

The Creation of a Pursuivant or Herald

SPONSORING HERALD

Your *Majesties/Excellencies*; I know that You have need of heralds and pursuivants to carry Your messages in peace and war, to be Your voice, to learn and to teach the noble arts of heraldry. I here present to You Your faithful servant *N.* as a gentle skilled in the arts of honor, that You may create (him/her) as Your *Pursuivant/Herald*.

The candidate is brought forth, being led by the hand by a senior herald and flanked by other heralds or pursuivants bearing the necessary paraphernalia – a book, a goblet of water, and a tabard. The company kneels in the royal or baronial presence. If necessary, the number of attendants can be expanded or shrunk. Attendant moves forward with book/sword to swear an oath upon so that the candidate can place his hand upon it.

Will you, *N.*, of your own free will, swear to serve Their *Majesties/ Excellencies* as a *Pursuivant/Herald*?

CANDIDATE

I will.

SPONSORING HERALD

(Aside) Place your hand upon the book/sword. (Aloud) Do you, of your own free will, swear to serve your office as follows in these articles?

Following each of the articles, the candidate responds "I so swear."

First, you shall swear that you be true to our high and most excellent prince, our sovereign lord that here is, and to him that makes you a herald. And if you should have any knowledge or hear any imagination of treason, you shall discover it to His High Grace or to His noble council; and counsel it in no manner.

And you shall promise and swear that you shall be serviceable to all gentle persons to do their commandments to their worship of noble deeds; and to excuse their worship by your good counsel, and ever ready to offer your service to them.

And you shall promise and swear to be secret and keep the secrets of knights, squires, ladies, gentlewomen, and all manner of gentle folk; a confessor of arms; and not discover them in any wise except treason abovesaid.

Also you shall promise and swear if any fortune finds you in divers lands and countries where you go or ride, if you find any gentle of name and arms that has lost their goods in service of his lord or of noble acts and has fallen into poverty, and if they ask of your goods for sustenance, you shall give them of your goods to your power and as you bear.

Also you shall promise and swear if you be in any place where you hear debate or peril between two gentles which you shall be privy to, if so be it that you be required by prince, judge, or any other to bear witness, you shall not be without license of both parties, and when you have leave, you shall not testify for any good favor or awe, but say the truth to your knowledge.

Also you shall promise and swear that you shall pursue learning, and teach officers of arms under you, all manner of things pertaining to nobility.

Also you shall promise and swear that you shall forsake all places of dishonesty and hazard and dishonestly going to common taverns and places of debates and all manner of vices, and take to virtues as much as you are able.

This article and all other articles abovesaid you shall truly keep, so help you God and the saints.

Attendant moves forward and gives the goblet of water to the Sovereign/Baron. Sovereign slowly pours a bit of water from the goblet over the candidate's head while speaking these words:

KING/BARON

Then, by your oath, I do create you a *Pursuivant/Herald* by the name of (Title). As you shall serve Us as *Pursuivant/Herald*, we shall you award you according to your merit.

Here the creating nobles may add such other words of exhortation as seems to them appropriate. When done, the creating noble gives the cup to the candidate.

SPONSORING HERALD

Let the *Pursuivant/Herald* be invested with his/her tabard of office, and let him/her wear it as befits his/her rank of *Pursuivant/Herald*, and in no other way.

Attendants move forward and put a tabard on the candidate. If a Pursuivant, the tabard should be put on so that the arms of the tabard are on the candidate's chest and the front and back drape over the candidate's shoulders and arms. If a Herald, the tabard should be put on in the manner described above, then rotated 90 degrees to its proper configuration.

KING/BARON

You may go.