effort by a number of people for over 20 years.

It is clear, based on the overwhelming support we are seeing now, that the time has come for the formation of an omnibus peerage, one that will cover all of the martial activities with no current path for higher level recognition. This is not a reaction to the creation of the Master of Defense peerage, but rather something that has become necessary because of the organic growth of the other martial activities over the years. This was something that had not been foreseen in the early days, but it is something that can and should be addressed now.

Given the Society's Statement of Core Values, it can be considered that the exclusion of those that excel in the Non Rattan/Rapier Martial Activities from peerage recognition for their outstanding abilities, while Armored Combat and Rapier participants are included, is a form of exclusion, and that it does not recognize their worth to the Society. The inclusion of excellence in all activity areas would validate respect and worth.

The SCA is oriented toward a system of awards; we are volunteer-based, and this is our only means of recognition for effort put forth to make the Society function. Although our means of recognition for mastery in our various fields are not done through a period apprentice/journeyman/mastery progression with set rules and guidelines, the basic concept is quite medieval. The omnibus peerage fills this gap and ensures that virtually every field of endeavor within the Society can be rewarded for mastery, and the recipients honored for their contributions in the Society.

Both the Order of the Laurel and the Order of the Pelican are excellent examples of how well omnibus orders have worked. The Laurel has covered a wide and expanding range of arts and sciences, and the Pelican has done the same with service. The Omnibus Valiance proposal would function the same way.

3. Participation in Non-Rattan and Non-Rapier Activities

Participation in target archery, combat archery, siege, equestrian and thrown weapons have more than doubled since the proposal was last submitted to the board in 2015. Based upon numbers taken from the SEM's numbers in the quar-

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terly reports, which he gets from the KEMs, to the SCA board from the second quarter of 2015 and the third quarter of 2019*. There was a combined total of the NRMA participants in the second quarter of 2015 of 4,234 participants and in the third quarter of 2019 there were 9,961. This was an increase of 5,727.

At the same time armored combat and rapier participants went from 13,122 to 13,543 an increase of only 421. Armored combat and rapier were outgrown by about 13 to 1 by the NRMA.

It is likely that there are some errors or changes in reporting methods from the kingdoms. However, this still represents a definite strong trend upward for the NRMA.

Just as there are people who do both armored combat and rapier, there are people who do two or more of these other martial activities as well. Nonetheless, the numbers demonstrate why there is a need for a new omnibus peerage.

(*The referenced reports are included in appendix B.)

All of our martial activities have shown growth in the nine years since the 2010 census. However, we believe adding an additional peerage will encourage even more growth and more retention of our older participants.

4. Specific Reasons for the Omnibus Peerage

- A. Creating one omnibus peerage to cover all martial activities that fall under the purview of the Society Earl Marshal, with the exception of rattan armored combat and rapier, will provide a means of peerage recognition that will include any new martial skills that may develop in the Society in the future. This means the Board of Directors will not have to undertake this process again in a year, three years, or at all in the future. If and when a new martial activity is placed under the Society Earl Marshal, it would automatically fall under this order.
- B. Many Crowns have people in their Kingdoms that they believe are worthy of a peerage for their skills in a martial activity (non-rattan and non-rapier), in addition to the other requisite peer-like qualities. They wish to elevate these people but have no way to do so.¹

¹ When I was on the throne of Æthelmearc, I would have gladly, and with honor, seen fit to bestow such a patent of arms as proposed by the omnibus martial peerage to one or more specific subjects had it been an option during my reign. If the proposal is accepted, I would certainly consider such awards during any future reign. - Duchess Tessa the Huntress, Æthelmearc

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- C. The “stopped participation question” in the 2010 census showed that 22 percent gave “not appreciated” as a reason for leaving. Peerage recognition is one way of showing appreciation and should help address part of this problem.
- D. Non-rattan activities are growing, and this is a time when we need more people, not fewer. The numbers in the participation section (Section 3) of this proposal show that a significant percentage of the SCA is involved in these activities. Encouraging growth in these activities may also serve to encourage growth in the SCA by attracting new members through activities that can be easier and less expensive for a new person to try.
- E. Support for this peerage has been shown across the Society by a wide spectrum of people who believe there should be an omnibus martial peerage. They have shown their support in many different ways, including writing letters to the Board of Directors.
- F. Acknowledgement with peerage recognition of the non-rattan, non-rapier martial activities would indicate that outstanding skill in these activities has acceptance and approval within our Society.
- G. The 2010 SCA census showed strong levels of support for an omnibus martial peerage. The census also showed a vast inequality in peerage recognition for martial activities between armored rattan combat and non-rattan martial activities. The first had a 27 percent peerage level recognition for their activity versus only one percentage or less for the other non-rattan combat activities.
- H. Many of these activities are easier for current and potential participants to access than activities like rattan fighting because there is crossover with modern participation. For example, equestrian activities and target archery are sports where the skill and equipment sets are similar between the modern and SCA worlds. This enables participants to become active without a heavy expenditure in equipment that can only be used within an SCA setting. Furthermore, current trends in movies and popular culture have also added to accelerated growth in areas such as archery. Having strong support and a peerage for these activities may help retain membership in these areas.
- I. An omnibus peerage would avoid the problem of the Board having to create several additional peerages for each of the existing and future NR/RMA, a possible five peerage orders. It would also minimize the number of peerage meetings that the Royals would need to attend.
- J. There is a significant breadth of current Kingdom-level recognition and awards for non-rattan martial activities across the Society (see Appendix A). This clearly indicates Kingdom-level support for non-rattan and non-rapier martial activities within the populaces of individual Kingdoms. Furthermore, some Kingdoms already have omnibus awards for combined activities. Examples are:

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- a. Drachenwald - Includes all 5 activities in one omnibus award.
- b. Ealdormere – All 5 activities in one omnibus award.
- c. An Tir- All missiles are in one omnibus award, equestrian is separate.
- d. Northshield - All missiles are omnibus, equestrian is separate.
- e. Atlantia - All missiles are omnibus, equestrian is separate.
- f. West - All missiles are omnibus, equestrian is separate.
- g. Gleann Abhann - Omnibus for archery, siege, thrown weapons. Combat archery and equestrian are separate.
- h. Æthelmearc - The Golden Alce award is an omnibus award including all martial activities.
- i. Avacal - All missiles are in one omnibus award, equestrian is separate.
- j. East - All missiles are in one omnibus award, equestrian is separate.

5. Proposed Omnibus Peerage Name

The Order of Valiance was chosen by a ranked popular vote in the “Martial Peerage” Facebook group. Alternative options, also chosen by ranked popular vote, are available in Appendix C.

6. Proposed Omnibus Peerage Badge

Eagle with wings displayed upon a hunting horn inverted.



7. Proposed Omnibus Peerage Regalia

Order medallion

The name and badge would require registration with the College of Arms. Additional heraldic protections, including the reservation of regalia, may also be necessary.

8. Suggested Peerage Requirement (Peer-Like Qualities, or PLQ's)

The candidate must have attained the standard of excellence in skill and/or knowledge equal to that of his or her prospective peers in some area of the martial arts not included in the Chivalry, or Order of Defense. The candidate must have applied this skill and/or knowledge for the instruction of members and in service to the Kingdom to an extent above and beyond what would normally be expected of members of the Society.

9. Summary and Proposed Changes to Corpora

Given that there are a great number of members of the populace who are not served by the current peerage structure, and given the arguments that would favor the creation of a new peerage as presented in this proposal, we ask the Board of Directors to create a new peerage with the following changes to the governing documents:

Proposed Changes to Corpora for Omnibus Peerage

Summary of changes to corpora, if the additional peerage is implemented is as follows:

Glossary, page 9.

DELETE

[• Peerage: Collectively, the members of the Order of Chivalry, the Order of the Laurel, the Order of the Pelican, and the Order of Defense are referred to as the Peerage. A member of any of these Orders is a Peer.]

ADD

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- Peerage: Collectively, the members of the Order of Chivalry, the Order of the Laurel, the Order of the Pelican, the Order of Defense, and the Order of Valiance are referred to as the Peerage. A member of any of these Orders is a Peer.

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VIII. PERSONAL AWARDS AND TITLES

A. Patents of Arms

2. Order of Precedence Within the Peerage

DELETE

[The Crown may establish the order of precedence within the peerage according to the laws and customs of the kingdom. However, the Chivalry, the Laurel, and the Pelican, and Defense are of equal precedence and must be considered as one group.]

ADD

The Crown may establish the order of precedence within the peerage according to the laws and customs of the kingdom. However, the orders of the Chivalry, the Laurel, the Pelican, Defense, and Valiance are of equal precedence and must be considered as one group.

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4. Patent Orders:

ADD

d. (this will be “e”. The order of defense will be “d”.) The Order of Valiance:

(i) Members of the Order of Valiance may choose to swear fealty, but are not required to do so. The candidate must be considered the equal of his or her prospective peers in any of the martial activities that fall under the purview of the Society Earl Marshal. The candidate must have applied this skill and/or knowledge for the instruction of members and service to the kingdom to an extent above and beyond that normally expected of members of the Society.

(2) The duties of the members of the order are as follows:

(a) To set an example of courtesy and chivalrous conduct on and off the field of honor.

(b) To respect the Crown of the kingdom; to support and uphold the laws of the kingdom and Corpora.

(c) If in fealty, to support and uphold the Crown of his or her kingdom.

(d) To enrich the kingdom by sharing his or her knowledge and skills.

(e) To enhance the renown and defend the honor of the peer’s Lady or Lord.

(f) To advise the Crown on the advancement of candidates for the Order of Valiance.

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D. Titles

4. The titles listed here are considered standard, and may be used by those who have earned or been granted the appropriate rank or award within the Society. The College of Arms publishes a more extensive list of titles and alternative forms, which may also be used freely by qualified persons. In addition, the College of Arms has full approval authority over new alternative titles, which must be added to their list before being released for use in the Society.

DELETE

[TITLE

Master/Mistress

Members of the Orders of the Laurel, the Pelican, Mastery of Arms, and Defense.]

ADD

TITLE

Master/Mistress

Members of the Orders of the Laurel, the Pelican, Mastery of Arms, Defense, and Valiance.

Additional suggestion, in keeping with the Order of Defense:

Additionally, waive the requirements of corpora Section IV.G. that the Crown consult the members of a peerage order prior to inducting new members of that order, but only in the case of the first three (3) members of the Order of Valiance. Once there are three members of the Order of Valiance in a kingdom, the Crown must consult the Order per corpora prior to adding members.

Appendix A Current SCA Kingdom Recognition of Non-Rattan Martial Activities

Examples of omnibus awards for combined activities:

- Drachenwald - Includes all 5 activities in one omnibus award.
- Ealdormere - All 5 activities in one omnibus award.
- An Tir - All missiles are in one omnibus award, equestrian is separate.
- Northshield - All missiles are omnibus, equestrian is separate.
- Atlantia - All missiles are omnibus, equestrian is separate.
- West - All missiles are omnibus, equestrian is separate.
- Gleann Abhann - Omnibus for archery, siege, and thrown weapons. Combat archery and equestrian are separate.
- Æthelmearc – the Golden Alce award is an omnibus award including all martial activities.
- Avacal - All missiles are in one omnibus award, equestrian is separate.
- East - All missiles are in one omnibus award, equestrian is separate.

(Avacal and the East were added to the omnibus awards list since 2015.)

The list below summarizes the current number of designated by activity GoA and AoA awards for non-rattan skills of the field. GoA is Grant of Arms level awards; AoA is Award of Arms level awards:

Grant of Arms

<u>Activity</u>	<u>2015</u>	<u>2020</u>
Target archery:	15 Kingdoms	20 Kingdoms
Combat archery:	13 Kingdoms	19 Kingdoms
Siege:	10 Kingdoms	15 Kingdoms
Thrown weapons:	7 Kingdoms	16 Kingdoms
Equestrian:	13 Kingdoms	16 Kingdoms

Award of Arms

<u>Activity</u>	<u>2015</u>	<u>2020</u>
Target archery:	11 Kingdoms	17 Kingdoms.
Combat archery:	8 Kingdoms	13 Kingdoms.
Siege:	5 Kingdoms	11 Kingdoms.
Thrown weapons:	6 Kingdoms	14 Kingdoms.
Equestrian:	16 Kingdoms	16 Kingdoms.

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Some kingdoms have designated awards. However, in some kingdoms, awards for these activities have been included under kingdom martial and archery awards at both the GoA and AoA levels. Equestrian is separate.

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Appendix B

Non-Rattan Combat Totals (From the SEM)

Authorizations 3Q 2019

	# of Armored Combat Authorized Participants	# of Armored Combat Marshals	# of Rapier Combat Authorized Participants	# of Rapier Combat Marshals	# of Archery Participants	# of Archery Marshals	# of Equestrian Participants	# of Equestrian Marshals	# of Authorized Siege Participants	# of Siege Marshals	# of Combat Archery Participants	# of Combat Archery Marshals	# of Thrown Weapons Participants	# of Thrown Weapons Marshals
Aethelmearc	579	159	304	110	175	56	32	10	138	18	178	15	110	49
An Tir	602	183	359	107	87	121	90	29	38	16	194	44	80	79
Ansteorra	440	254	295	198	0	76	67	13	104	22	171	55	0	59
Artemisia	172	55	126	30	40	23	0	1	0	1	23	1	0	0
Atenveldt	215	36	182	46	395	129	0	0	0	1	15	4	0	6
Atlantia	571	211	397	129	300	187	102	13	128	18	160	32	100	51
Avacal	172	88	101	64	Not Tracked	47	26	7	4	4	75	Not Tracked	Not Tracked	21
Caid	287	60	92	30	100	11	32	9	5	3	51	61	52	14
Calontir	629	181	145	38	138	69	84	20	0	0	629	181	42	69
Drachenwald	300	50	100	40	70	10	3	2	0	0	30	10	10	1
Ealdormere	206	77	114	33	200	34	2	0	13	2	46	24	55	33
East	1000	200	500	120	600	120	60	15	30	10	120	30	150	30
Glean Abhann	157	159	137	12	46	26	27	3	20	3	82	2	46	26
Lochac	321	150	192	86	300	143	15	10	13	10	179	150	100	143
Meridies	211	90	117	40	102	37	36	8	28	6	36	11	120	36
Middle	1229	312	694	218	800	122	135	25	142	14	266	50	300	67
Northshield	529	109	114	30	358	68	63	11	32	12	118	111	81	19
Outlands	270	47	170	80	250	90	31	8	15	2	30	10	30	5
Trimaris	274	130	136	44	90	29	37	7	117	7	117	26	45	19
West	733	412	371	174	98	20	81	10	29	18	147	66	45	20
Totals	8897	2963	4646	1629	4149	1418	923	201	856	167	2667	883	1366	747

Summary of Participants - 2nd Quarter 2015

	Ansteorra	An Tir	Atenveldt	Atlantia	Avacal	Caid	Calontir	Drachenwald	Ealdormere	East	Glean Abhann	Meridies	Middle	Northshield	Outlands	Trimaris	West	Total
Armored Combatants	481	1049	872	432	188	378	547	350	171	1124	286	450	741	422	290	348	339	8468
Armored Combat Marshals	333	423	224	146	60	108	87	40	43	173	35	60	454	104	50	120	162	2622
Rapier Fighters	298	465	210	254	123	168	77	97	110	485	93	216	501	366	170	171	132	3936
Rapier Marshals	242	213	21	99	53	64	19	35	35	120	26	28	143	74	50	56	68	1346
Archers	143	272	700	110	0	268	195	0	0	129	46	60	100	225	165	134	67	2614
Archery Marshals	62	271	182	56	40	40	75	0	35	14	12	16	75	59	25	24	24	1010
Equestrians	0	246	0	107	10	57	103	0	0	30	12	30	234	43	35	39	86	1032
Equestrian Marshals	0	65	0	22	7	12	16	0	2	9	2	8	21	10	7	10	28	219
Siege Combatants	108	27	0	59	3	14	547	0	9	40	18	42	100	20	10	132	6	1135
Siege Marshal	34	24	0	17	3	5	87	0	5	4	4	4	25	1	5	7	7	232

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Alternate Omnibus Names and Badges

1. Order of the Chimera

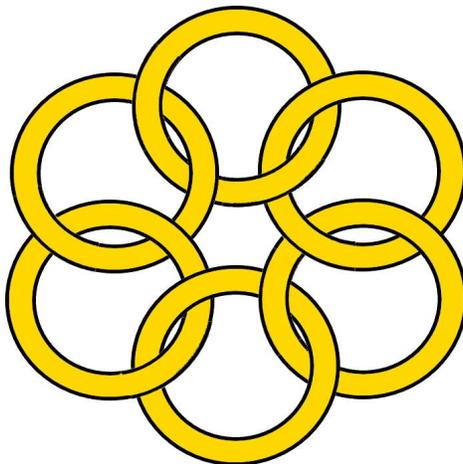
Badge: Chimera: (Fieldless) A chimera statant or. For gold or (fieldless) a chimera statant argent. As is.



2. Order of the Mark

Each of the activities aim in some way at a specific mark and some often leave a mark when they hit.

Badge: Rings: The blazon will be "(Tinctureless) Six annulets linked in annulo."



3. Order of the Enfield

The Enfield is a lesser-known chimera, which has the head of a fox, the chest of a greyhound, the body of a lion, the legs and tail of a wolf, and the talons of an eagle.

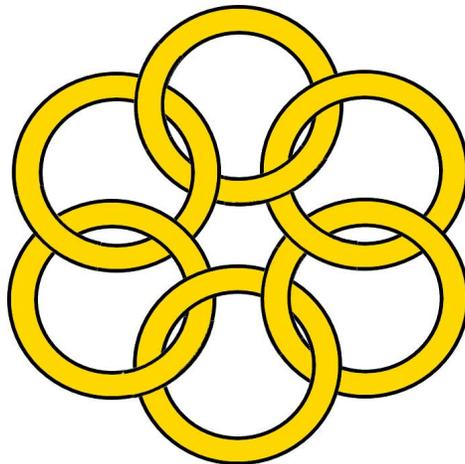
Badge: Creature: The blazon: An Enfield rampant or.



4. Order of the Field

All activities take place on the battlefield or a field.

The blazon will be "(Tinctureless) Six annulets linked in annulo."



5. Miscellaneous Alternative Device



6. Order of the Palm

A symbol of victory, triumph and peace in ancient Rome and Greece.
(Tinctureless) Two palm fronds in saltire.

