

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

Omnibus Peerage Steering Committee  
April 2015

# Valiance Omnibus Proposal

---

## The Order of Valiance

### Steering Committee Chairperson

*Theresa Williams (Duchess Tessa the Huntress, OP), Kingdom of Æthelmearc  
Order of the Quiver (Trimaris), Order of the Yew Bow (Atlantia),  
Order of the Rose (Æthelmearc), Order of the Golden Alce (Æthelmearc)*

### Steering Committee Members

*Phoebe Sharp (Mistress Ysabeau Tiercelin, OP, OL), Kingdom of Æthelmearc  
Dave Peters, Ph. D. (Magister Arion the Wanderer, OL, OGGs), Kingdom of An Tir  
Deedee Cole (Dame Dealla Cohen, OP), Kingdom of Atlantia  
Charles Kane (Duke Ragnarr Blackhammer, OC), Kingdom of Atlantia  
James Prescott (Thorvald Grimsson, OP, OL, OGGs), future Kingdom of Avacal  
Tiffany Parrett (Baroness Eowyth ba Siðend), Kingdom of Calontir  
Duane Wilkey (Viscount Alexander Caitnmes, KSCA, OP, OL, OC), Kingdom of Calontir  
Richard Monroe (Master Li Kung Lo, OP, Grand Master Bowman), Kingdom of the East  
Gregory J. Regnier (Baron Ryan Mac Whyte, OP, Sagittarius), Kingdom of the East  
Amber Everson (THL Helene of Navarre), Kingdom of Glean Abhann  
Alice Balnaves-Knyvette (Baroness Alesia du Cheval Blanc), Kingdom of Lochac  
Jim Hawkins (Master Seamus Corrigan, OP), Kingdom of Meridies  
Sam Davis (Duke Thomas Blackmoore, KSCA), Kingdom of Meridies  
Dirk Hermance (Master Dirk Edward of Frisia, OP), Kingdom of the Middle  
Paul W. Van Dyke (Master Jean Paul Pierrepont, OP, OL), Kingdom of the Middle  
John Schiffermuller (Baron Iain Fhearghuis, former Society CA Marshal), Kingdom of  
Trimaris  
Jill Leggett (Duchess Bryndis Hrafnhause Order of the Rose), Kingdom of Trimaris  
John Edgerton (Sir Jon Fitz Rauf, OP, OL, RMC), Kingdom of the West*

### Consulting Contributor

*Linda Tsubaki, MPPA, Ph. D. Candidate (Sayako Enoki), Kingdom of An Tir*

# Valiance Omnibus Proposal

---

## **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.

# Valiance Omnibus Proposal

---

## 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 15 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-rapier and 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.

# Valiance Omnibus Proposal

---

## Table of contents

1. Introduction.....	6
2. Background.....	6
3. Participation in Non-rattan and Non-Rapier Activities.....	7
4. Specific Reasons for the Omnibus Peerage.....	8
5. Proposed Omnibus Peerage Name.....	10
6. Proposed Omnibus Peerage Badge.....	10
7. Proposed Omnibus Peerage Regalia.....	10
8. Suggested Peerage Requirement (PLQ's).....	11
9. Summary and Proposed Changes to Corpora.....	11
Appendix A: Current SCA Kingdom Recognition of Non Rattan Martial Activities.....	14
Appendix B: Non-Rattan Combat Total.....	15
Appendix C: Alternate Omnibus Names and Badges.....	16

# 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, comprised of members of the Society from many Kingdoms, including peers from the Chivalry, Laurel, and Pelican. A Facebook group was formed, and has attracted more than 856 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.

# Valiance Omnibus Proposal

---

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 15 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.

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.

---

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

Determining participation in the omnibus activities is slightly difficult as some of the activities do not require authorizations in all Kingdoms, specifically thrown weapons and target archery. We first acquired authorization numbers from the Society Earl Marshal. Some of the Kingdom Earl Marshal's numbers gave the "active" number instead of the authorized numbers, i.e. for siege and/or combat archery. We then sought the best estimates from the Kingdom deputy marshals (for that activity). These estimates are very conservative estimates based on numbers from the larger competitions and/or confirmed scores on the Society or Kingdom website used for tracking scores.

The Society Earl Marshal reported to the Board of Directors that as of the end of 2014, there are 9,324 authorized armored combatants and 3,859 heavy rapier combatants. In comparison, the approximate totals we have tabulated in Appendix B shows that we tallied 2,454 combat archer combatants, 657 siege combatants, 1,238 equestrian participants, 8,427 target archery participants, and

# Valiance Omnibus Proposal

---

1,634 thrown weapons participants. (See Appendix B for a detailed breakdown of these numbers by Kingdom.)

That means there is an approximate total of 14,410 participants in these other non-rattan/non-rapier martial activities. This is more than armored combat and rapier combined, which is 13,183. However, there is some overlap in the numbers. 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.

All of our other martial activities have shown some growth in the four 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.<sup>1</sup>
- 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 4) 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.

---

<sup>1</sup> 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

## Valiance Omnibus Proposal

---

- 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. 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:
  - 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.

# Valiance Omnibus Proposal

---

## 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.

# Valiance Omnibus Proposal

---

## 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

• 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.

*p. 33*

## VIII. PERSONAL AWARDS AND TITLES

A. Patents of Arms

2. Order of Precedence Within the Peerage

# Valiance Omnibus Proposal

---

## 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.

*p. 33*

### 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.

*p. 34*

### 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.

## Valiance Omnibus Proposal

---

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.

# Valiance Omnibus Proposal

---

## 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.
- Æthelmarc – the Golden Alce award is an omnibus award including all martial activities.

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*

- Target archery: 15 Kingdoms
- Combat archery: 13 Kingdoms
- Siege: 10 Kingdoms
- Thrown weapons: 7 Kingdoms
- Equestrian: 13 Kingdoms

### *Award of Arms*

- Target archery: 11 Kingdoms
- Combat archery: 8 Kingdoms
- Siege: 5 Kingdoms
- Thrown weapons: 6 Kingdoms
- Equestrian: 16 Kingdoms

*Note: The above list does not include the new kingdom of Avacal, which is in the process of becoming part of the Order of the Gray Goose Shaft as shown in the Kingdom of An Tir. Therefore, all of the missile awards above (archery, combat archery, siege, and thrown weapons) will be an omnibus award.*

The Middle Kingdom does not have designated awards for combat archery and siege. However, awards for these activities have been included under kingdom martial and archery awards at both the GoA and AoA levels. Equestrian is separate.

# Valiance Omnibus Proposal

## Appendix B Non-Rattan Combat Totals

	Thrown Weapons	Target Archery	Siege	Equestrian	Combat Archery	Kingdom Totals
Æthelmearc	132	200	94	39	150	<b>615</b>
An Tir	175	826	27	233	276	<b>1537</b>
Ansteorra	80	80	93	95	141	<b>489</b>
Artemisia	29	63	4	21	120	<b>237</b>
Atenveldt	20	125	1	6	122	<b>274</b>
Atlantia	100	699	52	111	124	<b>1086</b>
Caid	100	330	12	57	271	<b>770</b>
Calontir	75	120	2	103	95	<b>395</b>
Drachenwald	*	174	X	5	15	<b>194</b>
Ealdormere	100	150	3	2	6	<b>261</b>
East	100	2500	40	37	158	<b>2835</b>
Gleann Abhann	10	70	8	14	52	<b>154</b>
Lochac	*	576	*	36	166	<b>778</b>
Meridies	60	100	42	49	60	<b>311</b>
Middle	543	1500	100	234	100	<b>2477</b>
Northshield	30	300	18	28	200	<b>576</b>
Outlands	*	417	10	33	200	<b>660</b>
Trimaris	65	100	143	50	134	<b>492</b>
West	15	97	8	85	64	<b>269</b>
<b>Society Totals</b>	<b>1634</b>	<b>8427</b>	<b>657</b>	<b>1238</b>	<b>2454</b>	<b><u>14410</u></b>

\* - indicates no number was available at this time

X - indicates there is no active siege program reported at this time

## Appendix C Alternate Omnibus Names and Badges

### 1. Order of the Chimera

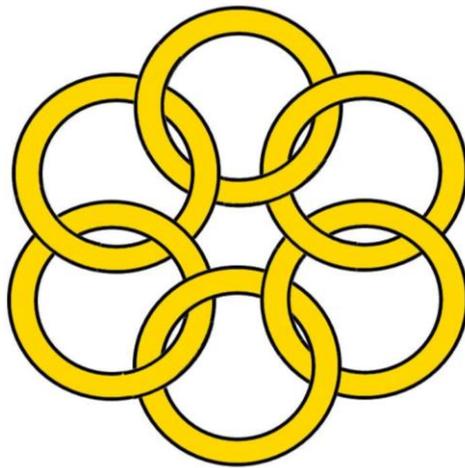
Badge: Chimera: (Fieldless) A chimera statant or. For gold or (fieldless) a chimera statant argent. As is.



### 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."



# Valiance Omnibus Proposal

---

## 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.

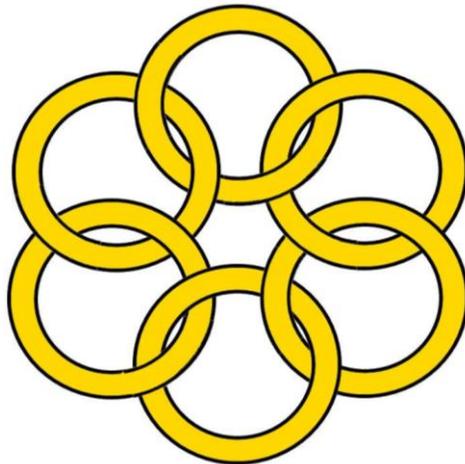
Badge: Creature: The blazon: An Enfield rampant or.



## 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**

