

Creation of a Count and Countess

It should be ascertained beforehand the titles the new Count and Countess wish to use: Earl, Comtesse, etc.; and these should be substituted for "Count" and "Countess" in the Ceremony, where appropriate.

HERALD

Their Majesties call before the Throne *N.* and *N.*, for they have done great service to Caid and We would honor them.

The two enter, attended by such Royal Peers as please them; the attendants bear the coronets and personal banners. They kneel before Their Majesties, who stand.

KING

***N.*, having by your valor, skill, and strength of arms won the Crown of this Kingdom, and having served this Realm as King, We do hereby affirm you as a Count and Royal Peer. Will you accept this honor, vowing your continued fealty to the Crown you have lately worn?**

COUNT

I will, Your Majesty.

KING

Let the scroll be read.

If a scroll has been prepared, the Herald reads it to the populace. If not, he continues:

HERALD

Be it known to all men that *N.*, having been knighted on the (n)th day of (month), A.S. (year), and having won the Crown of this Realm, We hereby proclaim that by his valor, skill and strength at arms he has earned and deserves the honorable and noble title and estate of a Count of this Realm, with all the honors and dignities pertaining to this rank. In acknowledgement whereof, We hereto set Our Hand and Seal, this (n)th day of (month), A.S. (year), being the (n)th of the Common Era. *N. Rex, N., Regina*, King and Queen of Caid.

KING

Let His Excellency receive the coronet of his new rank.

Another Count (or the King) places the coronet on the new Count's head. The King raises the new Count to his feet.

***N.*, henceforth be Count *N.* in this Our Realm.**

The new Count stands beside the King.

QUEEN

***N.*, having by your beauty, grace, and virtue inspired your champion to win you the Crown of this Kingdom, and having served this Realm as Queen, We do hereby affirm you as a Countess and Royal Peer. Will you accept this honor, vowing your continued fealty to the Crown you have lately worn?**

COUNTESS

I will, Your Majesty.

QUEEN

Let the scroll be read.

If a scroll has been prepared, the Herald reads it to the populace. If not, he continues:

HERALD

Be it known to all men that *N.*, having inspired her champion to win for her the Crown of this Realm, We do hereby proclaim that by her beauty, grace and virtues she has earned and deserves the honorable and noble title and estate of a Countess of this Realm, with all the honors and dignities appertaining thereto. In acknowledgement whereof, We hereto set Our Hand and Seal this (day)th day of (month), Anno Societatis (year), being the (n)th year of the Common Era. *N.*, Rex, *N.*, Regina, King and Queen of Caid.

QUEEN

Let Her Excellency receive the coronet of her new rank.

Another Countess (or the Queen) places the coronet on the new Countess' head. (As an OPTION: The new Count may crown his Lady. If so, he first holds it over her head, saying:

COUNT

As it was my honor to win you the Crown of Caid, so it is my pleasure to invest you in this estate.

The Count then places the coronet on his lady's head. End of OPTION.) The King raises the new Countess to her feet, and kisses her hand.

KING

***N.*, henceforth be Countess *N.* in this Our Realm.**

The Queen presents the new Countess with a yellow rose.

QUEEN

Countess *N.*, be welcomed into the Order of the Rose, whose token this is.

The Count rejoins his lady.

HERALD

Count *N.* and Countess *N.*, will you now swear fealty to the Crown and Kingdom of Caid?

COUNT & COUNTESS

We will.

The Seneschal brings forward the Great Sword, which the King unsheathes and holds horizontally. The Count and Countess kneel and place their hands on the Sword.

HERALD FOR COUNT & COUNTESS TO REPEAT:

Here do we swear, by mouth and hand, fealty and service to the Crown and Kingdom of Caid. As we have ruled this Realm in faith, so shall we keep that faith henceforth, that we may, by our

example, foster chivalry, courtesy, and honor throughout the land; until the Crown depart the throne, or death take us, or the world end. So say we, *N*.

KING AND QUEEN

And We, for Our part, swear fealty to these Royal Peers of Caid, and to all their households, to protect and defend them against every creature with all Our power, until We depart from the throne, or death take Us, or the world end. So say We, *K*., King of Caid.

And so say We, *Q*., Queen of Caid.

The King returns the Great Sword into the Seneschal's keeping. Their Majesties raise up the new Count and Countess, while Crescent Herald exhorts cheers from the populace. Their Excellencies, along with their parties, bow and retire.