



**The Customary  
of  
The Barony of Dragon's Laire**  
Kingdom of An Tir  
The Society of Creative Anachronisms (SCA)

**Version 1.0  
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# Contents

|                      |  |           |
|----------------------|--|-----------|
| <b>ARTICLE I.</b>    | <b>SCOPE</b> .....                     | <b>1</b>  |
| <b>ARTICLE II.</b>   | <b>HISTORY</b> .....                   | <b>1</b>  |
| <b>ARTICLE III.</b>  | <b>STRUCTURE AND OFFICERS</b> .....    | <b>1</b>  |
| <b>ARTICLE IV.</b>   | <b>STANDING COMMITTEES</b> .....       | <b>6</b>  |
| <b>ARTICLE V.</b>    | <b>MEETINGS</b> .....                  | <b>6</b>  |
| <b>ARTICLE VI.</b>   | <b>FINANCIAL MATTERS</b> .....         | <b>7</b>  |
| <b>ARTICLE VII.</b>  | <b>EVENTS</b> .....                    | <b>7</b>  |
| <b>ARTICLE VIII.</b> | <b>CHAMPIONS</b> .....                 | <b>9</b>  |
| <b>ARTICLE IX.</b>   | <b>SERGEANTS</b> .....                 | <b>9</b>  |
| <b>ARTICLE X.</b>    | <b>POLLING ORDERS AND AWARDS</b> ..... | <b>10</b> |
| <b>ARTICLE XI.</b>   | <b>GUILDS</b> .....                    | <b>11</b> |
| <b>ARTICLE XII.</b>  | <b>OTHER TRADITIONS</b> .....          | <b>12</b> |
| <b>ARTICLE XIII.</b> | <b>DISSOLUTION</b> .....               | <b>13</b> |

## Article I. Scope

**Section 1.01** *This is the Dragon's Laire Customary, as permitted by Corpora (I.A), which is intended to aid in the smooth running of the Barony of Dragon's Laire, a branch of the Society for Creative Anachronism, Inc. It is not a corporate publication of the Society for Creative Anachronism, Inc., and does not delineate SCA policies.*

**Section 1.02** *This Customary is superseded by Federal, State and local Laws and Ordinances, the Governing Documents of the Society for Creative Anachronism, Inc., and the Laws of the Kingdom of An Tir. This Customary may be amended by an action of the Baron and Baroness of Dragon's Laire in consultation with the Seneschal(e).*

**Section 1.03** *This Customary is not to be construed as law of any nature, but a document of customs, local policy, and implementation procedures for the branches operation.*

## Article II. History

**Section 2.01** *It is the Custom to maintain a history of the branch. It is the policy for the history to be available to all members of the branch and The History is currently located at <http://www.dragonslaire.org/History/history.htm> and the Baronial Library. The below are keystone events for the branch.*

- (a) August, 1981: Dragon's Laire is started
- (b) January 1982: Dragon's Laire was officially recognized at An Tir's first 12th Night. We were the first shire formed by the new Kingdom of An Tir.
- (c) January 1995: At Twelfth Night AS XXIX, The Shire of Dragon's Laire officially petitioned their majesties for elevation to Baronial Status.
- (d) June 1995 Barony of Dragons Laire officially created

## Article III. Structure and Officers

**Section 3.01** *As in the original charter, it is the custom to have fun. In order to have fun it will be the policy to have an organizational structure with procedures within that structure to enable the populace to have fun.*

**Section 3.02** *General policy for all Officers includes, where applicable, but is not limited to:*

- (a) Being a paid member of the Society.
- (b) Contacting the office's Kingdom superior as soon as possible after assuming an office.
- (c) If one's office is a Required Office, ensuring that a trained warrantable Contingency Deputy exists.

- (d) Act as a general clearinghouse of information regarding local resources, instructors, and suppliers for matters relating to the office.
- (e) Each officer is expected to maintain an inventory of the office, including regalia and reference materials. The inventory will be reported as the Steward specifies, and in any case, not less than once a year. All papers, properties, etc. of the office, transfer with that office to the new officer.
- (f) To work with Autocrats to ensure that the duties of the office as it relates to an event, are fulfilled.
- (g) To have access to a copy of "*The Flames of the Dragon*" the official baronial newsletter.
- (h) Ensure that accurate and complete contact information is provided to the Chronicler for inclusion in "*The Flames*".
- (i) Providing copies of written monthly report to the Seneschal(e) and Chronicler (or deputy), either by email or at the business meeting.
- (j) Attending the business meeting as often as possible.

**Section 3.03** **Term and Office procedures**

- (a) Warranting of Baronial Officers: While required Officers of the Barony must be warranted at the Kingdom level, all Officers of Dragons Laire will also be warranted on a Baronial level. Following the example of the laws of the Kingdom of An Tir, Baronial Officers will be warranted for a 2-year term.
  - (i) *1-year extensions may be granted upon consultation of the Baron and Baroness with the Seneschal(e) and the Kingdom Officer (or the officer's superior).*
  - (ii) *On expiration of the warrant, other candidates may be considered.*
- (b) Each opening for a new Officer will include a job description of the office and state that interested parties should apply to the incumbent officer with a copy to the Seneschal(e), Baron and Baroness. Notice will be put in the Baronial newsletter, *The Flames of the Dragon*, listed on additional official and unofficial publications including electronic media as deemed prudent, and announced at business meetings. Notices will continue to be published in *The Flames of the Dragon*, and announced at business meetings until the position has been filled.
  - (i) *If the retiring officer wishes to recommend a deputy who is willing and qualified to fill the office, and there are no other applicants, then input from the populace will be sought. If the Seneschal(e), and the Baron and Baroness concur with the choice, the deputy will be recommended as the successor.*
  - (ii) *Other interested parties may submit an application for the position to the incumbent officer (if applicable) and Seneschal(e), and the Baron and Baroness,*

*noting their interest and experience. Applications must also include one copy of the applicant's SCA membership card.*

*(iii) At a future business meeting, the Seneschal(e) will formally introduce a list of candidates to the populace. Copies of any applications may be made available, and commentary from the populace will be requested. Commentary should be sent to the incumbent officer (if applicable), the Baron and Baroness and the Seneschal(e).*

*(iv) The Seneschal(e) and the Baron and Baroness may then interview all applicants.*

(c) Selection of new Officers will be decided by the Seneschal(e) in conjunction with the Baron and Baroness after they hear the support of the populace for that person. If applicable, the successor's name will then be forwarded on to the appropriate Kingdom Officer for final approval.

*(i) In the case of the Seneschal(e), the selection process will be identical to other officers except letters of intent are given to the Baron and Baroness.*

(d) The new officer will serve on a provisional basis pending confirmation by their Kingdom Superior.

(e) The Seneschal(e) acting with the advise and consent of the Baron and Baroness has the authority to appoint interim officers as needed. (In the event of sudden resignations, death, extreme negligence, or other emergent situations.)

*(i) Baron and Baroness, after consulting with others, shall contact the Kingdom Seneschal and request approval of an interim Seneschal(e).*

(f) Selection of the Seneschal(e) and Exchequer may have additional procedures.

### **Section 3.04                      Removal and Resignation Policy and Procedures**

(a) Grounds for dismissal by the Seneschal(e) in conjunction with the Baron and Baroness and the officer's superior shall include, but not be limited to, the following:

*(i) The officer has demonstrated a substantial failure to perform the duties of the office after having been given notice of the nature of the duties neglected and having been given a reasonable opportunity to correct these failures. For example three consecutive business meetings with out a report.*

*(ii) The officer has willfully abused the office by using it to hinder or annoy others, or to advance some purpose inconsistent with the trust of that office.*

*(iii) The effectiveness of the officer has been impaired to a substantial degree due to personal reasons or a breakdown in the officer's ability to deal with the Baron and Baroness, and/or the Seneschal(e) the officer's superior, the officer's deputies and subordinates and/or the populace with whom the officer must work.*

- (iv) *The officer has demonstrated a willful failure to abide by governing documents of the Branch, the Kingdom and or the Society.*
  - (v) *If the Officer has been banished by the Crown for any reason.*
  - (vi) *The Officer has behaved in a manner that would harm the Barony including but not limited to being convicted and imprisoned by a legal court of law.*
- (b) Any officer may resign at any time by giving written notice to the Seneschal(e), the Baron and Baroness and their Kingdom Officer (if applicable). Any such resignation shall take effect as of the date of specified therein, or if no date is specified, the resignation will be effective as of the date of receipt of the letter.
  - (c) Grounds for dismissal of the Seneschal(e) will be identical to other officers except letters are given to the Baron and Baroness and the Kingdom Seneschal(e). The Baron and Baroness in conjunction with the Kingdom Seneschal(e) will make the final decision.

**Section 3.05** *Baron and/or Baroness are the direct and appointed representative of the Crown for the Barony. It is the custom for the populace to be ruled by a benevolent Baron and Baroness that listens to the consensus of the populace.*

- (a) It will be the policy for the Baron and/or Baroness Serving to act as the ceremonial Head of State for the Barony, including, but not limited to, hosting visiting Royalty, conducting such Courts as are necessary for presenting awards, prizes, recognitions, honors and memberships in the Orders of the Barony, also presenting Awards, Orders, etc. delegated to them by the Crown, and providing pomp and ceremony for Baronial events.
  - (i) *The Baron and Baroness serve at the pleasure of the Crown in accordance with Kingdom Law, are allowed to serve up to two consecutive three year terms. As the end of the first three term approaches the Seneschal(e) will inquire as to the Baron and Baroness intentions.*
  - (ii) *If they wish to remain the Baron and Baroness the Seneschal(e) will co-ordinate a confidence polling of the populace in accordance with Kingdom Law.*
  - (iii) *If they wish to step aside, the Baron and Baroness will ask for those that wish to serve. Then follow the process detailed in Kingdom Law.*
- (b) In addition to ceremonial duties, the Baron and Baroness are members of the Financial Committee and may advise the Seneschal(e) and other officers in the performance of the Officers duties.

**Section 3.06** *It is the custom and policy to maintain those officers that are required to retain baronial status. Those offices are delineated in Kingdom law and will be referred to as Greater Officers.*

- (a) The Seneschal(e): It is the custom and policy that the day-to-day operations be managed by the Seneschal(e) in conjunction with the wishes of the Baron and

Baroness. The Seneschal(e) is the administrative head and legal representative of the Barony. As such, the Seneschal(e) is responsible for smooth functioning and continued communication between the Officials of the Barony. It is the policy that the Duties and Responsibilities are as described in the *An Tir Handbook* with the following additions:

- (i) *Act as Moderator at Baronial business meetings. If unable to attend, ensuring that a moderator acceptable to the Baron and Baroness is present.*
- (ii) *Ensure that business meetings are conducted in accordance with the Customary.*
- (b) The Herald: Acts as the voice of the Crown, and thus of the Crown's Representative, and the Baronial Baron and Baroness. In the Barony, the Baronial Herald has the title of Golden Dragon Pursuivant. Duties and Responsibilities are as described in the *An Tir Handbook*.
- (c) The Marshall: Is responsible for the conduct of Society-legal combat within the Barony. Duties and Responsibilities are as described in the *An Tir Handbook* with the following addition:
  - (i) *Overseeing deputies, which includes The Baronial Rapier Marshal, The Baronial Archer, The Baronial Minister of the Lists, Baronial Thrown Weapons Marshal, Baronial Youth Combat, Baronial Siege Weapons, Baronial Waterbearer and Baronial Equestrian.*
- (d) The Minister of Arts and Sciences: Responsible for fostering the practice of period arts and sciences within the Barony. Duties and responsibilities are as described in the *An Tir Handbook* with the following addition:
  - (i) *Overseeing deputies, which includes The Games Minister and The Dance Minister.*
  - (ii) *Overseeing all Baronial Guilds (see Article XI.)*
- (e) The Exchequer: The Treasurer of the Barony. Duties and responsibilities are as described in the *An Tir Handbook* with the following addition of overseeing deputies, which include:
  - (i) *The Steward, who is responsible for maintaining an up-to-date inventory of the Barony's physical assets and regalia: their value, condition, the maker, instructions for maintenance, any insurance required, and any other pertinent information.*
  - (ii) *Financial Committee Clerk who acts as the fifth member of the Financial Committee who maintains meeting notes and submit the minutes to the Chronicler.*
- (f) The Chatelaine is the chief newcomers welcome officer for the Barony. Duties and responsibilities are as described in the *An Tir Handbook* with the following addition:
  - (i) *Overseeing deputies, which include: Gold Key Officer.*

### **Section 3.07**

### **Other Greater Officers of the Barony**

- (a) The Chronicler acts as Editor and publishes "*The Flames of the Dragon*". Duties and responsibilities are as described in the *An Tir Handbook* with the following addition:
- (b) Overseeing deputies, which include: Calendar, Librarian, Webminister and Grete Boke.

**Section 3.08** *It is the custom and the policy to maintain offices in addition to the Greater Offices know as the Lesser Offices. Those not listed above are as follows and may be added to or changed at the Seneschal(e)'s, in consultation with the Baron and Baroness, discretion.*

- (a) The Chirurgeon: Duties and responsibilities are as described in the *An Tir Handbook*.
- (b) Constable: Duties and responsibilities are as described in the *An Tir Handbook*.
- (c) The Pied Piper: Duties and responsibilities are as described in the *An Tir Handbook*. It is our custom to educate the children of the Barony. The Pied Piper by policy is not a babysitting service. The Pied Piper organizes activities for children with parents at Baronial events.

## Article IV. Standing Committees

**Section 4.01** *Financial Committee: A committee that, with consultation of the Barony and following the Baronial Fiscal Policy, decides financial matters.*

**Section 4.02** *Customaries Committee: A committee, that work to keep the Customary current*

- (a) The Seneschal(e) will call a special meeting during February for the purpose of soliciting recommended changes. These recommendations will be printed in *The Flames* during the months of March and April. The final decision on the proposed changes will be made at a business meeting in April (either the regular meeting or a special meeting, as determined by Baron, Baroness and the Seneschal (e)).
- (b) More frequent proposed changes to the Customary, may be suggested at any Business meeting and will be printed in *The Flames* for two months prior to any final changes.
- (c) Copies of the Customary will be available to the populace yearly at the May Business meeting. Note: If someone wishes a current copy of the Customary, it may be obtained from the Librarian at cost. The current version is also available on the Baronial website.

**Section 4.03** *June Fair Committee: A committee, who's members are coordinating the operations of June Faire.*

## Article V. Meetings

**Section 5.01** *It is the custom to hold the following meetings*

**Section 5.02**                      ***Financial Committee meeting is held 30 minutes prior to the monthly business meeting each month in the same location as the business meeting and other times as required.***

- (a)     The actions of the Financial Committee are further delineated in the "*Fiscal Policy*" document.
- (b)     It is the policy that budgets for proposed events are submitted and questions answered. The Financial committee does not award bids, just evaluates them from a fiscal point of view.

**Section 5.03**                      ***The Business Meeting is held on the first Tuesday of each month at 7pm or more often as needed.***

- (a)     At the Business meeting, it is the custom that each Officer and Guild head is given an opportunity to report on the activities of their office.
- (b)     It is the Custom that the Baron and Baroness speak to the Barony about their wishes, concerns and congratulations, and is not limited in subject or scope.
- (c)     It is the custom that old and new business be discussed which includes but is not limited to: status of events that have been awarded, awarding events, seeking consensus of the Barony, Office openings, Committee reports, and any other business relating to the operation of the Barony.
- (d)     It is the custom to ask for "Oh by the Way" which includes but is not limited to general announcements of interest to the Barony
- (e)     It is the goal of the meeting to be less than one hour; however, the custom is that it will take as long as it takes.
- (f)     It is the tradition that the Chronicler compiles notes of the meeting and publishes the reports in the next issue of "*The Flames of the Dragon*".

**Section 5.04**                      ***It is the custom to give the populace many opportunities to have fun. Other additional special interest meetings are listed in the Flames as they are scheduled.***

## **Article VI.                      Financial Matters**

**Section 6.01**                      ***These are delineated in Dragon's Laire Baronial Fiscal Policy***

## **Article VII.                      Events**

**Section 7.01**                      ***It is the Custom for Dragons Laire to hold Events***

**Section 7.02**                      ***Bid Procedure***

- (a)     Bids may be submitted anytime, with the exception of June Fair, and are awarded at the business meeting no earlier than nine months before the projected event.

- (b) If only one viable bid is received, it will be awarded.
- (c) If multiple bids are received, first an attempt will be made to reach a consensus of the bidders as to a single bid. If no consensus is possible, the Seneschal(e), Baron and Baroness shall award the bid.
- (d) If the Autocrat is lacking in experience a mentor may be assigned by the Seneschal(e).
- (e) If there is no bid by the award deadline, the event will be awarded to the first group to present a viable bid. At three months before scheduled event time, if no bids have been received, the event may be re-evaluated or canceled.
- (f) It is the policy that the Autocrat is a deputy of the Seneschal(e) and a paid member, and the Feastocrat the deputy of the Autocrat.
- (g) It is the tradition that each Baronial Officer and each Autocrat work together.
- (h) It is not required that each event extends more than one day nor that it requires a feast.
- (i) It is the custom that no one Autocrats the same event perennially.

**Section 7.03                      *The Custom is to hold the following events:***

- (a) Candlemas is held in the winter, traditionally in early February. This event hosts The Baronial Arts and Sciences Championship.
- (b) June Faire
  - (i) *Due to the nature of June Fair, it is overseen by a standing committee.*
  - (ii) *It is the custom to hold June Faire during the first weekend in June. This is considered the Barony's premier event.*
  - (iii) *It is open to the public and attracts a large attendance from both the SCA populace and the modern public.*
  - (iv) *It has been the home of our Heavy Combatant Champion's Tourney and Rapier Championship, attracting some of the premier fighters of An Tir.*
  - (v) *Other activities include shopping at medieval style merchants, Arts and Science displays and demonstrations, Bardic performances and a wide variety of martial activities and other entertainments. Archery and Thrown Weapons are also showcased.*
  - (vi) *June Faire is also a major fundraiser for the Barony.*



**Section 9.01*****The Sergeants of Dragon's Lair form the Baroness's Elite guard.***

- (a) They are selected by rigorous Trials that test their martial abilities and breadth of knowledge in a variety of areas, which includes the gentler arts and courtly behavior. Originally developed to bring An Tirian fighters to the notice of Peers in the West, their role is changing to fit the current needs of the Baronies throughout the Kingdom.
- (b) They are expected to serve as good examples of chivalry and etiquette. They act as advisors and teachers in their area(s) of expertise.

**Section 9.02*****The Sergeants of Dragon's Lair are focused in different specialties.***

- (a) Sergeants, whose area of expertise are armored combat.
- (b) Yeomen, whose area of expertise is archery and thrown weapons.
- (c) Gallants, whose area of expertise are rapier combat.
- (d) Lancers, whose area of expertise are the equestrian arts and sciences.
- (e) Courtiers, whose area of expertise are the Arts and Sciences, and/or Service.

**Article X. Polling Orders and Awards****Section 10.01**

***One of the privileges we gained when the Shire of Dragon's Lair became the Barony of Dragon's Lair was the right to create and bestow Baronial awards. This right has been exercised in the creation of a number of awards and orders to seriously recognize outstanding efforts of members of the populace in both service and the arts & sciences as well as several lighter veined awards to reward (or punish?) accomplishments of unusual merit.***

**Section 10.02**

***Members of the populace may recommend individuals for any award, both Baronial and Kingdom level. The Baron and Baroness invite and encourage award recommendations of all types as bestowing recognition is one of the chief pleasures of their office.***

**Section 10.03*****Polling Orders***

- (a) The Order of the Wyvern actually predates the creation of the Barony. It was elevated to a Baronial award upon recognition of Dragon's Lair as a Barony. Awarded to individuals for service to the Barony beyond the call of duty. Current members of the order recommend selected individuals for admission to the order to the Baron and Baroness. Insignia of the order consist of a wyvern charm, most often worn on a necklace.
- (b) The Order of the Dragon's Pearls: (Formerly the Order of the Albion Light) was formed to recognize outstanding achievement in the arts & sciences in the Barony. Members of the Order are proficient in several disciplines and committed to sharing their skills and knowledge. Current members of the order recommend selected individuals for admission to the order to the Baron and Baroness. (The name of this order has not yet passed the College of Heraldry)

- (c) The Most Noble and August Order of the Golden Hyphen. Admission into the Noble Order of the Golden Hyphen is one of the truly great honors which can be bestowed on a person from the fair Barony of Dragon's Laire. It is granted to individuals who have demonstrated superior organizational abilities. "Is There a - in Anal Retentive?" The Order was created at June Faire in June, A. S. XXX, minutes after Dragon's Laire was elevated to baronial status. It was the first truly baronial order. The first two members of this elite order were presented with the golden hyphen medallions symbolizing the order and special raiment.
- (i) *A sub-order, Hyphens in Training for individuals who have displayed a suitable attitude, but have not met all of the requirements for membership in the greater Order.*

**Section 10.04                      Awards**

- (a) Dragons Heart:
- (b) Snapdragon: The Snapdragon is awarded to individuals of merit who have provided notable service to the Barony
- (c) Bumblebee: The Bumblebee is awarded to individuals with notable achievements in the arts and sciences.
- (d) Dragons Claw: The Dragons Claw (formally the Silver claw) is awarded to young people in the Barony for contributions of merit.
- (e) Order of the Dragon's Flame: The Dragon's Flame is awarded to Baronial Champions as they step down from office.
- (f) The O Kopros: The award is given for Massive verbal misstatement.
- (g) The Flame of Creativity and Scholarship: The award is given by The Order of the Dragon's Pearls to the second placeholder in the Baronial Arts and Sciences competition.

**Article XI.                      Guilds**

**Section 11.01                      *A Guild is a recognized special interest focus group.***

**Section 11.02                      *Prospective guilds must petition the Baron and Baroness in order to be recognized as a Baronial Guild. This petition must include a charter of their goals, a name and a roll of members.***

**Section 11.03                      *Guild Heads are determined by the members of the Guild and are not considered officers. Each Guild is responsible to decide who, and for how long, a person should be Guild Head. However, it is reasonable to assume that no Guild should have the same Guild Head in perpetuity.***

**Section 11.04                      *The Guild determines their own internal structure and activities.***

**Section 11.05**                      **Current active Guilds include: Bardic, Culinary/Spirit makers, European Dance, Metal Smiths, Missile. (Note: Costumers is a Kingdom Guild)**

## **Article XII.            Other Traditions**

**Section 12.01**                      **Absent Friends: It is the custom within Dragon's Laire to recognize and honor those members of the Barony that have passed on or whose military or life obligations cause their absence during a feast.**

- (a)     A Place with no chair is set with tablecloth and complete place setting, but with the plate and glass turned over to denote the absence of those missing from the Barony of Dragon's Laire.

**Section 12.02**                      **Toasting at feasts: It is the custom within Dragon's Laire during feasts to recognize with a toast the leaders in the Kingdom and Barony.**

- (a)     By tradition, the autocrat is responsible for asking members present to offer the toasts. It is considered an honor to offer a toast, and the autocrat should consult with the herald in matters of precedence regarding those offering toasts.
- (b)     By tradition, the following toasts should be offered in this order:
  - (i) *The King and Queen of An Tir*
  - (ii) *The Royal Heirs (if any at the time)*
  - (iii) *The Baron and Baroness of Dragon's Laire*
  - (iv) *Absent Friends*
  - (v) *The Autocrat*
  - (vi) *Those that have prepared the feast*
  - (vii) *The Barony of Dragon's Laire*
  - (viii) *The Kingdom of An Tir*

**Section 12.03**                      **Other Recognitions**

- (a)     The Marshalling Award: for excellence in Marshaling. Given at June Faire.
- (b)     Juan-1: Up and coming heavy fighters.
- (c)     Juan-2: Up and coming Rapier fighter.
- (d)     Juan Shot: Up and Coming Archer

