

Scribal Handbook Of The Barony of Ayreton



Second Edition

**Originally Compiled by
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First Signet of Ayreton**

Revised by THL Alexander Adelbrecht von Markelingen June 2015
Newest Edition has updated Badges for Orders

Forward



Dear Scribe,

Thank you.

For your time, your creativity, your imagination, your effort, everything you pour into your art, the Barony of Ayreton thanks you. Whether you have created hundreds of scrolls for kingdoms and Baronies over the decades, or if this is your very first attempt at creating a scroll blank, your contribution is seen, wanted, appreciated.

As the first signet of this still-new Barony, my dream is to create a culture in which all scribes feel that their hard work is recognized and their creativity is appreciated. Drawing, painting, and lettering are, by their nature, one-person work, and in our busy and hectic lives, we often do our work at home, away from our Scadian friends. But no scribe of Ayreton need ever feel that he or she is alone or unnoticed. The beauty of your art creates a thrilling, lasting memory for your award recipient, as well as for the signet, the herald, Their Excellencies, and all the gentles who see your work. You are helping to build the Dream for so many!

Within these pages, you will find the practical building blocks that you need to create scrolls for the various awards and orders of Ayreton. But as you read these descriptions to pull out the information that you need, never forget that it goes beyond simple wording and images.

You are perusing the heraldic history of Ayreton. As you create your scrolls, you are enhancing someone's medieval experience. You are creating a one-of-a-kind piece of art to be signed and sealed by territorial rulers. Each scroll assignment that you receive is a state secret entrusted to your care until it is unveiled before the populace for all to celebrate.

Every time you take a scroll assignment, you engage with Ayreton history, and you help to expand that history. And you make the Dream come to life in a new way for those around you.

You are talented. You are amazing. You are a scribe.

Thank you.

THL Elianora Saunfayle, CDW, OW
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Tips for Creating Scrolls

The ideas below are arranged in chronological order to take you from finding scribal support to generating ideas to completing your first scroll. From beginner to experienced scribe, pull from these ideas in any way that helps you.

Starting as a Scribe and Finding Support: Local Scribal Meetings

Ayreton is a bustling and vibrant Barony, full of artisans willing to share knowledge, ideas, and tools. If you are just beginning your journey as a scribe or you are new to the area, do not hesitate to ask those around the Barony for help!

To find a listing of active weekly and monthly meetings, including scribal and arts meetings, across the Barony, start on the Ayreton website:

<http://ayreton.midrealm.org/artsandsciences.html>

An easy way to reach out to active Barony members is to join the Ayreton Facebook page:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/71826746135/>

Another source of ongoing Ayreton information is the Ayreton Yahoo list:

<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/Ayreton/>

For updates from the individual canton Yahoo mailing lists, which may include further details on area art/scribal events, explore these pages:

<http://www.foxvale.org/>

<http://grevgargoyles.midrealm.org/>

<http://rokkehealden.midrealm.org/>

<http://treegirtsea.midrealm.org/>

<http://www.vanishedwood.org/>

Art Research: Online Resources

Where do you start looking for ideas when you want to begin drawing and painting your first scroll or scroll blank (a painted scroll without calligraphy, which can be donated to the Barony for later completion by a calligrapher)?

It's easy to start on Google. Try searching terms such as "medieval manuscript" or "medieval scroll" to start looking at examples to use as inspiration or to imitate.

One tip, though: if you see a piece of art, get excited, and want to print it off and start to copy, first click through to the source page that the image comes from and read about it. Make sure

that you're looking at a medieval period manuscript before you borrow! Period art is generally in the public domain and is an acceptable model to work from in creating your piece. Current artists' work done in period style is considered that artist's intellectual property and, though inspiring to look at in your research, should not be used to model or copy from as you create your scrolls.

One reliable source that scribes can consistently look to for ideas and guidance is the Middle Kingdom Scribal Handbook:

<http://www.midrealm.org/heraldry/forms/MKScribesHandbook.pdf>

Art Research: Print Resources

While online resources are a good starting place for research, scribes remain reliant upon libraries and bookstores for well-printed, full-color reproductions of period art. Try the art history section of your local library or Half Price Books to find coffee table art books, looking for books of hours, psalters, and other illuminated manuscripts of the period. In addition, many calligraphy how-to books have been published in recent years, helping calligraphers to learn a variety of styles.

Your First Scroll: Getting Started

When you are ready to start your first scroll, you may be overwhelmed by the variety of tools for sale online and in the art section of your craft store. However, you need just a few basics:

- Something to draw on
- Something to draw with
- Something to paint with
- If you are doing calligraphy, something to letter with
- Miscellaneous: ruler, painter's tape

What to Draw On

One popular surface, affordable yet of good quality, is bristol vellum. This thick paper, made from cotton, is available in multi-sheet pads at most arts and crafts stores.

Other options, which may require shopping online or at specialty art shops, include pergaminata or vellum (treated animal hides, not to be confused with bristol vellum).

What to Draw With

Artist's pencils are available individually or in packs at arts and crafts stores. Pencils are marked into the H group (harder graphite) and the B group (softer). Higher numbers in H indicate harder and in B indicate softer. H pencils create lighter marks but offer more

precision; B pencils create darker marks but leave a softer line that blurs more easily.

Erasers that are recommended for artist's paper include the kneaded eraser – a gray eraser that can be stretched and reshaped – and the gum eraser, a soft brown eraser that crumbles away over many uses without damaging the page.

Something to Paint With

Many scribes begin with a basic set of watercolor paints, whether from tubes or from a tray. Any set aimed at the student artist or “higher” will work for scribal purposes. Other tools can include gouache (an opaque watercolor) or natural pigments, though various period pigments included poisonous elements, so these should be carefully researched and handled with care.

Paintbrushes of all sizes and types are available at arts and crafts stores, individually and in sets. Scribes should select based on their own preferences. More expensive options are made with higher-quality parts and will likely last longer if maintained.

Something to Letter With

For those doing calligraphy, pen and ink choices range from markers with calligraphy-wedged tips; to cartridge pens with metal nibs that accept ink refills; to quills and ink in jars.

Miscellaneous

Other tools can also be helpful in starting a scroll.

- *Ruler.* In addition to helping with straight lines, this tool is important to help scribes to leave a minimum of 2 inches of white space around the edges of the scroll to make it easier for the recipient to mat.
- *Pre-cut mat.* Another way to set a matting margin is to simply keep a pre-cut mat with your art supplies and use it to trace out the area on the page in which you will design. This way, when your recipient takes the scroll home, he or she can simply buy an off-the-shelf mat for a few dollars and place the scroll in a frame, protecting the scroll from contact with glass, which better preserves the piece over the years. Ordering custom matting can cost 3-5 times as much.
- *Painter's tape.* When completing a court scroll, scribes must attach a printout of the original scroll text to the back for the herald's ease in reading during court. Painter's tape allows this sheet to be attached to the back of the scroll without risk of damage to the art paper.

Completing a Scroll

Scroll blanks can be completed and donated to the Barony at any time. Court scrolls are created custom, by assignment.

When the signet posts a request for court scrolls on the Facebook page or Yahoo list (or on a private email list of scribes – inquire with the signet to be added to any existing list), respond directly to the signet volunteering and specifying how many scroll assignments you can take on. In most cases, each scribe is asked to complete only one scroll; however, for larger courts, there may be an opportunity to volunteer for more than one. If you are available just to illuminate (draw/paint) or just to do calligraphy, specify this when volunteering.

If a scroll assignment is still available, the signet will email you with details: the recipient's name, the award, specifics wording from the Baron and Baroness on why the award is being given, and the name and date of the event.

Use the suggested scroll text from this handbook, combined with the details you receive, to create the text. Should you wish to alter and customize the text, consult with the signet before making any major or unusual departures from the standard text.

Consider looking up your recipient on Facebook to add personalization to the scroll design. Should you choose to add the Ayreton star to your design, bear in mind that the "star" is actually a 6-pointed mullet, rather than the 6-pointed "star of David" and is drawn somewhat differently. (See illustrations in the "Orders" section.)

In addition, be sure to leave space approximately 1 ½" in diameter for the Baronial seal. The Barony has both a stamper seal and a wax seal and may use either, depending on which is best-suited to the paper you have used and the look of your scroll.

Also leave space for the Baron and Baroness each to sign the scroll. Consider adding two lines in pencil for their signatures.

When the scroll is complete, include the following on the back:

- The recipient's SCA and real names
- The recipient's canton, if available
- Your name and email
- A printout of the scroll text, 14 point or larger font, attached with painter's tape

Should you be unable to attend the event and deliver the scroll to the signet in person, make arrangements to have another SCA member deliver it for you, and contact the signet to make sure that he or she knows who to expect and when.

Getting Help

If you have questions or issues while working on a scroll blank, do not hesitate to contact the Ayreton signet. She or He is in the role to coordinate the timely completion of scrolls for court and can either answer your questions or find a more knowledgeable scribe to help. Scribal questions range from detailed technical questions about use of particular art supplies, to protocol questions about scroll wording, to requests for a second look at a scroll layout before the scribe puts paint to paper.

Because your scroll assignment is a Baronial secret, the signet is your best contact, with the Baronial herald as backup. Contact names will always be available on the Ayreton webpage: <http://ayreton.midrealm.org/officers.html>

Orders

The following are the Orders of Ayreton. Orders can only be given only once to a recipient.

The Order of Ríáin's Star (Alternately Order of Réalta Ríáin)

Per pale vert and azure, a comet bendwise in a bordure argent.

Given to youth for outstanding service to the Barony.

Sample text:

Unto all to whom these presents come, know that We (NAME), Baron Ayreton, and (NAME), Baroness Ayreton, are mindful of the time, labor and love that (NAME) hath most freely given unto the Barony of Ayreton and its cantons with (specific mentions). As our future lies in our youth, s/he exemplifies the qualities we most cherish, and we are minded to make him/her a Companion of the Order of Réalta Ríáin. Done by our hands this ___ day of ___, Anno Societatis (A.S.) ___, in our Canton of (Name of Canton)



Order of Atlas of Ayreton

Argent, a mullet of six points gules in a bordure per pale vert and azure.

Given for excellence in the area of service to the Barony.

Let it be known that We, (NAME), Baroness Ayreton, and (NAME), Baron Ayreton, do recognize the herculean efforts that (NAME) has freely given unto the Barony of Ayreton, specifically (reason). We do here make him/her a companion of the Order of Atlas. We confirm unto him/her all rights and responsibilities attendant upon this rank. Done by our hands this ___ day of ___, Anno Societatis (A.S.) ___, in our Canton of (Name of Canton).



Order of Ursus of Ayreton

Per pale vert and azure, a bear passant in a bordure argent.

Given for martial achievement/contribution to the Barony.

Let it be known that We, (NAME), Baroness Ayreton, and (NAME), Baron Ayreton, do recognize the strength of arm and dedication of heart that (name of recipient) has committed unto the Barony of Ayreton, specifically (reason). We do here make him/her a companion of the Order of Ursus. We confirm unto him/her all rights and responsibilities attendant upon this rank. Done by our hands this __ day of __, Anno Societatis (A.S.) __, in our Canton of (Name of Canton).



Order of Leo of Ayreton

Per pale vert and azure, a lion statant in a bordure argent.

Given for artistic achievement/contribution to the Barony.

Let it be known that We, (NAME), Baroness Ayreton, and (NAME), Baron Ayreton, do recognize the wealth of talent that (NAME) has freely shared with the Barony of Ayreton, specifically (reason). We do here make him/her a companion of the Order of Leo. We confirm unto him/her all rights and responsibilities attendant upon this rank. Done by our hands this __ day of __, Anno Societatis (A.S.) __, in our Canton of (Name of Canton).



Order of Scorpius of Ayreton

Per pale Vert and Azure, A Pheon in a bordure Argent

Given for archery achievement/contribution to the Barony.

Let it be known that We, (NAME), Baroness Ayreton, and (NAME), Baron Ayreton, do recognize the keen eye and powerful arm that (NAME) has willingly shared with the Barony of Ayreton, specifically (reason). We do here make him/her a companion of the Order of Scorpius. We confirm unto him/her all rights and responsibilities attendant upon this rank. Done by our hands this __ day of __, Anno Societatis (A.S.) __, in our Canton of (Name of Canton).



Awards

The following are the awards of Ayreton. Awards can only be given more than once.

Award of the Pleiades of Ayreton

This award has no badge but is instead represented by various colored beads at the discretion of the Baronage, as outlined below. Scribes are encouraged to emphasize the selected color when creating the scroll.

- Red – martial service/shield wall
- Orange – fighter support/water carrying
- Yellow – service to youth
- Green – arts
- Blue – heavy labor (“schlepping” items around)
- Purple – light service – retaining, etc.

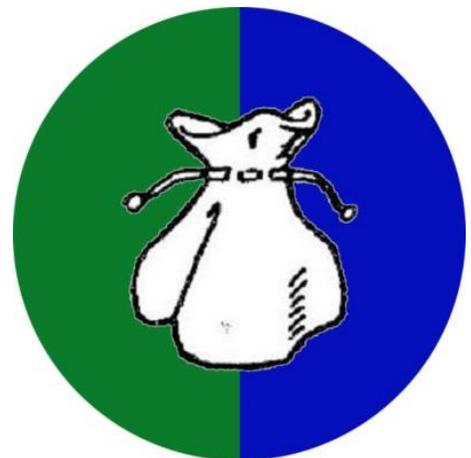
Let it be known that We, (NAME) Baron Ayreton, and (NAME), Baroness Ayreton, do recognize the exemplary service that (name of recipient) hath rendered unto the Barony of Ayreton and its peoples, specifically (specific mentions). We do place him/her among our stars, that he/she may be an inspiration to others and do wish to bestow upon him/her the Award of the Pleiades of Ayreton. Let the heavens be filled with the light of such noble service. Given by Our hands this __ day of ____, Anno Societatis (A.S.) __, in our Canton of (Name of Canton).

Award of the Cellarer of Ayreton

Per pale Vert and Azure, a Money Bag Argent

Given for acts of hospitality on behalf of and within the Barony.

Let it be known that we (name of Baron) Baron Ayreton and (name of Baroness) our Baroness, do recognize the warm and welcoming heart that (name of recipient) hath displayed unto the Barony of Ayreton and its peoples, specifically (specific mentions). We place great value on those who demonstrate such hospitality and do wish to bestow upon him/her the Award of the Cellarer of Ayreton. We are all the richer for having such a person in our midst. Given by our hands this __ day of ____, Anno Societatis (A.S.) __, in our Canton of (Name of Canton).



Ayreton History: The Order of Réalta Ríáin

The first order or award created after Ayreton became a barony was The Order of Réalta Ríáin, named for Ryan of Foxvale (Ryan Sherrod).

Ryan grew up in the Society with his father Ansel of Claybourne/Jimmy Sherrod, attending local events for years and taking part in many Pennsic Wars.

Even as a young child, Ryan was service-oriented, serving drinks and helping his father cook many of Foxvale's feasts. He assisted at countless Foxvale events, as well as serving the neighboring cantons, helping at Tree-Girt-Sea's Twelfth Nights, Grey Gargoyles' Stone Dog Inns, and Vanished Woods' All Souls events. He loved attending all local events, but the gaming and auction at Stone Dog Inn held a special place in his heart.



Ryan loved archery and took to fighting early on. He was one of the first youth fighters involved when youth combat began in the Middle Kingdom. He became a Midrealm authorized fighter soon after his eighteenth birthday, fighting alongside the Barony at Pennsic, facing his foes with laughter, joy, and bravery, next to his family and friends within the Barony.

Ryan's life was cut short on April 14, 2010 in a fatal car accident. The Order of Réalta Ríáin – which translates to “Ryan's Star” – celebrates Ryan's life and his efforts as a young volunteer who selflessly gave of his time and energy.