

A HISTORY OF AMTGARD AWARDS

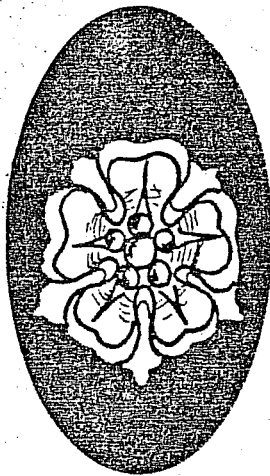
Any discussion of Amtgard awards and honors must necessarily begin with that basic building block upon which all other awards are founded, the order. Amtgard orders, as the basic unit of service, are not congruent to their S.C.A. counterparts, which denote a greater achievement over a longer period of time. However, there is a great similarity between masterhood in the Amtgard orders (usually ten or more orders of the same type) and their equivalent S.C.A. awards. Such

pinnacles of achievement in both organizations require exceptional and sustained efforts over a period of six months to a year or even longer. The same general comparison can be made between the Amtgard orders of Knighthood and the S.C.A. orders of peerage. They roughly correlate as follows: For service, Amtgard Knighthood of the Flame to the S.C.A. Order of the Laurel; for artistic and scientific achievements, Knighthood of the Serpent to Order of the Pelican; for service in the royalty, Knighthood of the Crown to Order of the Rose; and for fighting ability, Knight of the Sword to Knighthood and/or Mastery at Arms. Comparisons between titles of nobility in the two organizations also show common ground, though more separate and distinct titles exist in Amtgard. Many of the similarities in honors exist not so much in that Amtgard has borrowed from the S.C.A. but rather that people in all places will tend to manifest and acknowledge the same sorts of qualities, both fine and base, that will draw a response from their peers. For example, the four orders of Amtgard Knighthood were developed from careful historical research and much thought. Their resemblance to their S.C.A. counterparts could be termed an accident if not for the social synchronicity mentioned earlier. However, this article is not a comparison between sister organizations, but a study of the awards and honors of Amtgard. Again, such a perusal must begin with that divergence from other weapons societies, the Amtgard order.

The First record of an order received was that of an Order of the Lion by Nashomi in 04/16/83. Back then Lions were symbolic of loyalty to the Crown, and they were the stepping stones towards the goal of Knighthood. At the second Amtgard Allthing on 07/06/83 the Order of the Lion was divided into two categories, non-fighting for loyalty and honor, and fighting for success and chivalry in dueling. This format has remained fairly constant to current times although the term for



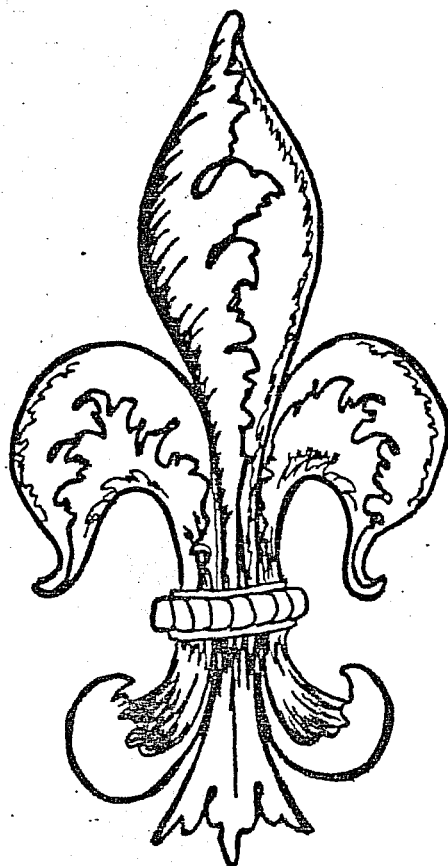
non-fighting Lions was changed to Order of the Griffon in the second edition corpora published on 02/22/86. Nashomi became the first person to receive ten Lions/Griffons on 10/22/83. It became practice to award Knighthood without having the requisite number of Lions, and the achievement of ten Lions and/or Griffons was an honor left in limbo. This was solved by the creation of the title Master of the Lion in the third edition corpora published on 04/04/87. The one order closely linked to Lions and Griffons is the Order of the Warrior. This order was created on 07/06/83 for fighting ability and success. Its basic criteria have never changed, with progression through this order being awarded by various-colored belt favors symbolic of different animals at different levels. The ten-tiered scale culminates at tenth level (ten Orders of the Warrior) with a red and gold belt favor that symbolizes a phoenix. The title for accruing ten or more Warriors is Warlord. On 04/21/84 Nashomi became the first Warlord. Currently there are three Masters of the Lion and six Warlords in the club.



Origins of the other two older Amtgard orders, that of the Rose for service and the Dragon for artistic achievements, remain more obscure. Record keeping in that first year of Amtgard was haphazard, a state not corrected until Aramithris coming to the Prime Minister's position in January of 1985. It can be shown that the certificates presented on 04/21/84 by King Gilos to certain individuals did include Roses and Dragons, so we know they existed by early 1984. Orders of the Rose originally were meant to go towards the obtaining of the titles of nobility, and this was reiterated in the first Amtgard corpora of laws published on 03/01/85. However, the constant awarding of

unsupported titles by the Unicorn Kings undercut this premise. Later editions of the corpora deleted the order-to-title correlation and established new criteria for titles of nobility, and in the third edition corpora the title of Master of the Rose was created. It is difficult to ascertain who first attained ten Roses, though Smith's Guild publication #20, published on 03/30/85, listed both Tawnee and Heimdale one order short of masterhood. Orders of the Dragon were originally awarded for excellent garb and then for success in Crown Qualification cultural events. Masterhood criteria for Dragons was established at the Allthing on 12/15/84. Tawnee and Joella were listed as the first Masters of the Dragon on 01/19/85. The Smith's Guild was formed on 09/15/84. Three months later, masterhood prerequisites were laid down for Smiths and Garbers, these being twelve credits measured in the following areas: Smiths, service to the club in sponsoring and organizing; and Garbers, service to the club in garb making. These new criteria allowed more diversification in

the awarding of orders. Particularly affected was the Order of the Dragon. It went from primarily being a garb-related order to a true award for the arts. Note the following people whom have achieved Master of the Dragon or are within one order of doing so: Scarhart - music and songwriting, Aron Nelsson - flat art and sketches, Kalil Gilbrion Kenterison - sketches and paintings, Fedora Diane Rhogam - literature. On 06/21/86 Ariona and Gwynne became the first two to achieve masterhood of the Dragon after its creation. Currently on the membership records are five Masters of the Rose, Five Masters of the Dragon, three Master Smiths, and four Master Garbers. Tawnee and Joella hold master-ship in all four of these categories.

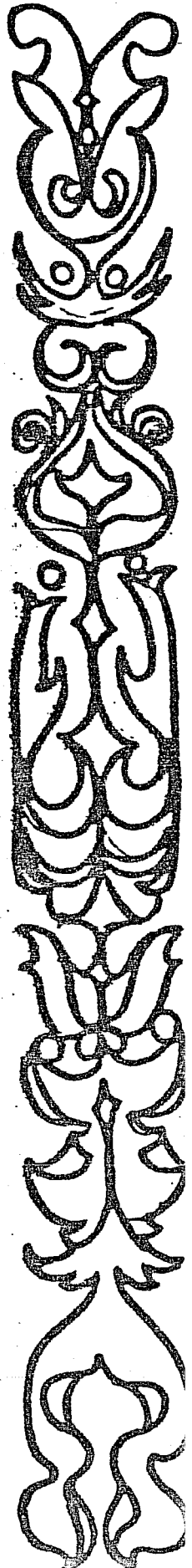
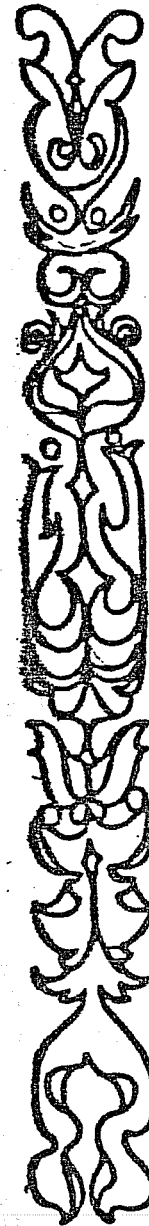


The only widely awarded order not already mentioned is the Order of the Owl for achievement in the sciences. This was created by King Nashomi in late 1984 and was first awarded to M'Deth and Heimdale for their construction efforts at the Siege of the Mountain King on 01/05/85. On 06/21/86 M'Deth became Amtgard's first and only Master of the Owl. Also created by Nashomi were the orders of the Flame, Jovious, Masque, and Walker of the Middle. The first three were orders to be awarded only once every six months for the following reasons: Flame - Outstanding effort by a group, Jovious - outstanding attitude, and Masque - outstanding portrayal of persona. The Walker of the Middle for outstanding conduct as a reeve could be awarded any number of times, but only once to the same person. The first Flame was awarded to the Claw Legion on 11/03/84, and Wolverine Nightstalker received the first Jovious on the same day. Alric of the Emerald Isle became the first Walker of the Middle on 01/19/85.

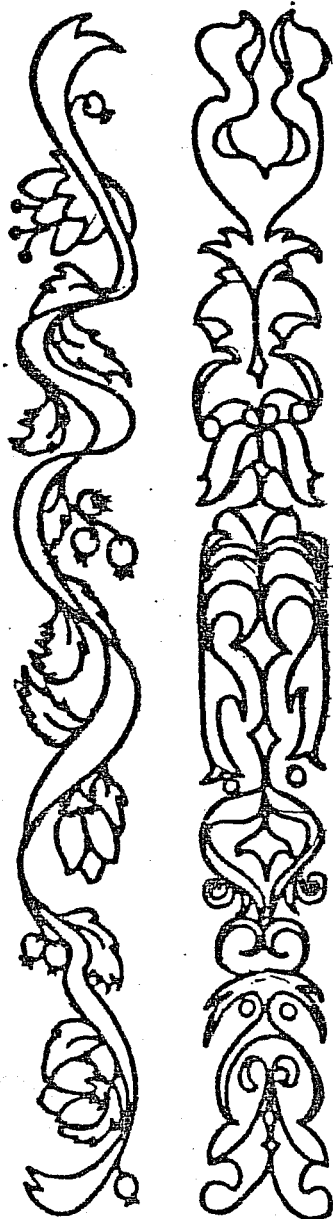
Aron was awarded the first Masque on 05/18/85. The Order of the Zodiac, awarded for outstanding contributions in a month, started out as a Smith's Guild award. It was first awarded on 03/02/85 and was backdated to include Nashomi, Tawnee, Gilos, and Alric. Four weeks later Joella received the first Zodiac not to be retroactively awarded. The actual term "Zodiac" was introduced in the second edition corpora and the award itself became an official Amtgard order upon publication of the third edition corpora. King M'Deth created the Order of the Hydra on 05/18/85.

Originally awarded for "a multiplicity of service", it has come to be awarded to those whom qualify at the Crown Qualifications. Two orders were created in the shortened reign of Aredhel in the Summer of 1986. These were the Order of the General, awarded for tactics and strategy, and the Order of the Phoenix, created by Princess Consort Kalibria to honor outstanding contributions to Amtgard outside of the context of the club. As of present neither has caught on as official orders although two Phoenixes have been awarded. The most complete correlations between orders and the four orders of Knighthood to date came about with the publication of the third edition corpora by King Aramithris in April of 1987.

Knight of the Crown was technically the first order of Knighthood to appear at Amtgard. Today it is awarded for six months service as Monarch or twelve months service in the Royal Court. Originally it was awarded to the Monarch and the Champion upon taking up their positions. At the first Crown Tourney on 03/27/83, Tawnee Darkfalcon was knighted as Queen and Joella Star-watcher was knighted for being Champion. King Gilos Dawnhope and Champion Thanos Darkside continued this tradition at the second Crown Tourney on 10/22/83. There being only one order of Knighthood until April of 1985, those having already been knighted received no further position upon becoming Monarch or Champion until the new criteria set forth on 04/12/85. Nashomi the Silver Wolf, the fourth Monarch of Amtgard, and his Champion, Tawnee Darkfalcon, were the first two knights to ascend to the royal court. Asmund Heimdale Haroldsson was the first Knight of the Crown to achieve the then listed criteria of ten Orders of the Lion required for Knighthood. This would set a precedent for the later creation of Knight of the Flame. Sir M'Deth of Benden became the first Monarch to be knighted at the end of his term of office and was the first person to achieve Knight of the Crown after its designation as a unique order of Knighthood among four.



His Champion, Rift Gorhan tele, was the first Champion not to receive automatic Knighthood, although he was later belted as a Knight of the Sword. On 05/04/85 the four orders of Knighthood were backdated to include all members eligible under the current criteria. As of this writing there are nine people, seven of them active, who are eligible to wear the white and gold of Knights of the Crown. Interestingly enough, all nine belong to at least one other order of Knighthood.

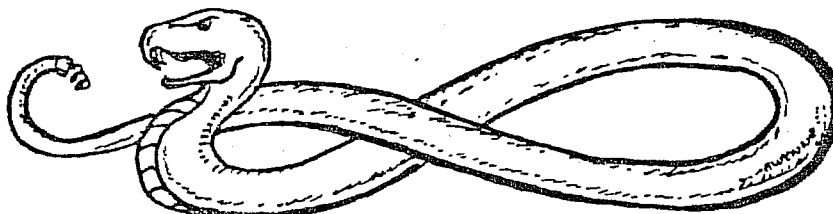


Knight of the Flame is a service order designated by the colors white and red. It's basic criteria is masterhood in the service orders, this originally being ten Orders of the Lion. On 10/21/83 Nashomi was the first Knight to qualify under these criteria. During his reign as Monarch Andralaine of Stonehelven, Deth the Direhearted, and Charloc Darkstar became the first three people to be knighted without having achieved any listed criteria. This was partially rectified on 05/04/85 when Deth was officially listed as a Knight of the Sword, achieving Warlord status two weeks later. Knight of the Flame became a dumping ground for Knights whose qualifications or lack thereof didn't qualify them for any other order. Former Champions Thanos Darkside and Conan Ator Morningstar were listed as Knights of the Flame and Peter Le Grue, who had always referred to himself as "Sir", was officially listed as a Knight of this order by King Nashomi. In 1985 there was a push to grant automatic Knighthood to squires, but as of this date only Charloc and Hellspawn Soulcrusher the Dark are Knights due to holding the position of squire. On 05/04/85 Kalibria de Grenoille and Aramithris of Meadowlake became the first two Knights of the Flame after its creation as a distinct order. In both cases it was their first belt. Today there are thirteen Knights of the Flame, seven of them active. Six of this order's Knights, five



of them active, are also Knights of the Crown, seeming to indicate that the royalty are indeed the service-oriented members. In a fortunate divergence with its early history, the order of Knights of the Flame has had only one new inductee in the past eighteen months, that being Amaryah hap Illys de Viscolo who was knighted by King Aramithris on 10/25/86.

Knight of the Sword is theoretically the highest combat award in Amtgard, although it has been demonstrated that the position of Warlord is harder to obtain. This order's colors are white and silver and membership is limited to individuals who have shown great fighting prowess on the battlefield and in tournaments. All eleven Knights of the Sword have won at least one tournament. Six are Warlords and ten out of the eleven have eight or more orders of the Warrior. The only exception to this was the controversial knighting of Johann Von Balduinseck by King Morluk on 05/17/86. This order was created at the Allthing of 04/12/85 and as the other orders, was backdated to include all eligible members. Thusly, Morluk the Merciless of Throm, Warlord and Weaponmaster, received the order of the Swords credit for having been knighted at the Champion's Tourney of 12/10/83. M'Deth was the first person to be inducted into this new order on 05/04/85, the same day he became king. Two weeks later he sealed this appointment by his victory at the Weaponmaster Tourney. In fact, no one has ever won Weaponmaster and not become a Knight of the Sword. Seven Knights of this order are still active. Seven of the eleven are also Knights of the Crown, but only four are Knights of the Flame. Former Monarchs Gilos, Heimdale, Nashomi, and Aramithris all belong to the three orders of knighthood already mentioned. Although the criteria has recently been stiffened in the current edition of the corpora, this order still appears to be the quickest way to achieve knighthood. Out of the nine white belts awarded in 1986-87, four of them have been for Knight of the Sword.



The fourth and last order of Knighthood is the order of the Knights of the Serpent. It's green and white belt is awarded for excellence in the arts and sciences, and this award is often, but not always awarded to Masters of the Owl and/or Dragon, and Master Garbers. It is the smallest order of Knights, with only six members, four of whom are active in the club. Order of the Serpent was created at the same time as the Knight of the Sword, and Joella and Tawnee were its initial members. Esuom aph'taed was inducted by King Nashomi on 05/04/85, although M'Deth was the first knight of this order to achieve it after the creation

of the order. His knighting on 11/01/86 made him the only Knight of the Serpent to have received it for excellence in the sciences rather than the arts. Lady Gwynne, and Ariona Mixtatl of the Bearclaw, both already Master Garbers and Masters of the Dragon, were the first two knights to receive their belts for achievements in the arts when they were knighted by King Aramithris on 03/07/87. Three of the Knights of the Serpent belong to no other orders while Tawnee, Joella, and M'Deth all belong to two other orders. M'Deth is the only joint Knight of the Serpent, Knight of the Sword.

The titles of nobility awarded to former royalty are the honors least changed since their inception. The title of Duke is awarded to a Monarch at the end of his term. Tawnee became the first Duchess on 10/22/83 and Gilos became the first Duke on 04/28/84. Heimdale, upon leaving the crown on 04/26/86 after his second term as King, was the first Monarch not to receive a title. His predecessor, Morluk, was the first King to abdicate. On 07/26/86, his Champion, Aredhel Kemenva, took up the slack as Regent. At the crown feast of 10/25/86 Aredhel was recognized for his service by King Aramithris and was awarded the title of Earl. Morluk had already been made a Viscount. At this same crown feast Aramithris became the first elected King and as such, on 04/25/87 became the first Duke who had been voted in as Monarch. On the same day Aredhel got his second chance at being King and became the second ever elected Monarch of Amtgard. Six members hold the title of Duke or Duchess. The other honor reserved for former royalty is the position of Count. The titles of Count and Countess as honors bestowed on former Prince and Princess Consorts was instigated by King Nashomi in early 1985. At the time he was the only Count in Amtgard. His Princess Consort, Shindea of Winddragon, became the first Countess on 05/04/85. This title was not backdated, but this was largely remedied when Kalibria, who had been Princess Consort to Kings Gilos, Morluk, and Aredhel, became a Countess on 10/25/86. On 10/26/85, Tawnee, then Consort of King M'Deth, became the first person to hold both the titles of Duchess and Countess. Note that Aredhel's title of Earl for serving as royal regent is a title equivalent to Count. There are six Amtgardians with the title of Count or its equivalent.

The title of Baron has come to be reserved for former Prime Ministers. The last four Prime Ministers, starting with Aramithris on 07/20/85, have received this title. The title was originally given to those who left the Burning Lands to form Amtgard chapters in other cities. Thanos, on 05/07/83, was the first to receive the title for this purpose. Eight more Barons, and zero Amtgard chapters later the practice was discontinued. Heimdale was the only Amtgard member to become a Baron while neither having left town or served in the capacity as Prime Minister. The only title of Marquis ever awarded was to Nashomi by King Heimdale in the Fall of 1984, and Andralaine (also awarded by

Heimdale) is the only Viscountess. These titles were not awarded as per the criteria set forth at the time although this has been partially alleviated by altering the criteria in subsequent editions of the corpora, and backdating its application. At the crown feast of M'Deth on 05/18/85, Kalibria, Shylarra, and Joella became the club's only three Baronets, these positions being awarded for the three's efforts as club officers. Of Lords and Ladies there is a multitude, this service title adorning the names of some twenty-three club members. Several departing members have been lorded in anticipation of them forming new chapters. Of the remainder, thirteen are still active. The first lording on record is that of Aron Nelsson on 01/14/84 and the most recent was Michael of the Belt Pouch on 04/11/87. Of the 450 to 500 people that have attended Amtgard to this date, forty-six have received titles of nobility and/or knighthood, a percentage of approximately 10%. Twenty-one members, fifteen of them active, have received two or more titles; and twelve people, eight of them active, have received three or more titles.

There are some miscellaneous awards that deserve mention. The rather nebulous title of Defender (not to be confused with Princess' Defender), bestowed upon former Champions of the Realm, was first awarded to Tawnee on 05/04/85. The first person to win the Weaponmaster Tourney and thus acquire the title of Weaponmaster for six months was Morluk on 05/19/84. Princess Consort Shindea created the title of Princess' Defender and awarded it to Heimdale at the Crown Tourney of 11/03/84. Aramithris was the first person to earn this position by rite of combat on 08/23/86. Shindea also made Shylarra the First Handmaiden to the Princess, although this position has since disappeared. Other first in noteworthy positions: Scribe - Nashomi (05/19/84), Guildmaster of Reeves - Gilos (08/04/84), Guildmaster of Smiths - Aramithris (10/20/84), Captain of the King's Guard - Rift (05/04/85), Court Bard - Ajax Assmasher (11/03/84), Court Jester - Theo, Prince of Assassins (10/22/83), Court Herald - Aron (10/18/86), First Lady in Waiting - Tawnee (04/25/87). The name "Amtgard" was coined at the club's founding in February of 1983 by Peter Le Grue. The first actual company was the Starquesting Dragons, also formed in February of 1983. Gilos and Nashomi undertook the first rewriting of the rulebook in September of that year. The Chapter of the Burning Lands was formed in October of 1984. Guildmaster elections were instituted on 10/22/84. An elected ruling council was formed at this time but was disbanded in the Summer of 1985. The first Amtgard corpora of laws was published by Nashomi on 03/01/85. In July of 1985 came word of the first Amtgard group formed in another city, that one being the Kingdom of the North Windlands in Chicago. In the second half of 1986 Ryah began to computerize the club records, and Aredhel appointed the first Arts and Sciences Guildmasters in September of 1986. The Amtgard rulebook was copyrighted in late 1986 and early 1987. On March 6, 1987 Amtgard, Kingdom of the Burning Lands was incorporated as a non-profit corporation.