



Kigeli V

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Guidance for Honours in the *De Jure* Kingdom of Rwanda

In the event of a conflict between the different translations of this document, the version in English will prevail. This document is also retroactive to January 29, 1961, the day after Rwanda became a republic, in addition to being applicable to future grants. If an individualized Letters Patent differs from this official Guidance, the individual Letters Patent will triumph solely for persons in the individual Letters Patent alone. This official Guidance applies both retroactively and in the future to all grants where any of the below aspects of a Royal grant were or are not specifically defined in the Letters Patent.

Titles of Royalty

The number of persons considered Royal in the Kingdom of Rwanda was relatively modest when compared to some other monarchies in the world. The Head of the Royal House was and remains today the *Mwami*. Other Royals of the House are the *Mwami*'s siblings, the bloodline children of the *Mwami*, and any widows/widowers of the same. The rank of Royalty does not extend down two generations to grandchildren, unless their father eventually becomes the new *Mwami*. The heir to the throne is kept secret until the death of

a *Mwami*; only a select few high nobles, the *abiru*, are told the *Mwami*'s choice as to the successor to the throne. Eligible inheritors must be male and of Royal status. Historically, this was done to prevent male Royals of Rwanda from fighting for kingship, especially as the *Mwami* often had multiple wives. Since His Majesty does not currently reign in Rwanda, the monarchy may not be restored as it passes to future generations. Therefore, if the House is not sovereign, the Head of the Royal House, despite not being an anointed reigning *Mwami*, will be Royal, and his siblings, bloodline children, and any widows/widowers of the same will also be Royal.

Royal Prince or Royal Princesse

Only the siblings of the Head of the Royal House of Rwanda, the bloodline children of the Head of the Royal House of Rwanda, and the widows/widowers of the same are entitled to status as Royal Prince or Royal Princesse. The title of Prince or Princesse may also be granted to non-Royal persons for exceptional service to the Royal House, but this rank of Prince and Princesse is only noble and equal rank and equivalency to a Duc or Duchess noble title. Consequently, the rest of this section is exclusive to Royal Princes and Royal Princesses.

Article 1

Style of the Prince/Princesse

All Royal Princes and Royal Princesses receive the style of "Son Altesse Royale".

Article 2

Title and Address

The title of Prince/Princesse will precede the Christian name(s) and surname of the Royal. The full name, title, and style of a male holder is "Son Altesse Royale Prince First Name Middle Name Second Middle Name [if any] Surname". The full name, title, and style of a female holder is "Son Altesse Royale Princesse First Name Middle Name Second Middle Name [if any] Surname". If the Letters Patent for a particular recipient contains a different style, title, and address than the above, the Letters Patent will triumph only for that particular recipient.

Article 3

Definition of Lawful Spouse

A lawful spouse is a person who is legally wed to the Prince/Princesse either prior to or after his/her rise to the title and honour. The wedding must be lawful in the place of residence of the title holder and confirmed by the Royal House. Only one lawful spouse may be alive at any time.

Article 4

Courtesy Spousal Title and Courtesy Titles for Children

The lawful spouse of a Prince is accorded the courtesy spousal title of Princesse. The lawful spouse will have a style of “Son Altesse Royale”. The lawful spouse is Royal for as long as she is married to the Prince or is the widow of the same. If a widow of the Prince, the addition of “Douairière” is added to the courtesy title before Princesse.

However, if the Princesse is a substantive title holder in her own right, that is, it is not a courtesy spousal title but rather a title held by her position in the Rwandan Royal House, the lawful spouse receives no courtesy title.

All bloodline children of the Prince/Princesse are noble, but this nobility ends with that generation, except if one of the children succeeds to the rank of Prince/Princesse in the future. Said another way, the grandchildren of a current Prince/Princesse are not noble unless one of their parents succeeds to the title and honour of Prince/Princesse. The courtesy style for children of the Prince/Princesse will be “Le Noble” as a prefix to the name for the entirety of the lives of these children. In Kinyarwanda, this is “Imfura”.

Article 5

Passage of Title and Honour

The titles and honours of Royal Prince/Royal Princesse are not hereditary like a noble title is. Instead, they result from a person’s Royal rank within the Royal House of Rwanda.

In the event that an inheritor of the title and honour resides in a domicile/jurisdiction/state/country of residence that prohibits the use of titles and honours at the time of receiving the title, or a current Prince or Princesse moves into such a domicile/jurisdiction/state/country of residence, the title becomes honorary solely to allow the grantee to not violate the law in the place of residence. However, this honorary state exists and accords the Prince or Princesse all rights accorded a non-honorary substantive title and honour. Put another way, the honorary title and honour are honorary in name only, but the title and honour still are substantive in the *de jure* Kingdom of Rwanda. This state of the title and honour of Prince and Princesse being honorary will exist until the current Prince or Princesse moves into another domicile/jurisdiction/state/country of residence that recognizes titles and honours or the domicile/jurisdiction/state/country of residence changes its stance on titles and honours. A foreign government cannot extinguish this title and honour as the title falls under the legal jurisdiction and protection of the *de jure* Kingdom of Rwanda.

Article 6

Renunciation of Title

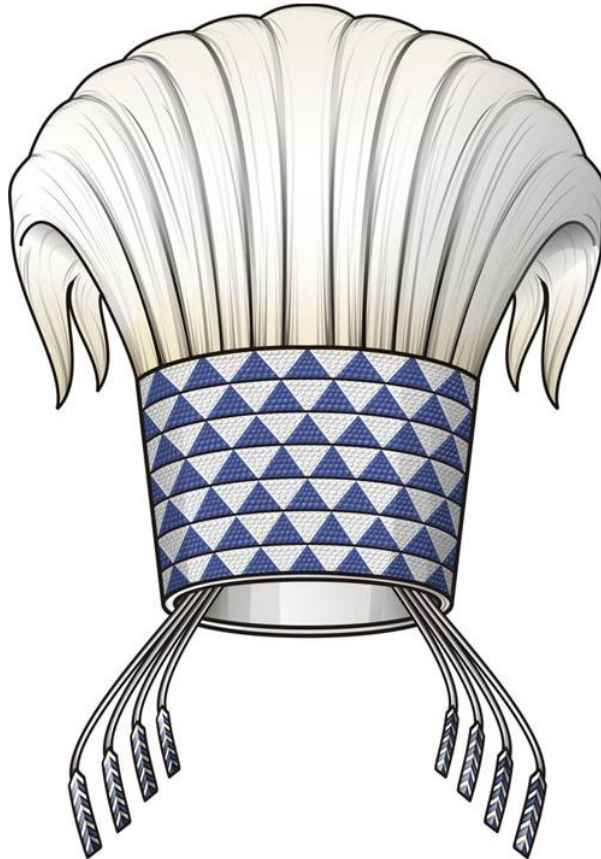
The title and honour may be renounced by the current Prince or Princesse at any time and for any cause. The renunciation must be in writing and witnessed by two individuals not related to the current Prince or Princesse. Both witnesses should sign and date the renunciation along with the renouncing Prince or Princesse, and the document should be delivered to the current Head of the Royal House of Rwanda. Upon signing, the title and honour of Prince or Princesse will be extinguished as if the renouncing Prince or Princesse died.

Article 7

Armorial Achievement

Heraldry is not a significant part of the historic cultural tradition of Rwanda, but there are some precedents. For example, His Majesty King Kigeli V has a heraldic achievement with a Bantu-style shield. A Prince or Princesse may display the Royal Crown of Rwanda on his or her heraldry, but the shield itself must be different than the heraldry of the Head of the Royal Rwandan House.

Princes or Princesses may display their heraldry with a Bantu-style shield, the *Mwami's* crown as a helm, and supporters. In accordance with the original vision of H.M. King Mutara III, lion skin may be used as a manteau for Royal Princes/Princesses. The Crown of Rwanda is:



Titles of Nobility

Titles of nobility in the Kingdom of Rwanda historically consisted of the rank of Chief and Sub-Chief, but this was expanded by His Most Christian Majesty King Mutara III Rudahigwa so that there were five degrees of Chief. This was noted by Rwandan historian Father Alexis Kagame in his papers, and the King built a small but more European-style palace in Rwanda and began incorporating European-style clothing into the Royal garb by 1940. H.M. King Mutara III performed this change prior to his untimely death in 1959,

and he was in the process of revising the honours system of Rwanda to more closely align to a continental European system. As the *fons honourum* of the *de jure* Kingdom of Rwanda and an anointed King, His Most Christian Majesty King Kigeli V has the full legal right to create new traditions within his Kingdom and also finish the work previously began by his half-brother, Mutara III. Under this legal right as a *fons honourum*, His Most Christian Majesty declares the following:

Duc/Prince or Duchesse/Princesse

New grants of the titles of nobility of Duc or Prince and Duchesse or Princesse are generally reserved only for members of the Royal family of Rwanda from the date of this Guidance, but these honours can and have been given to non-Royal persons.

Historically, the equivalent of a ducal or princely title in the Kingdom of Rwanda was a royal gift that translates as “120” or *Ijana Namakumyabiri*. This referred to the 120 hand-made spears and lances that were received by the grantee from the *Mwami*. A historical example was the title of “120” granted to H.M. King Boudouin from H.M. King Mutara III in 1955. By tradition, there could never be more new grants of this title during the *Mwami*’s reign than the number of fingers on His Majesty’s hands. For example, if some fingers were lost in battle, the number of new grants during the reign could not exceed the number of current fingers. This is because this title and honour was a metaphorical extension of His Majesty’s personal hands. Consequently, a Duc or Duchesse or non-Royal Prince or non-Royal Princesse is the highest honour His Majesty can award to a non-Royal grantee. The remainder of this section applies to both Ducs/Duchesses and non-Royal Princes/Princesses.

Article 8

Style of the Duc/Duchesse and Prince/Princesse

The title and honour of Duc and Duchesse and non-Royal Prince/Princesse are entitled to the style of “Son Excellence”.

Article 9

Title and Address

The title of Duc/Duchesse may be granted with or without a territorial designation. If a territorial designation is granted, the full name, title, and style of a Duc is “Son Excellence First Name Middle Name Second Middle Name [if any] Surname, [number of the honour, beginning with the 1st] Duc de Territorial Designation”. If a territorial designation is granted, the full name, title, and style of a Duchesse is “Son Excellence First Name Middle Name Second Middle Name [if any] Surname, [number of the honour, beginning with the 1st] Duchesse de Territorial Designation”. If a territorial designation is not granted, the full name, title, and style of a Duc is “Son Excellence First Name Middle Name Second Middle Name [if any] Surname, [number of the honour, beginning with the 1st] Duc Surname”. If a territorial designation is not granted, the full name, title, and style of a Duchesse is “Son Excellence First Name Middle Name Second Middle Name [if any] Surname, [number of the honour, beginning with the 1st] Duchesse Surname”. A Prince or Princesse cannot have a territorial designation. Consequently, the full name, title, and style of a Prince is “Son Excellence Prince First Name Middle Name Second Middle Name [if any] Surname”. Similarly, the full name, title, and style of a Princesse is “Son Excellence Princesse First Name Middle Name Second Middle Name [if any] Surname”. If the Letters Patent for a particular recipient contains a different style, title, and address than the above, the Letters Patent will triumph only for that particular recipient.

Article 10

Definition of Lawful Spouse

A lawful spouse is a person who is legally wed to the Duc/Duchesse or Prince/Princesse either prior to or after his/her rise to the title and honour. The wedding must be lawful in the place of residence of the title holder. Only one lawful spouse may be alive at any time.

Article 11

Courtesy Spousal Title and Courtesy Titles for Children

The lawful spouse of a Duc is accorded the courtesy spousal title of Duchesse de Territorial Designation (if a territorial designation was granted) or Duchess Surname if a territorial designation was not granted. The lawful spouse of a Prince is accorded the courtesy spousal title of Princesse. The lawful spouse will have a style of “Son Excellence”. The lawful spouse is noble for as long as she is married to the Duc or Prince or is the widow of the

same. If a widow of the Duc or Prince, the addition of “Douairière” is added to the courtesy title before Duchesse or Princesse.

However, if the Duchesse or Princesse is a substantive title holder in her own right, that is, it is not a courtesy spousal title but rather a granted title by the Head of the Rwandan Royal House, the lawful spouse receives no courtesy title.

All bloodline children of the Duc/Duchesse and Prince/Princesse are noble, but this nobility ends with that generation, except if one of the children succeeds to the title and honour in the future. Said another way, the grandchildren of a current Duc/Duchesse or Prince/Princesse are not noble unless one of their parents succeeds to the titles and honours of Duc/Duchesse or Prince/Princesse. The courtesy style for children of the Duc/Duchesse and Prince/Princesse will be “Le Noble” as a prefix to the name for the entirety of the lives of these children. In Kinyarwanda, this is “Imfura”.

Article 12

Passage of Title and Honour

The titles and honours of the *de jure* Kingdom of Rwanda may only pass to another person in strict accordance with this document. They cannot be sold, transferred, or otherwise altered. A grant of a substantive title of Duc/Duchesses or non-Royal Prince/Princesse to a person from the Head of the Rwandan Royal House is hereditary. Unless the Letters Patent for a particular grantee specifically stipulates another method of transmission, the default method of transmission is bloodline absolute primogeniture springing solely from the original grantee. That is, the honour and title of Duc or Duchesse or Prince or Princesse will only pass from a current substantive title-holder to the eldest child of the title-holder (or the next in line to the title and honour if there are no living descendants of the current title-holder but there are living collateral descendants elsewhere who spring from the original grantee of the Ducal or Princely title and honour) upon the death of the current title-holder, unless the current title-holder renounces the honour in accordance with Article 13. There may only be one inheritor of the title and honour at any time.

Written notice of each transfer of the title and honour should be made to the current Head of the Rwandan Royal House so that good record-keeping is maintained and registration occurs of the new holder of the title and honour. A small registration fee might be

necessary to record this transfer. However, title passage will occur without the need for official blessing by a future Head of the Rwandan Royal House. For example, if a title holder dies, his heir according to either the individualized Letters Patent or this document immediately becomes the next holder of the title and honour. This ensures the smooth and immediate transmission of the title and honour. But notification to the Royal House is required after transmission so that proper record keeping can be maintained. If more than 100 years passes after a legitimate transfer of a title and honour and the Royal Rwandan House has not received notification and recorded the transmission, the title and honour becomes extinct and reverts back to the Royal Rwandan House. Only if the Head of the Royal Rwandan House then regrants the title and honour can it be restored after 100 years of lack of registration after it legitimately transfers.

In the event that the descendant lines of the original grantee of the Ducal or Princely title and honour all fail – that is, that each line eventually has no bloodline heirs left – the title will become extinct, as all possible heirs have died out. Similarly, the title becomes dormant if no person has claimed the title or no claim has been satisfactorily proven. A period of 100 years of dormancy results in the dissolution of the title with no restoration possible except for an explicit new grant from the Head of the Rwandan Royal House. In the event of a dispute regarding who is the true inheritor of the title and honour of the Duc or Duchesse or Prince or Princesse, the current Head of the Rwandan Royal House has ultimate jurisdiction as to the rightful holder of the title. Note, for purposes of this document, the word bloodline heir means all issue (descendants), not just the immediate children of the original Duc or Duchesse or Prince or Princesse.

In the event that an inheritor of the title and honour resides in a domicile/jurisdiction/state/country of residence that prohibits the use of titles and honours at the time of receiving the title, or a current Duc or Duchesse or Prince or Princesse moves into such a domicile/jurisdiction/state/country of residence, the title becomes honorary solely to allow the grantee to not violate the law in the place of residence. However, this honorary state exists and accords the Duc or Duchesse or Prince or Princesse all rights accorded a non-honorary substantive title and honour. Put another way, the honorary title and honour are honorary in name only, but the title and honour still are substantive in the *de jure* Kingdom of Rwanda. This state of the Ducal and Princely title and honour being honorary will exist until the current Duc or Duchesse or Prince or Princesse moves into another domicile/jurisdiction/state/country of residence that recognizes titles and honours, the domicile/jurisdiction/state/country of residence changes its stance on titles and honours, or a new inheritor, residing in another domicile/jurisdiction/state/country of residence has a claim to the title through the previous title-holder dying or renouncing the honour. Under

no circumstances is the title and honour of Duc or Duchesse or Prince or Princesse considered extinct until all possible heirs to it have died out. A foreign government cannot extinguish this title and honour as the title falls under the legal jurisdiction and protection of the *de jure* Kingdom of Rwanda.

Article 13

Renunciation of Title

The title and honour may be renounced by the current Duc or Duchesse or Prince or Princesse at any time and for any cause. The renunciation must be in writing and witnessed by two individuals not related to the current Duc or Duchesse or Prince or Princesse. Both witnesses should sign and date the renunciation along with the renouncing Duc or Duchesse or Prince or Princesse, and the document should be delivered to the current Head of the Royal House of Rwanda. Upon signing, the title and honour of Duc or Duchesse or Prince or Princesse will pass by the rules of Article 12 as if the renouncing Duc or Duchesse or Prince or Princesse died. Thus, a renunciation of the title and honour does not dissolve it; the title and honour merely passes to the next lawful recipient under Article 12 or the Letters Patent of the original grantee. Per Article 12, only an extinction of the title and honour by the death or renunciation of all bloodline descendants springing from the original grantee, or all eligible recipients outlined in a specific Letters Patent if the specific Letters Patent outlines a different mode of title transmission, can effectively end its existence.

Article 14

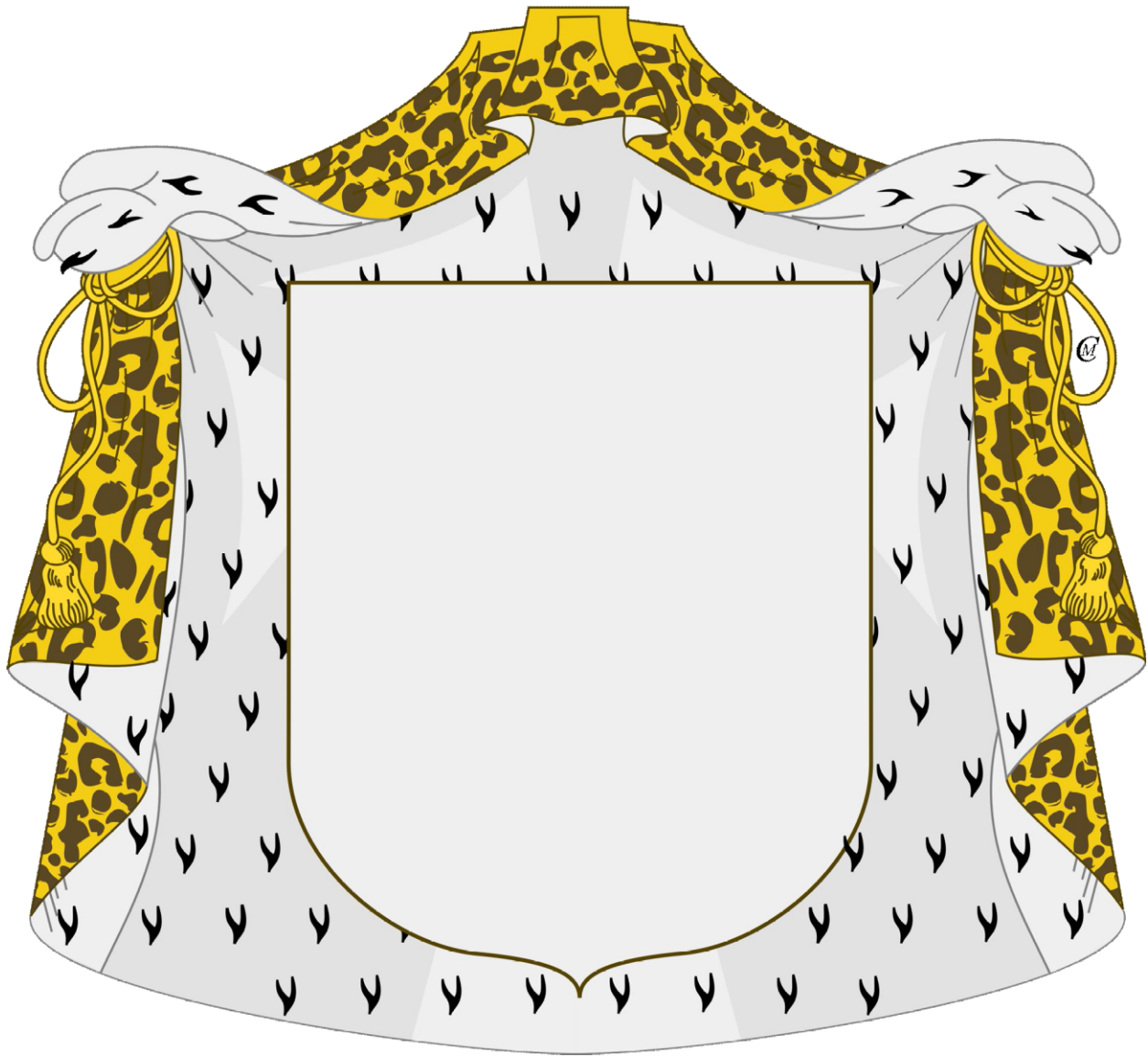
Armorial Achievement

Heraldry is not a significant part of the historic cultural tradition of Rwanda, but there are some precedents. For example, His Majesty King Kigeli V has a heraldic achievement with a Bantu-style shield. The coronet for a Duc or Duchess or Prince or Princesse will be an Or coronet surmounted by four stylized Proper leaves of *Nymphaea thermarum*, called the pygmy Rwandan water lily, with four alternating balls of pearl Argent. The band of the coronet will display white and blue beading similar to the Crown of Rwanda. The heraldic representation for the Ducal or Princely coronet will be:



Grantees and inheritors of the Ducal or Princely title and honour may display their heraldry with a Bantu-style shield or else a heater-style shield, a Ducal or Princely coronet, a helm, a crest, torse, a manteau, and supporters. In accordance with the original vision of H.M. King Mutara III, leopard skin may be used as a manteau for Ducs/Duchesses and non-Royal Princes/Princesses. Grantees and inheritors also had the right, beginning with H.M. King Mutara III, to decorate their battle shields, and this is akin to a heraldic system.

A sample leopard skin manteau image may be seen below:



Marquis or Marquise

The titles of nobility of Marquis and Marquise are rarely granted. Historically, the equivalent of a Marquesal title in the Kingdom of Rwanda was a royal gift that translates as “63” or *Mirongo Itandatu Nagatatu*. This referred to the 63 hand-made spears and lances that were received by the grantee from the *Mwami*. By tradition, there could never be more new grants of this title during the *Mwami*’s reign than the number of fingers on one of His Majesty’s hands. This is because this title and honour reflected being a metaphorical

extension of His Majesty's personal hands, similar to the Ducal and Princely title. The title of nobility has the following characteristics:

Article 15

Style of the Marquis/Marquise

The title and honour of Marquis and Marquise is entitled to the style of "Son Excellence".

Article 16

Title and Address

The title of Marquis/Marquise may be granted with or without a territorial designation. If a territorial designation is granted, the full name, title, and style of a male holder is "Son Excellence First Name Middle Name Second Middle Name [if any] Surname, [number of the honour, beginning with the 1st] Marquis de Territorial Designation". If a territorial designation is granted, the full name, title, and style of a female holder is "Son Excellence First Name Middle Name Second Middle Name [if any] Surname, [number of the honour, beginning with the 1st] Marquise de Territorial Designation". If a territorial designation is not granted, the full name, title, and style of a male holder is "Son Excellence First Name Middle Name Second Middle Name [if any] Surname, [number of the honour, beginning with the 1st] Marquis Surname". If a territorial designation is not granted, the full name, title, and style of a female holder is "Son Excellence First Name Middle Name Second Middle Name [if any] Surname, [number of the honour, beginning with the 1st] Marquise Surname". If the Letters Patent for a particular recipient contains a different style, title, and address than the above, the Letters Patent will triumph only for that particular recipient.

Article 17

Definition of Lawful Spouse

A lawful spouse is a person who is legally wed to the Marquis/Marquise either prior to or after his/her rise to the title and honour. The wedding must be lawful in the place of residence of the title holder. Only one lawful spouse may be alive at any time.

Article 18

Courtesy Spousal Title and Courtesy Titles for Children

The lawful spouse of a Marquis is accorded the courtesy spousal title of Marquise de Territorial Designation (if a territorial designation was granted) or Marquise Surname if a territorial designation was not granted. The lawful spouse will have a style of “Son Excellence”. The lawful spouse is noble for as long as she is married to the Marquis or is the widow of the same. If a widow of the Marquis, the addition of “Douairière” is added to the courtesy title before Marquise.

However, if the Marquise is a substantive title holder in her own right, that is, it is not a courtesy spousal title but rather a granted title by the Head of the Rwandan Royal House, the lawful spouse receives no courtesy title.

All bloodline children of the Marquis/Marquise are noble, but this nobility ends with that generation, except if one of the children succeeds to the title and honour in the future. Said another way, the grandchildren of a current Marquis/Marquise are not noble unless one of their parents succeeds to the titles and honours of Marquis/Marquise. The courtesy style for children of the Marquis/Marquise will be “Le Noble” as a prefix to the name for the entirety of the lives of these children. In Kinyarwanda, this is “Imfura”.

Article 19

Passage of Title and Honour

The titles and honours of the *de jure* Kingdom of Rwanda may only pass to another person in strict accordance with this document. They cannot be sold, transferred, or otherwise altered. A grant of a substantive title of Marquis or Marquise to a person from the Head of the Rwandan Royal House is hereditary. Unless the Letters Patent for a particular grantee specifically stipulates another method of transmission, the default method of transmission is bloodline absolute primogeniture springing solely from the original grantee. That is, the honour and title of Marquis or Marquise will only pass from a current substantive title-holder to the eldest child of the title-holder (or the next in line to the title and honour if there are no living descendants of the current title-holder but there are living collateral descendants elsewhere who spring from the original grantee of the Marquesal title and honour) upon the death of the current title-holder, unless the current title-holder

renounces the honour in accordance with Article 20. There may only be one inheritor of the title and honour at any time.

Written notice of each transfer of the title and honour should be made to the current Head of the Rwandan Royal House so that good record-keeping is maintained and registration occurs of the new holder of the title and honour. A small registration fee might be necessary to record this transfer. However, title passage will occur without the need for official blessing by a future Head of the Rwandan Royal House. For example, if a title holder dies, his heir according to either the individualized Letters Patent or this document immediately becomes the next holder of the title and honour. This ensures the smooth and immediate transmission of the title and honour. But notification to the Royal House is required after transmission so that proper record keeping can be maintained. If more than 100 years passes after a legitimate transfer of a title and honour and the Royal Rwandan House has not received notification and recorded the transmission, the title and honour becomes extinct and reverts back to the Royal Rwandan House. Only if the Head of the Royal Rwandan House then regrants the title and honour can it be restored after 100 years of lack of registration after it legitimately transfers.

In the event that the descendant lines of the original grantee of the Marquesal title and honour all fail – that is, that each line eventually has no bloodline heirs left – the title will become extinct, as all possible heirs have died out. Similarly, the title becomes dormant if no person has claimed the title or no claim has been satisfactorily proven. A period of 100 years of dormancy results in the dissolution of the title with no restoration possible except for an explicit new grant from the Head of the Rwandan Royal House. In the event of a dispute regarding who is the true inheritor of the title and honour of the Marquis or Marquise, the current Head of the Rwandan Royal House has ultimate jurisdiction as to the rightful holder of the title. Note, for purposes of this document, the word bloodline heir means all issue (descendants), not just the immediate children of the original Marquis or Marquise.

In the event that an inheritor of the title and honour resides in a domicile/jurisdiction/state/country of residence that prohibits the use of titles and honours at the time of receiving the title, or a current Marquis or Marquise moves into such a domicile/jurisdiction/state/country of residence, the title becomes honorary solely to allow the grantee to not violate the law in the place of residence. However, this honorary state exists and accords the Marquis or Marquise all rights accorded a non-honorary substantive title and honour. Put another way, the honorary title and honour are honorary in name

only, but the title and honour still are substantive in the *de jure* Kingdom of Rwanda. This state of the Marquesal title and honour being honorary will exist until the current Marquis or Marquise moves into another domicile/jurisdiction/state/country of residence that recognizes titles and honours, the domicile/jurisdiction/state/country of residence changes its stance on titles and honours, or a new inheritor, residing in another domicile/jurisdiction/state/country of residence has a claim to the title through the previous title-holder dying or renouncing the honour. Under no circumstances is the title and honour of Marquis or Marquise considered extinct until all possible heirs to it have died out. A foreign government cannot extinguish this title and honour as the title falls under the legal jurisdiction and protection of the *de jure* Kingdom of Rwanda.

Article 20

Renunciation of Title

The title and honour may be renounced by the current Marquis or Marquise at any time and for any cause. The renunciation must be in writing and witnessed by two individuals not related to the current Marquis or Marquise. Both witnesses should sign and date the renunciation along with the renouncing Marquis or Marquise, and the document should be delivered to the current Head of the Royal House of Rwanda. Upon signing, the title and honour of Marquis or Marquise will pass by the rules of Article 19 as if the renouncing Marquis or Marquise died. Thus, a renunciation of the title and honour does not dissolve it; the title and honour merely passes to the next lawful recipient under Article 19 or the Letters Patent of the original grantee. Per Article 19, only an extinction of the title and honour by the death or renunciation of all bloodline descendants springing from the original grantee, or all eligible recipients outlined in a specific Letters Patent if the specific Letters Patent outlines a different mode of title transmission, can effectively end its existence.

Article 21

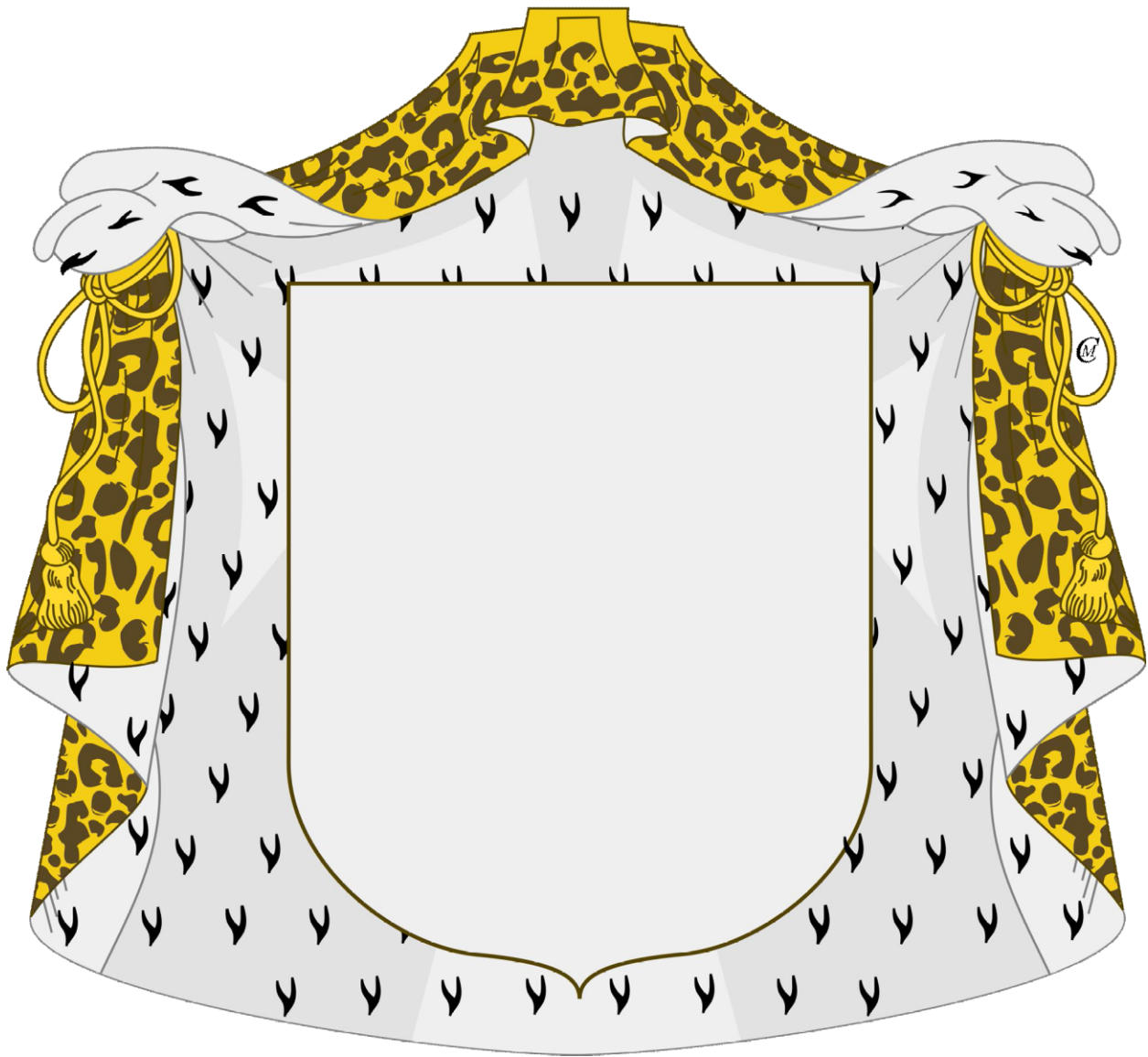
Armorial Achievement

Heraldry is not a significant part of the historic cultural tradition of Rwanda, but there are some precedents. For example, His Majesty King Kigeli V has a heraldic achievement with a Bantu-style shield. The coronet for a Marquis or Marquise will be an Or coronet surmounted by eight stylized Proper leaves of *Nymphaea thermarum*, called the pygmy Rwandan water lily. The band of the coronet will display white and blue beading similar to the Crown of Rwanda. The heraldic representation for the Marquesal coronet will be:



Grantees and inheritors of the Marquesal title and honour may display their heraldry with a Bantu-style shield or else a heater-style shield, a Marquesal coronet, a helm, a crest, torse, a manteau, and supporters or a combination of these. In accordance with the original vision of H.M. King Mutara III, leopard skin may be used as a manteau. Grantees and inheritors also had the right, beginning with H.M. King Mutara III, to decorate their battle shields, and this is akin to a heraldic system.

A sample leopard skin manteau image may be seen below:



Comte or Comtesse

The titles of nobility of Comte and Comtesse are occasionally granted. Historically, the equivalent of a Comital title in the Kingdom of Rwanda was a royal gift that translates as “50” or *Mirongwitanu*. This referred to the 50 hand-made spears and lances that were received by the grantee from the *Mwami*. These have the following characteristics:

Article 22

Style of the Comte/Comtesse

The title and honour of Comte and Comtesse is entitled to the style of “Son Excellence”.

Article 23

Title and Address

The title of Comte/Comtesse may be granted with or without a territorial designation. If a territorial designation is granted, the full name, title, and style of a male holder is “Son Excellence First Name Middle Name Second Middle Name [if any] Surname, [number of the honour, beginning with the 1st] Comte de Territorial Designation”. If a territorial designation is granted, the full name, title, and style of a female holder is “Son Excellence First Name Middle Name Second Middle Name [if any] Surname, [number of the honour, beginning with the 1st] Comtesse de Territorial Designation”. If a territorial designation is not granted, the full name, title, and style of a male holder is “Son Excellence First Name Middle Name Second Middle Name [if any] Surname, [number of the honour, beginning with the 1st] Comte Surname”. If a territorial designation is not granted, the full name, title, and style of a female holder is “Son Excellence First Name Middle Name Second Middle Name [if any] Surname, [number of the honour, beginning with the 1st] Comtesse Surname”. If the Letters Patent for a particular recipient contains a different style, title, and address than the above, the Letters Patent will triumph only for that particular recipient.

Article 24

Definition of Lawful Spouse

A lawful spouse is a person who is legally wed to the Comte/Comtesse either prior to or after his/her rise to the title and honour. The wedding must be lawful in the place of residence of the title holder. Only one lawful spouse may be alive at any time.

Article 25

Courtesy Spousal Title and Courtesy Titles for Children

The lawful spouse of a Comte is accorded the courtesy spousal title of Comtesse de Territorial Designation (if a territorial designation was granted) or Comtesse Surname if a territorial designation was not granted. The lawful spouse will have a style of “Son Excellence”. The lawful spouse is noble for as long as she is married to the Comte or is the widow of the same. If a widow of the Comte, the addition of “Douairière” is added to the courtesy title before Comtesse.

However, if the Comtesse is a substantive title holder in her own right, that is, it is not a courtesy spousal title but rather a granted title by the Head of the Rwandan Royal House, the lawful spouse receives no courtesy title.

All bloodline children of the Comte/Comtesse are noble, but this nobility ends with that generation, except if one of the children succeeds to the title and honour in the future. Said another way, the grandchildren of a current Comte/Comtesse are not noble unless one of their parents succeeds to the titles and honours of Comte/Comtesse. The courtesy style for children of the Comte/Comtesse will be “Le Noble” as a prefix to the name for the entirety of the lives of these children. In Kinyarwanda, this is “Imfura”.

Article 26

Passage of Title and Honour

The titles and honours of the *de jure* Kingdom of Rwanda may only pass to another person in strict accordance with this document. They cannot be sold, transferred, or otherwise altered. A grant of a substantive title of Comte or Comtesse to a person from the Head of the Rwandan Royal House is hereditary. Unless the Letters Patent for a particular grantee specifically stipulates another method of transmission, the default method of transmission is bloodline absolute primogeniture springing solely from the original grantee. That is, the honour and title of Comte or Comtesse will only pass from a current substantive title-holder to the eldest child of the title-holder (or the next in line to the title and honour if there are no living descendants of the current title-holder but there are living collateral descendants elsewhere who spring from the original grantee of the Comital title and honour) upon the death of the current title-holder, unless the current title-holder

renounces the honour in accordance with Article 27. There may only be one inheritor of the title and honour at any time.

Written notice of each transfer of the title and honour should be made to the current Head of the Rwandan Royal House so that good record-keeping is maintained and registration occurs of the new holder of the title and honour. A small registration fee might be necessary to record this transfer. However, title passage will occur without the need for official blessing by a future Head of the Rwandan Royal House. For example, if a title holder dies, his heir according to either the individualized Letters Patent or this document immediately becomes the next holder of the title and honour. This ensures the smooth and immediate transmission of the title and honour. But notification to the Royal House is required after transmission so that proper record keeping can be maintained. If more than 100 years passes after a legitimate transfer of a title and honour and the Royal Rwandan House has not received notification and recorded the transmission, the title and honour becomes extinct and reverts back to the Royal Rwandan House. Only if the Head of the Royal Rwandan House then regrants the title and honour can it be restored after 100 years of lack of registration after it legitimately transfers.

In the event that the descendant lines of the original grantee of the Comital title and honour all fail – that is, that each line eventually has no bloodline heirs left – the title will become extinct, as all possible heirs have died out. Similarly, the title becomes dormant if no person has claimed the title or no claim has been satisfactorily proven. A period of 100 years of dormancy results in the dissolution of the title with no restoration possible except for an explicit new grant from the Head of the Rwandan Royal House. In the event of a dispute regarding who is the true inheritor of the title and honour of the Comte or Comtesse, the current Head of the Rwandan Royal House has ultimate jurisdiction as to the rightful holder of the title. Note, for purposes of this document, the word bloodline heir means all issue (descendants), not just the immediate children of the original Comte or Comtesse.

In the event that an inheritor of the title and honour resides in a domicile/jurisdiction/state/country of residence that prohibits the use of titles and honours at the time of receiving the title, or a current Comte or Comtesse moves into such a domicile/jurisdiction/state/country of residence, the title becomes honorary solely to allow the grantee to not violate the law in the place of residence. However, this honorary state exists and accords the Comte or Comtesse all rights accorded a non-honorary substantive title and honour. Put another way, the honorary title and honour are honorary in name

only, but the title and honour still are substantive in the *de jure* Kingdom of Rwanda. This state of the Comital title and honour being honorary will exist until the current Comte or Comtesse moves into another domicile/jurisdiction/state/country of residence that recognizes titles and honours, the domicile/jurisdiction/state/country of residence changes its stance on titles and honours, or a new inheritor, residing in another domicile/jurisdiction/state/country of residence has a claim to the title through the previous title-holder dying or renouncing the honour. Under no circumstances is the title and honour of Comte or Comtesse considered extinct until all possible heirs to it have died out. A foreign government cannot extinguish this title and honour as the title falls under the legal jurisdiction and protection of the *de jure* Kingdom of Rwanda.

Article 27

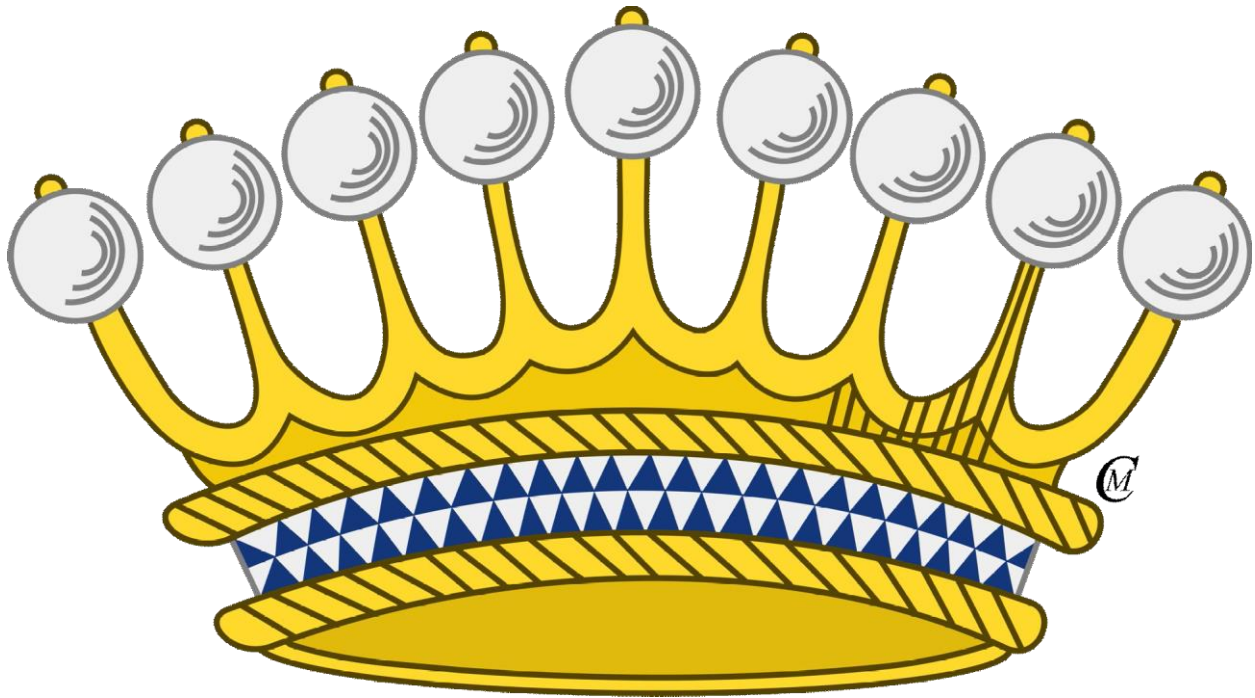
Renunciation of Title

The title and honour may be renounced by the current Comte or Comtesse at any time and for any cause. The renunciation must be in writing and witnessed by two individuals not related to the current Comte or Comtesse. Both witnesses should sign and date the renunciation along with the renouncing Comte or Comtesse, and the document should be delivered to the current Head of the Royal House of Rwanda. Upon signing, the title and honour of Comte or Comtesse will pass by the rules of Article 26 as if the renouncing Comte or Comtesse died. Thus, a renunciation of the title and honour does not dissolve it; the title and honour merely passes to the next lawful recipient under Article 26 or the Letters Patent of the original grantee. Per Article 26, only an extinction of the title and honour by the death or renunciation of all bloodline descendants springing from the original grantee, or all eligible recipients outlined in a specific Letters Patent if the specific Letters Patent outlines a different mode of title transmission, can effectively end its existence.

Article 28

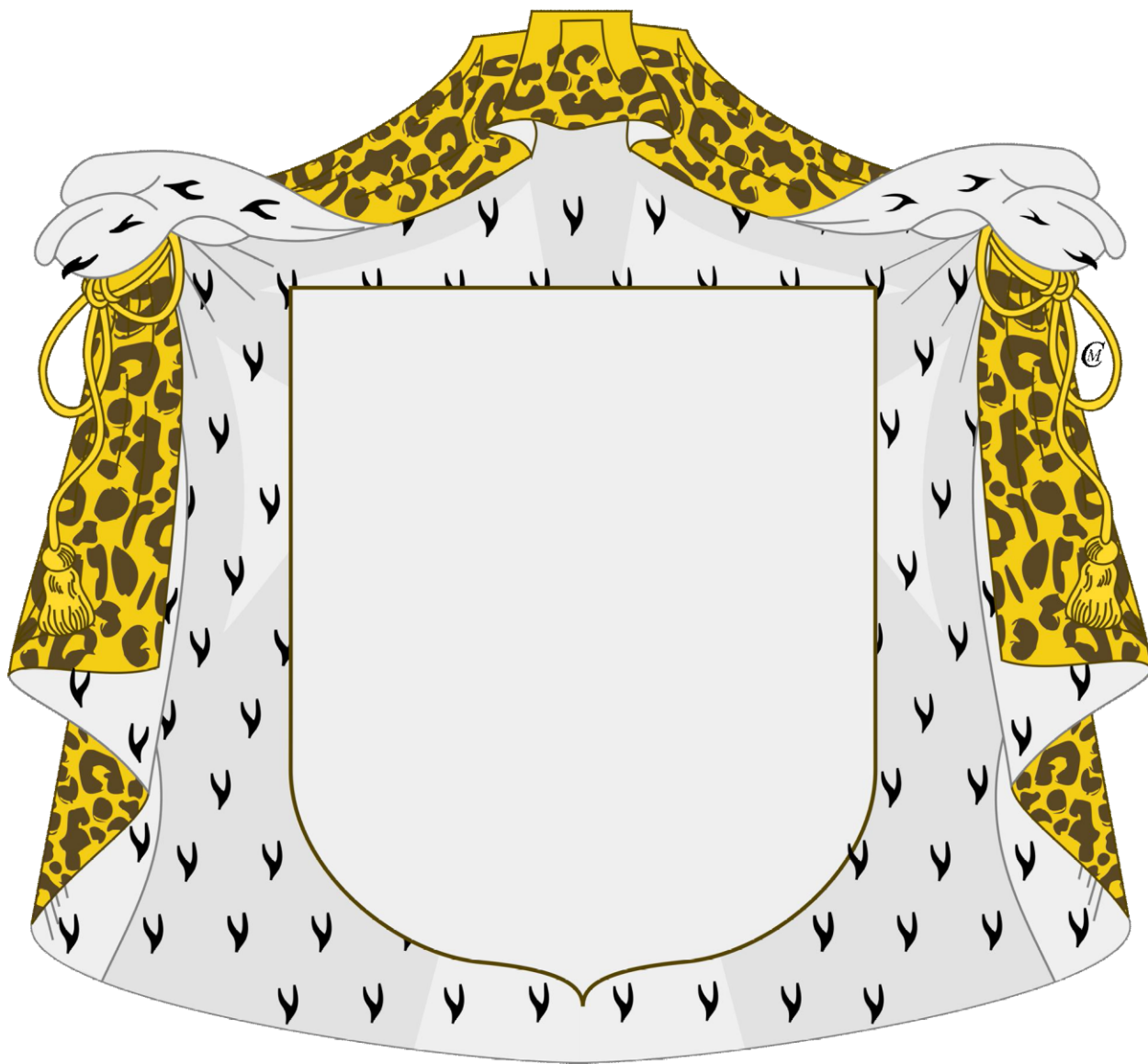
Armorial Achievement

Heraldry is not a significant part of the historic cultural tradition of Rwanda, but there are some precedents. For example, His Majesty King Kigeli V has a heraldic achievement with a Bantu-style shield. The coronet for a Comte or Comtesse will be an Or coronet surmounted by 16 balls of pearl Argent. The band of the coronet will display white and blue beading similar to the Crown of Rwanda. The heraldic representation for the Comital coronet will be:



Grantees and inheritors of the Comital title and honour may display their heraldry with a Bantu-style shield or else a heater-style shield, a Comital coronet, a helm, a crest, torse, a manteau, and supporters or a combination of these. In accordance with the original vision of H.M. King Mutara III, leopard skin may be used as a manteau. Grantees and inheritors also had the right, beginning with H.M. King Mutara III, to decorate their battle shields, and this is akin to a heraldic system.

A sample leopard skin manteau image may be seen below:



Vicomte or Vicomtesse

The titles of nobility of Vicomte and Vicomtesse are occasionally granted. Historically, the equivalent of a Vicomital title in the Kingdom of Rwanda was a royal gift that translates as “30” or *Mirongwitatu*. This referred to the 30 hand-made spears and lances that were received by the grantee from the *Mwami*. These have the following characteristics:

Article 29

Style of the Vicomte/Vicomtesse

The title and honour of Vicomte and Vicomtesse is entitled to the style of “Son Excellence”.

Article 30

Title and Address

The title of Vicomte/Vicomtesse may be granted with or without a territorial designation. If a territorial designation is granted, the full name, title, and style of a male holder is “Son Excellence First Name Middle Name Second Middle Name [if any] Surname, [number of the honour, beginning with the 1st] Vicomte de Territorial Designation”. If a territorial designation is granted, the full name, title, and style of a female holder is “Son Excellence First Name Middle Name Second Middle Name [if any] Surname, [number of the honour, beginning with the 1st] Vicomtesse de Territorial Designation”. If a territorial designation is not granted, the full name, title, and style of a male holder is “Son Excellence First Name Middle Name Second Middle Name [if any] Surname, [number of the honour, beginning with the 1st] Vicomte Surname”. If a territorial designation is not granted, the full name, title, and style of a female holder is “Son Excellence First Name Middle Name Second Middle Name [if any] Surname, [number of the honour, beginning with the 1st] Vicomtesse Surname”. If the Letters Patent for a particular recipient contains a different style, title, and address than the above, the Letters Patent will triumph only for that particular recipient.

Article 31

Definition of Lawful Spouse

A lawful spouse is a person who is legally wed to the Vicomte/Vicomtesse either prior to or after his/her rise to the title and honour. The wedding must be lawful in the place of residence of the title holder. Only one lawful spouse may be alive at any time.

Article 32

Courtesy Spousal Title and Courtesy Titles for Children

The lawful spouse of a Vicomte is accorded the courtesy spousal title of Vicomtesse de Territorial Designation (if a territorial designation was granted) or Vicomtesse Surname if a territorial designation was not granted. The lawful spouse will have a style of “Son Excellence”. The lawful spouse is noble for as long as she is married to the Vicomte or is the widow of the same. If a widow of the Vicomte, the addition of “Douairière” is added to the courtesy title before Vicomtesse.

However, if the Vicomtesse is a substantive title holder in her own right, that is, it is not a courtesy spousal title but rather a granted title by the Head of the Rwandan Royal House, the lawful spouse receives no courtesy title.

All bloodline children of the Vicomte/Vicomtesse are noble, but this nobility ends with that generation, except if one of the children succeeds to the title and honour in the future. Said another way, the grandchildren of a current Vicomte/Vicomtesse are not noble unless one of their parents succeeds to the titles and honours of Vicomte/Vicomtesse. The courtesy style for children of the Vicomte/Vicomtesse will be “Le Noble” as a prefix to the name for the entirety of the lives of these children. In Kinyarwanda, this is “Imfura”.

Article 33

Passage of Title and Honour

The titles and honours of the *de jure* Kingdom of Rwanda may only pass to another person in strict accordance with this document. They cannot be sold, transferred, or otherwise altered. A grant of a substantive title of Vicomte or Vicomtesse to a person from the Head of the Rwandan Royal House is hereditary. Unless the Letters Patent for a particular grantee specifically stipulates another method of transmission, the default method of transmission is bloodline absolute primogeniture springing solely from the original grantee. That is, the honour and title of Vicomte or Vicomtesse will only pass from a current substantive title-holder to the eldest child of the title-holder (or the next in line to the title and honour if there are no living descendants of the current title-holder but there are living collateral descendants elsewhere who spring from the original grantee of the Vicomital title and honour) upon the death of the current title-holder, unless the current title-holder

renounces the honour in accordance with Article 34. There may only be one inheritor of the title and honour at any time.

Written notice of each transfer of the title and honour should be made to the current Head of the Rwandan Royal House so that good record-keeping is maintained and registration occurs of the new holder of the title and honour. A small registration fee might be necessary to record this transfer. However, title passage will occur without the need for official blessing by a future Head of the Rwandan Royal House. For example, if a title holder dies, his heir according to either the individualized Letters Patent or this document immediately becomes the next holder of the title and honour. This ensures the smooth and immediate transmission of the title and honour. But notification to the Royal House is required after transmission so that proper record keeping can be maintained. If more than 100 years passes after a legitimate transfer of a title and honour and the Royal Rwandan House has not received notification and recorded the transmission, the title and honour becomes extinct and reverts back to the Royal Rwandan House. Only if the Head of the Royal Rwandan House then regrants the title and honour can it be restored after 100 years of lack of registration after it legitimately transfers.

In the event that the descendant lines of the original grantee of the Vicomital title and honour all fail – that is, that each line eventually has no bloodline heirs left – the title will become extinct, as all possible heirs have died out. Similarly, the title becomes dormant if no person has claimed the title or no claim has been satisfactorily proven. A period of 100 years of dormancy results in the dissolution of the title with no restoration possible except for an explicit new grant from the Head of the Rwandan Royal House. In the event of a dispute regarding who is the true inheritor of the title and honour of the Vicomte or Vicomtesse, the current Head of the Rwandan Royal House has ultimate jurisdiction as to the rightful holder of the title. Note, for purposes of this document, the word bloodline heir means all issue (descendants), not just the immediate children of the original Vicomte or Vicomtesse.

In the event that an inheritor of the title and honour resides in a domicile/jurisdiction/state/country of residence that prohibits the use of titles and honours at the time of receiving the title, or a current Vicomte or Vicomtesse moves into such a domicile/jurisdiction/state/country of residence, the title becomes honorary solely to allow the grantee to not violate the law in the place of residence. However, this honorary state exists and accords the Vicomte or Vicomtesse all rights accorded a non-honorary substantive title and honour. Put another way, the honorary title and honour are honorary

in name only, but the title and honour still are substantive in the *de jure* Kingdom of Rwanda. This state of the Vicomital title and honour being honorary will exist until the current Vicomte or Vicomtesse moves into another domicile/jurisdiction/state/country of residence that recognizes titles and honours, the domicile/jurisdiction/state/country of residence changes its stance on titles and honours, or a new inheritor, residing in another domicile/jurisdiction/state/country of residence has a claim to the title through the previous title-holder dying or renouncing the honour. Under no circumstances is the title and honour of Vicomte or Vicomtesse considered extinct until all possible heirs to it have died out. A foreign government cannot extinguish this title and honour as the title falls under the legal jurisdiction and protection of the *de jure* Kingdom of Rwanda.

Article 34

Renunciation of Title

The title and honour may be renounced by the current Vicomte or Vicomtesse at any time and for any cause. The renunciation must be in writing and witnessed by two individuals not related to the current Vicomte or Vicomtesse. Both witnesses should sign and date the renunciation along with the renouncing Vicomte or Vicomtesse, and the document should be delivered to the current Head of the Royal House of Rwanda. Upon signing, the title and honour of Vicomte or Vicomtesse will pass by the rules of Article 33 as if the renouncing Vicomte or Vicomtesse died. Thus, a renunciation of the title and honour does not dissolve it; the title and honour merely passes to the next lawful recipient under Article 33 or the Letters Patent of the original grantee. Per Article 33, only an extinction of the title and honour by the death or renunciation of all bloodline descendants springing from the original grantee, or all eligible recipients outlined in a specific Letters Patent if the specific Letters Patent outlines a different mode of title transmission, can effectively end its existence.

Article 35

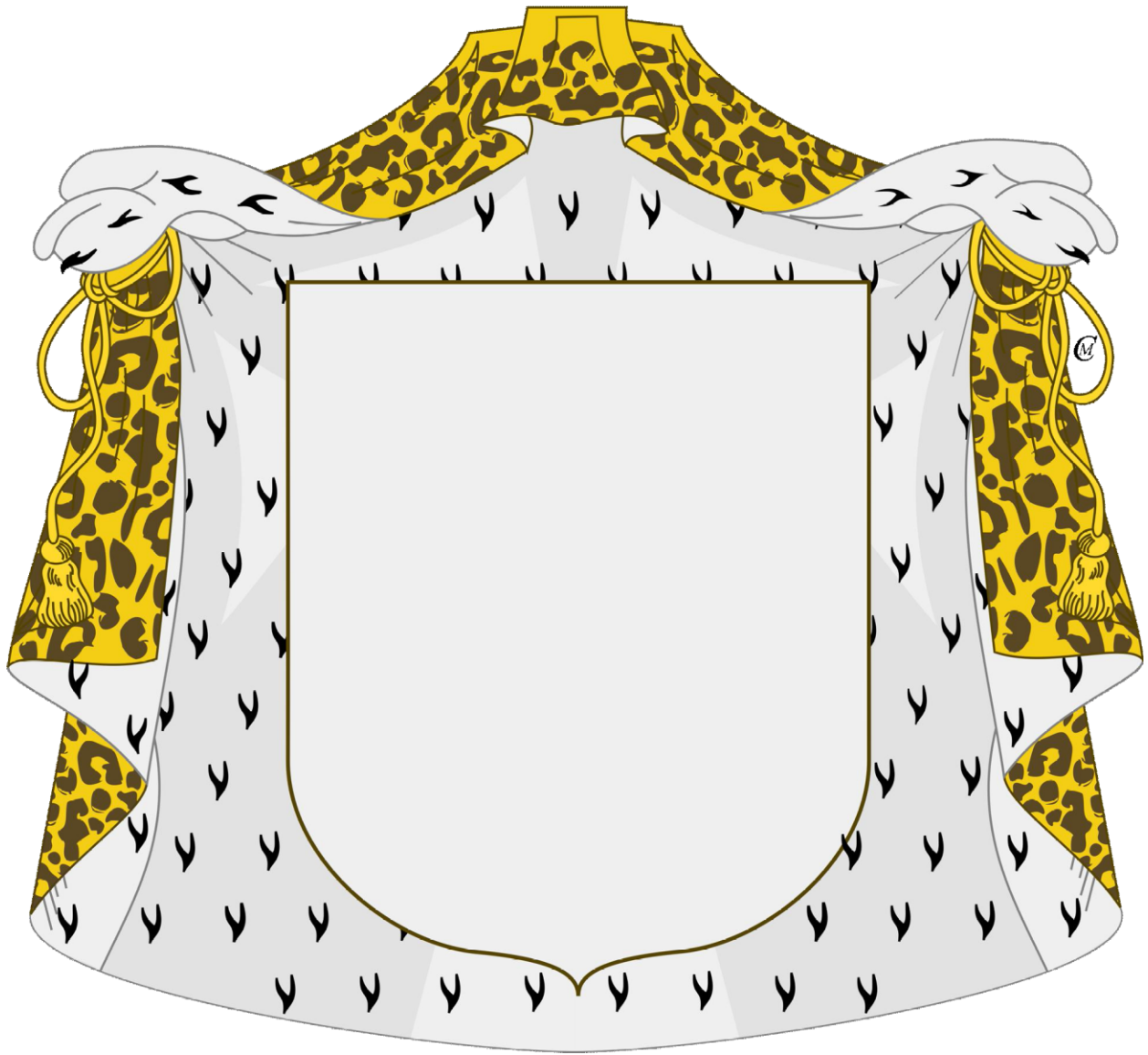
Armorial Achievement

Heraldry is not a significant part of the historic cultural tradition of Rwanda, but there are some precedents. For example, His Majesty King Kigeli V has a heraldic achievement with a Bantu-style shield. The coronet for a Vicomte or Vicomtesse will be an Or coronet surmounted by four tines with three balls of pearl Argent on each tine. The band of the coronet will display white and blue beading similar to the Crown of Rwanda. The heraldic representation for the Vicomital coronet will be:



Grantees and inheritors of the Vicomital title and honour may display their heraldry with a Bantu-style shield or else a heater-style shield, a Vicomital coronet, a helm, a crest, torse, a manteau, and supporters or a combination of these. In accordance with the original vision of H.M. King Mutara III, leopard skin may be used as a manteau. Grantees and inheritors also had the right, beginning with H.M. King Mutara III, to decorate their battle shields, and this is akin to a heraldic system.

A sample leopard skin manteau image may be seen below:



Baron or Baronne

The titles of nobility of Baron and Baronne are occasionally granted. Historically, the equivalent of a baronial title in the Kingdom of Rwanda was a royal gift that translates as “24” or *Makumyabiri Na Kane*. This referred to the 24 hand-made spears and lances that were received by the grantee from the *Mwami*. These have the following characteristics:

Article 36

Style of the Baron/Baronne

The title and honour of Baron and Baronne is entitled to the style of “Son Excellence”.

Article 37

Title and Address

The title of Baron/Baronne may be granted with or without a territorial designation. If a territorial designation is granted, the full name, title, and style of a male holder is “Son Excellence First Name Middle Name Second Middle Name [if any] Surname, [number of the honour, beginning with the 1st] Baron de Territorial Designation”. If a territorial designation is granted, the full name, title, and style of a female holder is “Son Excellence First Name Middle Name Second Middle Name [if any] Surname, [number of the honour, beginning with the 1st] Baronne de Territorial Designation”. If a territorial designation is not granted, the full name, title, and style of a male holder is “Son Excellence First Name Middle Name Second Middle Name [if any] Surname, [number of the honour, beginning with the 1st] Baron Surname”. If a territorial designation is not granted, the full name, title, and style of a female holder is “Son Excellence First Name Middle Name Second Middle Name [if any] Surname, [number of the honour, beginning with the 1st] Baronne Surname”. If the Letters Patent for a particular recipient contains a different style, title, and address than the above, the Letters Patent will triumph only for that particular recipient.

Article 38

Definition of Lawful Spouse

A lawful spouse is a person who is legally wed to the Baron/Baronne either prior to or after his/her rise to the title and honour. The wedding must be lawful in the place of residence of the title holder. Only one lawful spouse may be alive at any time.

Article 39

Courtesy Spousal Title and Courtesy Titles for Children

The lawful spouse of a Baron is accorded the courtesy spousal title of **Baronne de Territorial Designation** (if a territorial designation was granted) or **Baronne Surname** if a territorial designation was not granted. The lawful spouse will have a style of “**Son Excellence**”. The lawful spouse is noble for as long as she is married to the Baron or is the widow of the same. If a widow of the Baron, the addition of “**Douairière**” is added to the courtesy title before **Baronne**.

However, if the **Baronne** is a substantive title holder in her own right, that is, it is not a courtesy spousal title but rather a granted title by the Head of the Rwandan Royal House, the lawful spouse receives no courtesy title.

All bloodline children of the Baron/Baronne are noble, but this nobility ends with that generation, except if one of the children succeeds to the title and honour in the future. Said another way, the grandchildren of a current Baron/Baronne are not noble unless one of their parents succeeds to the titles and honours of Baron/Baronne. The courtesy style for children of the Baron/Baronne will be “**Le Noble**” as a prefix to the name for the entirety of the lives of these children. In Kinyarwanda, this is “**Imfura**”.

Article 40

Passage of Title and Honour

The titles and honours of the *de jure* Kingdom of Rwanda may only pass to another person in strict accordance with this document. They cannot be sold, transferred, or otherwise altered. A grant of a substantive title of Baron or Baronne to a person from the Head of the Rwandan Royal House is hereditary. Unless the Letters Patent for a particular grantee specifically stipulates another method of transmission, the default method of transmission is bloodline absolute primogeniture springing solely from the original grantee. That is, the honour and title of Baron or Baronne will only pass from a current substantive title-holder to the eldest child of the title-holder (or the next in line to the title and honour if there are no living descendants of the current title-holder but there are living collateral descendants elsewhere who spring from the original grantee of the Baronial title and honour) upon the death of the current title-holder, unless the current title-holder renounces the honour in

accordance with Article 41. There may only be one inheritor of the title and honour at any time.

Written notice of each transfer of the title and honour should be made to the current Head of the Rwandan Royal House so that good record-keeping is maintained and registration occurs of the new holder of the title and honour. A small registration fee might be necessary to record this transfer. However, title passage will occur without the need for official blessing by a future Head of the Rwandan Royal House. For example, if a title holder dies, his heir according to either the individualized Letters Patent or this document immediately becomes the next holder of the title and honour. This ensures the smooth and immediate transmission of the title and honour. But notification to the Royal House is required after transmission so that proper record keeping can be maintained. If more than 100 years passes after a legitimate transfer of a title and honour and the Royal Rwandan House has not received notification and recorded the transmission, the title and honour becomes extinct and reverts back to the Royal Rwandan House. Only if the Head of the Royal Rwandan House then regrants the title and honour can it be restored after 100 years of lack of registration after it legitimately transfers.

In the event that the descendant lines of the original grantee of the Baronial title and honour all fail – that is, that each line eventually has no bloodline heirs left – the title will become extinct, as all possible heirs have died out. Similarly, the title becomes dormant if no person has claimed the title or no claim has been satisfactorily proven. A period of 100 years of dormancy results in the dissolution of the title with no restoration possible except for an explicit new grant from the Head of the Rwandan Royal House. In the event of a dispute regarding who is the true inheritor of the title and honour of the Baron or Baronne, the current Head of the Rwandan Royal House has ultimate jurisdiction as to the rightful holder of the title. Note, for purposes of this document, the word bloodline heir means all issue (descendants), not just the immediate children of the original Baron or Baronne.

In the event that an inheritor of the title and honour resides in a domicile/jurisdiction/state/country of residence that prohibits the use of titles and honours at the time of receiving the title, or a current Baron or Baronne moves into such a domicile/jurisdiction/state/country of residence, the title becomes honorary solely to allow the grantee to not violate the law in the place of residence. However, this honorary state exists and accords the Baron or Baronne all rights accorded a non-honorary substantive title and honour. Put another way, the honorary title and honour are honorary in name only, but the title and honour still are substantive in the *de jure* Kingdom of Rwanda. This

state of the Baronial title and honour being honorary will exist until the current Baron or Baronne moves into another domicile/jurisdiction/state/country of residence that recognizes titles and honours, the domicile/jurisdiction/state/country of residence changes its stance on titles and honours, or a new inheritor, residing in another domicile/jurisdiction/state/country of residence has a claim to the title through the previous title-holder dying or renouncing the honour. Under no circumstances is the title and honour of Baron or Baronne considered extinct until all possible heirs to it have died out. A foreign government cannot extinguish this title and honour as the title falls under the legal jurisdiction and protection of the *de jure* Kingdom of Rwanda.

Article 41

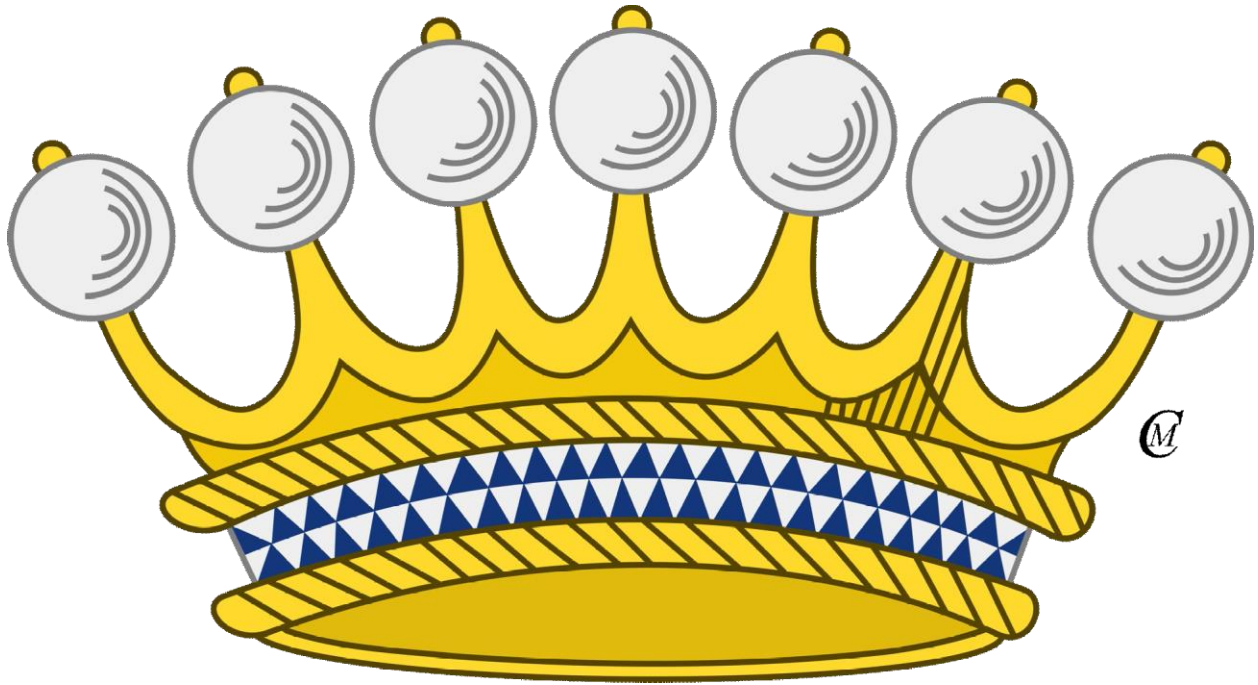
Renunciation of Title

The title and honour may be renounced by the current Baron or Baronne at any time and for any cause. The renunciation must be in writing and witnessed by two individuals not related to the current Baron or Baronne. Both witnesses should sign and date the renunciation along with the renouncing Baron or Baronne, and the document should be delivered to the current Head of the Royal House of Rwanda. Upon signing, the title and honour of Baron or Baronne will pass by the rules of Article 40 as if the renouncing Baron or Baronne died. Thus, a renunciation of the title and honour does not dissolve it; the title and honour merely passes to the next lawful recipient under Article 40 or the Letters Patent of the original grantee. Per Article 40, only an extinction of the title and honour by the death or renunciation of all bloodline descendants springing from the original grantee, or all eligible recipients outlined in a specific Letters Patent if the specific Letters Patent outlines a different mode of title transmission, can effectively end its existence.

Article 42

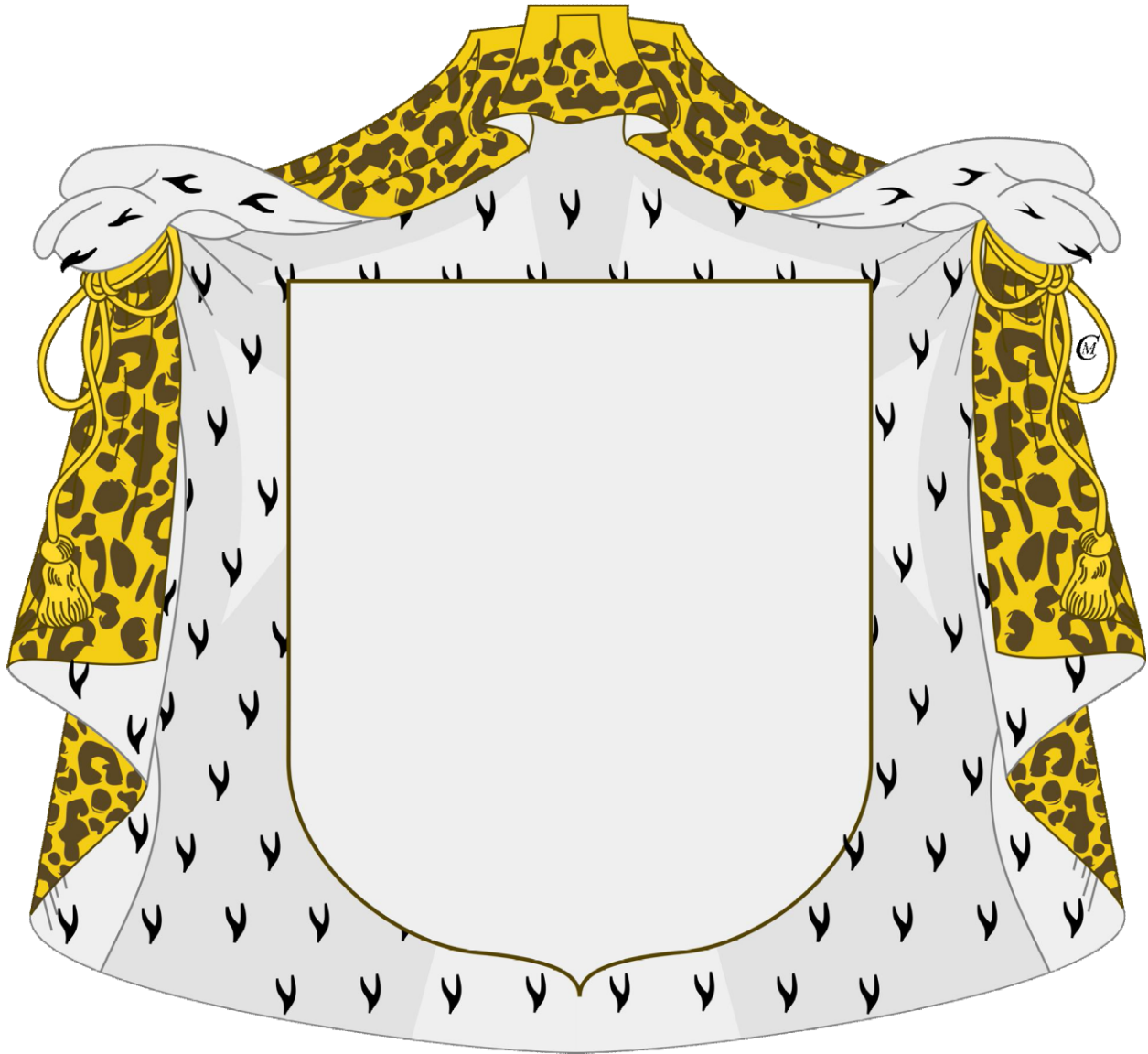
Armorial Achievement

Heraldry is not a significant part of the historic cultural tradition of Rwanda, but there are some precedents. For example, His Majesty King Kigeli V has a heraldic achievement with a Bantu-style shield. The coronet for a Baron or Baronne will be an Or coronet surmounted by 12 balls of pearl Argent. The band of the coronet will display white and blue beading similar to the Crown of Rwanda. The heraldic representation for the Baronial coronet will be:



Grantees and inheritors of the Baronial title and honour may display their heraldry with a Bantu-style shield or else a heater-style shield, a Baronial coronet, a helm, a crest, torse, a manteau, and supporters or a combination of these. In accordance with the original vision of H.M. King Mutara III, leopard skin may be used as a manteau. Grantees and inheritors also had the right, beginning with H.M. King Mutara III, to decorate their battle shields, and this is akin to a heraldic system.

A sample leopard skin manteau image may be seen below:



Sub-Chief

The title of nobility of Sub-Chief has historically been given only to males, but, in the modern era, a female may also become a Sub-Chief. Since Sub-Chiefs have political responsibilities beyond the title and honour, His Majesty King Kigeli V has not appointed any Sub-Chiefs while in exile. Although the history is oral and cannot be confirmed in written form, the role of Sub-Chief in the Kingdom of Rwanda is believed to date back at least to 1350 AD. The title and honour of Sub-Chief has these following characteristics:

Article 43

Style of the Sub-Chief

The title and honour of Sub-Chief is entitled to the style of “L’honorable”.

Article 44

Title and Address

The full name, title, and style of a Sub-Chief is “L’honorable Sub-Chief First Name Middle Name Second Middle Name [if any] Surname”. A territorial designation may be attached. If the Letters Patent for a particular recipient contains a different style, title, and address than the above, the Letters Patent will triumph only for that particular recipient.

Article 45

Courtesy Spousal Title and Courtesy Titles for Children

There is no courtesy title for the lawful spouse or children of a Sub-Chief. However, the lawful spouse of the Sub-Chief is noble for as long as the spouse is married to the Sub-Chief or is the widow/widower of the same. Yet, the children of the Sub-Chief are not noble.

Article 46

Passage of Title and Honour

The title and honour of Sub-Chief is not hereditary. A foreign government cannot extinguish this title and honour as the title falls under the legal jurisdiction and protection of the *de jure* Kingdom of Rwanda.

Article 47

Renunciation of Title

The title and honour may be renounced by the current Sub-Chief at any time and for any cause. The renunciation must be in writing and witnessed by two individuals not related to

the current Sub-Chief. Both witnesses should sign and date the renunciation along with the renouncing Sub-Chief, and the document should be delivered to the current Head of the Royal House of Rwanda. Upon signing, the title and honour of Sub-Chief ceases to exist.

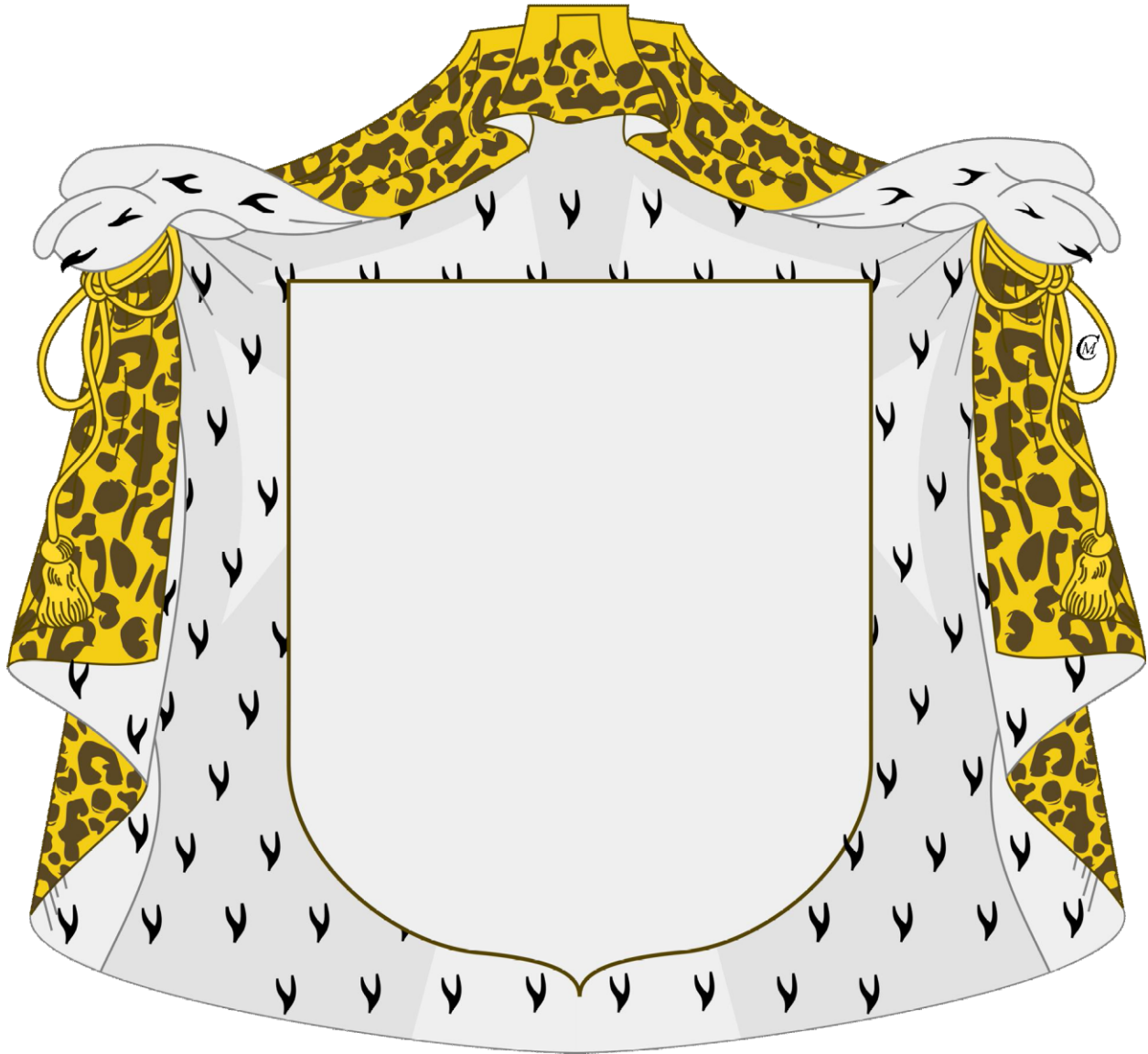
Article 48

Armorial Achievement

Heraldry is not a significant part of the historic cultural tradition of Rwanda, but there are some precedents. For example, His Majesty King Kigeli V has a heraldic achievement with a Bantu-style shield. There is no coronet for the title and honour of Sub-Chief. Instead, the Sub-Chief is authorized to use a lion or crested crane on the shield of his or her armorial achievement as an indicator of service to the Head of the Rwandan Royal House.

Grantees of the Sub-Chief title and honour may display their heraldry with a Bantu-style shield, helm, a crest of seven spear points radiating from the shield, and supporters or a combination of these. In accordance with the original vision of H.M. King Mutara III, leopard skin may be used as a manteau. Grantees and inheritors also had the right, beginning with H.M. King Mutara III, to decorate their battle shields, and this is akin to a heraldic system.

A sample leopard skin manteau image may be seen below:



Orders of the Royal House

The Orders of the Drum, Crown, Crested Crane, and Lion have been officially registered with the government of Vatican City in 2007. This does not mean that they have Papal recognition. Rather, it means that they were recorded there with an equivalency of notarization by the former President of the Pontifical Commission for Vatican City State. The registration was presided over by Cardinal Edmund Casimir Szoka and witnessed by Father Allen Duston on January 22, 2007. Previously, upon ascending the throne in 1959,

H.M. King Kigeli V registered the existence of the Orders with the Vatican through the Foreign Missions Office in Paris, France, and sought the blessing of H.H. Pope John XXIII in doing so. Again, this was not Papal recognition but rather a registration of the Orders.

Royal Order of the Drum of Rwanda

The power of the Mwami (King) was symbolized by a large drum called the *kalinga*, which translates as “token of hope”. The *kalinga* was housed in a palace and protected at all times by a guard. It was thought that if the *kalinga* was ever lost or destroyed, the Rwandan nation would end. Only the nobles and royals of the Kingdom of Rwanda were allowed to touch the drum. Therefore, when His Majesty King Mutara III envisioned this Order in 1959, the drum was the most logical choice to represent the highest Order in the *de jure* Kingdom. H.M. King Kigeli V created the Order in 1959 and re-affirmed his right to grant this Order on the 3rd of January in 1998.

There are two ranks in the Royal Order of the Drum (*Kalinga* in the native Kinyarwandan). The higher rank is split into two parts, Grand Collar and Grand Cross, and the lower rank is Commander. A recipient of the Grand Collar is treated as an honorary member of the Royal House of Rwanda, while recipients of the Grand Cross and Commander are not. The Order may be granted as a hereditary award or as a non-hereditary honour. Nobility is conferred upon the grantee.

Article 49

Style of the Chevalier/Dame

A recipient at the rank of Grand Collar or Grand Cross is entitled to the style of “Son Excellence”. A recipient at the rank of Commander is entitled to the style of “L’honorable”.

Article 50

Title and Address

The title and honour of Chevalier is granted to all male members of the Order whether Grand Collar, Grand Cross, or Commander. Similarly, the title and honour of Dame is granted to all female members of the Order whether Grand Collar, Grand Cross, or Commander. This Order confers nobility upon the member. The post-nominal for a Grand Collar or Grand Cross recipient of the Order is “GCDR”. This stands for [G]rand [C]ollar of the [D]rum of [R]wanda or [G]rand [C]ross of the [D]rum of [R]wanda. The post-nominal for a Commander recipient of the Order is “CDR”. This stands for [C]ommander of the [D]rum of [R]wanda. Therefore, the full name, title, and style of a male holder of the Grand Collar or Grand Cross rank is “Son Excellence Chevalier First Name Middle Name Second Middle Name [if any] Surname, GCDR”. The full name, title, and style of a male holder of the Commander rank is “L’honorable Chevalier First Name Middle Name Second Middle Name [if any] Surname, CDR”. Similarly, the full name, title, and style of a female holder of the Grand Collar or Grand Cross rank is “Son Excellence Dame First Name Middle Name Second Middle Name [if any] Surname, GCDR”. The full name, title, and style of a female holder of the Commander rank is “L’honorable Dame First Name Middle Name Second Middle Name [if any] Surname, CDR”. If the Letters Patent for a particular recipient contains a different style, title, and address than the above, the Letters Patent will triumph only for that particular recipient.

Article 51

Regalia of Order

Recipients at the rank of Grand Collar are entitled to a collar of gold (Or) chain linking alternating gold (Or) Crowns of Rwanda with the stylized initial “K” (for Kigeli). The collar holds the insignia of the Order, which is a royal blue (Azure) enameled Maltese cross of eight points trimmed in gold (Or). In the center of the cross is a royal blue (Azure) roundel bearing a gold (Or) kalinga drum. The outer edge of this roundel is also trimmed in gold (Or). In the northwest corner of the Maltese cross is a gold (Or) lion facing right (Dexter). In the northeast corner of the Maltese cross is a gold (Or) crested crane facing left (Sinister). In the southwest corner of the Maltese cross is a gold (Or) crested crane facing right (Dexter) inverted. In the southeast corner of the Maltese cross is a gold (Or) lion facing left (Sinister) inverted. The whole is surmounted by a gold (Or) Crown of Rwanda. The insignia is approximately 65 millimeters wide from left to right.

Recipients at the rank of Grand Cross are entitled to a breast star approximately 90 millimeters wide that is an eight-pointed faceted star of gold (Or) radiating from a center enameled roundel of royal blue (Azure) bearing a gold (Or) kalinga drum. Encircling the center roundel is a band of white enamel (Argent) inscribed “ORDRE ROYAL DU TAMBOUR” in gold (Or). This band’s outer edge is trimmed in gold (Or). The Grand Cross recipient also is entitled to a sash of royal blue (Azure) trimmed in white (Argent). The sash is 100 millimeters wide for males, while females have an option of the 100 millimeter wide sash or else a 50 millimeter wide version. The sash is worn over the right shoulder and it rests on the left hip. The insignia of the Order for the sash is a royal blue (Azure) enameled Maltese cross of eight points trimmed in gold (Or). In the center of the cross is a royal blue (Azure) roundel bearing a gold (Or) kalinga drum. The outer edge of this roundel is also trimmed in gold (Or). In the northwest corner of the Maltese cross is a gold (Or) lion facing right (Dexter). In the northeast corner of the Maltese cross is a gold (Or) crested crane facing left (Sinister). In the southwest corner of the Maltese cross is a gold (Or) crested crane facing right (Dexter) inverted. In the southeast corner of the Maltese cross is a gold (Or) lion facing left (Sinister) inverted. The whole is surmounted by a gold (Or) Crown of Rwanda. The insignia is approximately 65 millimeters wide from left to right.

Recipients at the rank of Commander are entitled to a breast star 90 millimeters wide that is an eight-pointed faceted star of silver (Argent) radiating from a center enameled roundel of royal blue (Azure) bearing a silver (Argent) kalinga drum. Encircling the center roundel is a band of white enamel (Argent) inscribed “ORDRE ROYAL DU TAMBOUR” in silver (Argent). This band’s outer edge is trimmed in silver (Argent).



Article 52

Courtesy Spousal Title and Courtesy Titles for Children

There is no courtesy title for the lawful spouse or children of a member of the Order. However, the lawful spouse of a member of the Order is noble for as long as the spouse is married to the member or is the widow/widower of the same. Yet, the children of the member are not noble.

Article 53

Passage of Title and Honour

The titles and honours of the *de jure* Kingdom of Rwanda may only pass to another person in strict accordance with this document. They cannot be sold, transferred, or otherwise altered. If a grant of the Order is hereditary, the Letters Patent and it alone will state it. Unless the Letters Patent for a particular grantee specifically stipulates another method of transmission, the default method of transmission is bloodline absolute primogeniture springing solely from the original grantee. That is, the honour and title of Chevalier or Dame will only pass from a current substantive title-holder to the eldest child of the title-holder (or the next in line to the title and honour if there are no living descendants of the current title-holder but there are living collateral descendants elsewhere who spring from the original grantee of the noble title and honour) upon the death of the current title-holder, unless the current title-holder renounces the honour in accordance with Article 54. There may only be one inheritor of the title and honour at any time. The rank within the Order will be retained by transmission. Said another way, a member of the rank of Grand Cross who passes the title and honour to an heir will have the heir also be at the rank of Grand Cross. Likewise, a member of the rank of Commander who passes the title and honour to an heir will have the heir also be at the rank of Commander.

Written notice of each transfer of the title and honour should be made to the current Head of the Rwandan Royal House so that good record-keeping is maintained and registration occurs of the new holder of the title and honour. A small registration fee might be necessary to record this transfer. However, title passage will occur without the need for official blessing by a future Head of the Rwandan Royal House. For example, if a title holder dies, his heir according to either the individualized Letters Patent or this document immediately becomes the next holder of the title and honour. This ensures the smooth and immediate transmission of the title and honour. But notification to the Royal House is required after transmission so that proper record keeping can be maintained. If more than

100 years passes after a legitimate transfer of a title and honour and the Royal Rwandan House has not received notification and recorded the transmission, the title and honour becomes extinct and reverts back to the Royal Rwandan House. Only if the Head of the Royal Rwandan House then regrants the title and honour can it be restored after 100 years of lack of registration after it legitimately transfers.

In the event that the descendant lines of the original grantee of the noble title and honour all fail – that is, that each line eventually has no bloodline heirs left – the title will become extinct, as all possible heirs have died out. Similarly, the title becomes dormant if no person has claimed the title or no claim has been satisfactorily proven. A period of 100 years of dormancy results in the dissolution of the title with no restoration possible except for an explicit new grant from the Head of the Rwandan Royal House. In the event of a dispute regarding who is the true inheritor of the title and honour, the current Head of the Rwandan Royal House has ultimate jurisdiction as to the rightful holder of the title. Note, for purposes of this document, the word bloodline heir means all issue (descendants), not just the immediate children of the original Chevalier or Dame.

In the event that an inheritor of the title and honour resides in a domicile/jurisdiction/state/country of residence that prohibits the use of titles and honours at the time of receiving the title, or a current Chevalier or Dame moves into such a domicile/jurisdiction/state/country of residence, the title becomes honorary solely to allow the grantee to not violate the law in the place of residence. However, this honorary state exists and accords the Chevalier or Dame all rights accorded a non-honorary substantive title and honour. Put another way, the honorary title and honour are honorary in name only, but the title and honour still are substantive in the *de jure* Kingdom of Rwanda. This state of the noble title and honour being honorary will exist until the current Chevalier or Dame moves into another domicile/jurisdiction/state/country of residence that recognizes titles and honours, the domicile/jurisdiction/state/country of residence changes its stance on titles and honours, or a new inheritor, residing in another domicile/jurisdiction/state/country of residence has a claim to the title through the previous title-holder dying or renouncing the honour. Under no circumstances is the title and honour of a hereditary Chevalier or Dame considered extinct until all possible heirs to it have died out. A foreign government cannot extinguish this title and honour as the title falls under the legal jurisdiction and protection of the *de jure* Kingdom of Rwanda.

Article 54

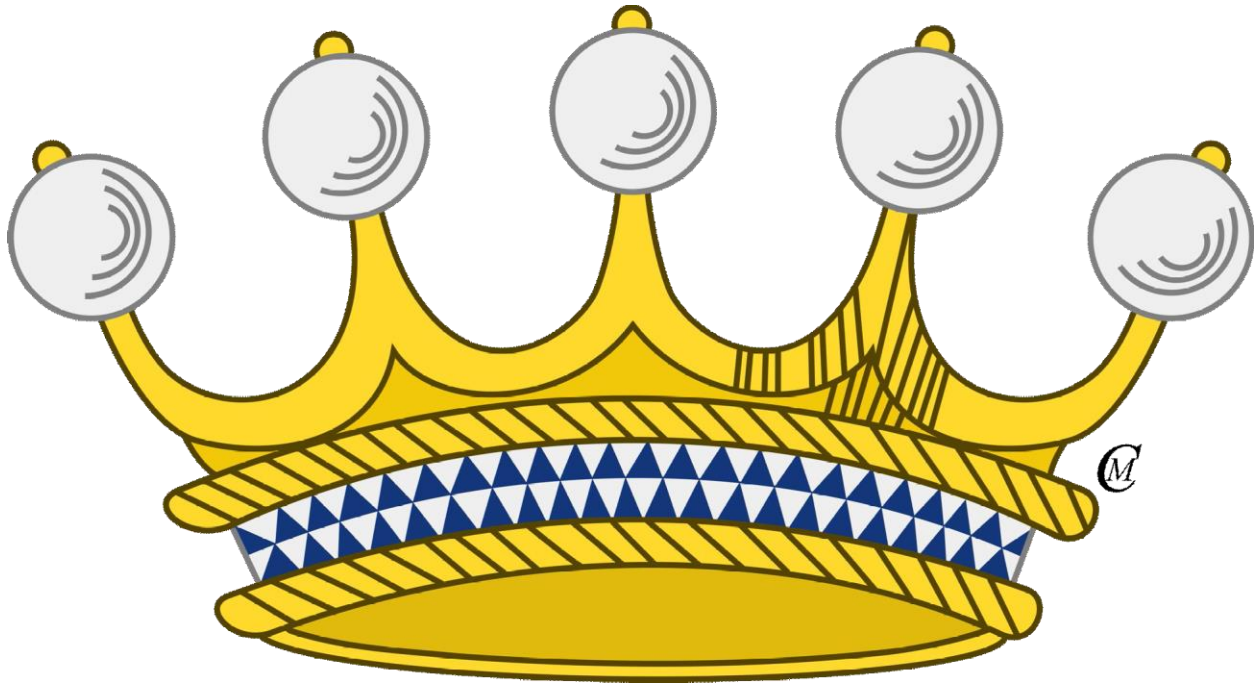
Renunciation of Title

The title and honour may be renounced by the current Chevalier or Dame at any time and for any cause. The renunciation must be in writing and witnessed by two individuals not related to the current Chevalier or Dame. Both witnesses should sign and date the renunciation along with the renouncing Chevalier or Dame, and the document should be delivered to the current Head of the Royal House of Rwanda. Upon signing, the title and honour of Chevalier or Dame will pass by the rules of Article 53 as if the renouncing Chevalier or Dame died. Thus, a renunciation of the title and honour does not dissolve it; the title and honour merely passes to the next lawful recipient under Article 53 or the Letters Patent of the original grantee. Per Article 53, only an extinction of the title and honour by the death or renunciation of all bloodline descendants springing from the original grantee, or all eligible recipients outlined in a specific Letters Patent if the specific Letters Patent outlines a different mode of title transmission, can effectively end its existence.

Article 55

Armorial Achievement

Heraldry is not a significant part of the historic cultural tradition of Rwanda, but there are some precedents. For example, His Majesty King Kigeli V has a heraldic achievement with a Bantu-style shield. The coronet for a Chevalier or Dame will be an Or coronet surmounted by eight balls of pearl. The band of the coronet will display white and blue beading similar to the Crown of Rwanda. The heraldic representation for the Chevalier or Dame coronet will be:



Grantees and inheritors of the noble title and honour may display their heraldry with a Bantu-style shield or else a heater-style shield, the above coronet, a helm, a torse, mantling or a manteau, and supporters or a combination of these. Recipients of the Order at any rank may, but are not required to, also display the *kalinga* drum on his or her escutcheon, but the design may not directly mimic the heraldry of His Majesty King Kigeli V or other future Heads of the Royal House. This prevention of mimicking the design of the Head of the Royal House ensures that the armiger is not accidentally mistaken for His Majesty the *Mwami*. In accordance with the original vision of H.M. King Mutara III, leopard skin may be used as a manteau. Grantees and inheritors also had the right, beginning with H.M. King Mutara III, to decorate their battle shields, and this is akin to a heraldic system.

Royal Order of the Crown of Rwanda

The Order of the Crown, the second-highest Order in the *de jure* Kingdom of Rwanda, is the inheritor of the tradition of the *Gucana Uruti*, the burning of the javelin. This was a Rwandan ceremony where the greatest warrior, a true national hero, was honoured for having killed twenty-one enemies in combat under specific guidelines. Historically, the ceremony was held on the highest mountain near where the warrior lived.

This distinction granted the honoree the right to be treated as a member of the family of the reigning king. The decorated hero that had undergone *Gucana Uruti* was allowed to wear the crown of the *Mwami* (King) when the *Mwami* was seated and not using it.

The Royal Order of the Crown (*Ikamba* in the native Kinyarwandan) was envisioned by H.M. King Mutara III in 1950, and it was formally instituted by his successor, Kigeli V, in 1959. In 1950, King Mutara III had his staff weave a miniature of the Crown of Rwanda as a gift for a state visit from another royal. This gift was a physical precedent for the Order, and it was also a prelude to its official introduction years later.

There are three ranks in the Order. The highest is Grand Collar, followed by Grand Cross, and the lowest rank is Commander. The Order may be granted as a hereditary award or as a non-hereditary honour. Nobility is conferred upon the grantee.

Article 56

Style of the Chevalier/Dame

A recipient at the ranks of Grand Collar or Grand Cross is entitled to the style of “Son Excellence”. A recipient at the rank of Commander is entitled to the style of “L’honorable”.

Article 57

Title and Address

The title and honour of Chevalier is granted to all male members of the Order whether Grand Collar, Grand Cross, or Commander. Similarly, the title and honour of Dame is granted to all female members of the Order whether Grand Collar, Grand Cross, or Commander. This Order confers nobility upon the member. The post-nominal for both Grand Collar and Grand Cross recipients of the Order is “GCCR”. This stands for [G]rand [C]ollar of the [C]rown of [R]wanda or [G]rand [C]ross of the [C]rown of [R]wanda. The post-nominal for a Commander recipient of the Order is “CCR”. This stands for [C]ommander of the [C]rown of [R]wanda. Therefore, the full name, title, and style of a male holder of the Grand Collar or Grand Cross rank is “Son Excellence Chevalier First Name Middle Name Second Middle Name [if any] Surname, GCCR”. The

full name, title, and style of a male holder of the Commander rank is “L’honorable Chevalier First Name Middle Name Second Middle Name [if any] Surname, CCR”. Similarly, the full name, title, and style of a female holder of the Grand Collar or Grand Cross rank is “Son Excellence Dame First Name Middle Name Second Middle Name [if any] Surname, GCCR”. The full name, title, and style of a female holder of the Commander rank is “L’honorable Dame First Name Middle Name Second Middle Name [if any] Surname, CCR”. If the Letters Patent for a particular recipient contains a different style, title, and address than the above, the Letters Patent will triumph only for that particular recipient.

Article 58

Regalia of Order

Recipients at the rank of Grand Collar are entitled to a collar of gold (Or) chain linking alternating gold (Or) Crowns of Rwanda with the stylized initial ‘K’ (for Kigeli) with a badge of a Maltese cross enameled pale blue (Azure) edged in white (Argent). Stylized gold (Or) letters of the letter ‘K’ are positioned in the principal angles. In the middle of the Maltese cross is a roundel enameled white (Argent) trimmed in gold (Or) bearing a gold (Or) Crown of Rwanda. The badge is pendant from a gold (Or) Crown of Rwanda.

Recipients at the rank of Grand Cross are entitled to a breast star 85 millimeters wide that is an eight-pointed star of plain silver (Argent) rays with a center roundel enameled white (Argent) bearing a gold (Or) Crown of Rwanda. The center roundel is also trimmed in gold (Or). The Grand Cross recipient is also entitled to a sash of pale blue (Azure) with a broad strip of white (Argent) near each edge. The sash is 100 millimeters wide for males, while females have an option of the 100 millimeter wide sash or else a 50 millimeter wide version. The sash is worn over the right shoulder and it rests on the left hip. The insignia of the Order for the sash is a Maltese cross enameled pale blue (Azure) edged in white (Argent). Stylized gold (Or) letters of the letter ‘K’ are positioned in the principal angles. In the middle of the Maltese cross is a roundel enameled white (Argent) trimmed in gold (Or) bearing a gold (Or) Crown of Rwanda. The whole is surmounted by a gold (Or) Crown of Rwanda. The insignia measures approximately 60 millimeters wide from left to right.

Recipients at the rank of Commander are entitled to a breast star 85 millimeters wide that is an eight-pointed star of plain silver (Argent) rays with a center roundel enameled white

(Argent) bearing a silver (Argent) Crown of Rwanda. The center roundel is also trimmed in silver (Argent).



Article 59

Courtesy Spousal Title and Courtesy Titles for Children

There is no courtesy title for the lawful spouse or children of a member of the Order. However, the lawful spouse of a member of the Order is noble for as long as the spouse is married to the member or is the widow/widower of the same. Yet, the children of the member are not noble.

Article 60

Passage of Title and Honour

The titles and honours of the *de jure* Kingdom of Rwanda may only pass to another person in strict accordance with this document. They cannot be sold, transferred, or otherwise altered. If a grant of the Order is hereditary, the Letters Patent and it alone will state it.

Unless the Letters Patent for a particular grantee specifically stipulates another method of transmission, the default method of transmission is bloodline absolute primogeniture springing solely from the original grantee. That is, the honour and title of Chevalier or Dame will only pass from a current substantive title-holder to the eldest child of the title-holder (or the next in line to the title and honour if there are no living descendants of the

current title-holder but there are living collateral descendants elsewhere who spring from the original grantee of the noble title and honour) upon the death of the current title-holder, unless the current title-holder renounces the honour in accordance with Article 61. There may only be one inheritor of the title and honour at any time. The rank within the Order will be retained by transmission. Said another way, a member of the rank of Grand Collar who passes the title and honour to an heir will have the heir also be at the rank of Grand Collar. Likewise, a member of the rank of Grand Cross who passes the title and honour to an heir will have the heir also be at the rank of Grand Cross. Similarly, a member of the rank of Commander who passes the title and honour to an heir will have the heir also be at the rank of Commander.

Written notice of each transfer of the title and honour should be made to the current Head of the Rwandan Royal House so that good record-keeping is maintained and registration occurs of the new holder of the title and honour. A small registration fee might be necessary to record this transfer. However, title passage will occur without the need for official blessing by a future Head of the Rwandan Royal House. For example, if a title holder dies, his heir according to either the individualized Letters Patent or this document immediately becomes the next holder of the title and honour. This ensures the smooth and immediate transmission of the title and honour. But notification to the Royal House is required after transmission so that proper record keeping can be maintained. If more than 100 years passes after a legitimate transfer of a title and honour and the Royal Rwandan House has not received notification and recorded the transmission, the title and honour becomes extinct and reverts back to the Royal Rwandan House. Only if the Head of the Royal Rwandan House then regrants the title and honour can it be restored after 100 years of lack of registration after it legitimately transfers.

In the event that the descendant lines of the original grantee of the noble title and honour all fail – that is, that each line eventually has no bloodline heirs left – the title will become extinct, as all possible heirs have died out. Similarly, the title becomes dormant if no person has claimed the title or no claim has been satisfactorily proven. A period of 100 years of dormancy results in the dissolution of the title with no restoration possible except for an explicit new grant from the Head of the Rwandan Royal House. In the event of a dispute regarding who is the true inheritor of the title and honour, the current Head of the Rwandan Royal House has ultimate jurisdiction as to the rightful holder of the title. Note, for purposes of this document, the word bloodline heir means all issue (descendants), not just the immediate children of the original Chevalier or Dame.

In the event that an inheritor of the title and honour resides in a domicile/jurisdiction/state/country of residence that prohibits the use of titles and honours at the time of receiving the title, or a current Chevalier or Dame moves into such a domicile/jurisdiction/state/country of residence, the title becomes honorary solely to allow the grantee to not violate the law in the place of residence. However, this honorary state exists and accords the Chevalier or Dame all rights accorded a non-honorary substantive title and honour. Put another way, the honorary title and honour are honorary in name only, but the title and honour still are substantive in the *de jure* Kingdom of Rwanda. This state of the noble title and honour being honorary will exist until the current Chevalier or Dame moves into another domicile/jurisdiction/state/country of residence that recognizes titles and honours, the domicile/jurisdiction/state/country of residence changes its stance on titles and honours, or a new inheritor, residing in another domicile/jurisdiction/state/country of residence has a claim to the title through the previous title-holder dying or renouncing the honour. Under no circumstances is the title and honour of a hereditary Chevalier or Dame considered extinct until all possible heirs to it have died out. A foreign government cannot extinguish this title and honour as the title falls under the legal jurisdiction and protection of the *de jure* Kingdom of Rwanda.

Article 61

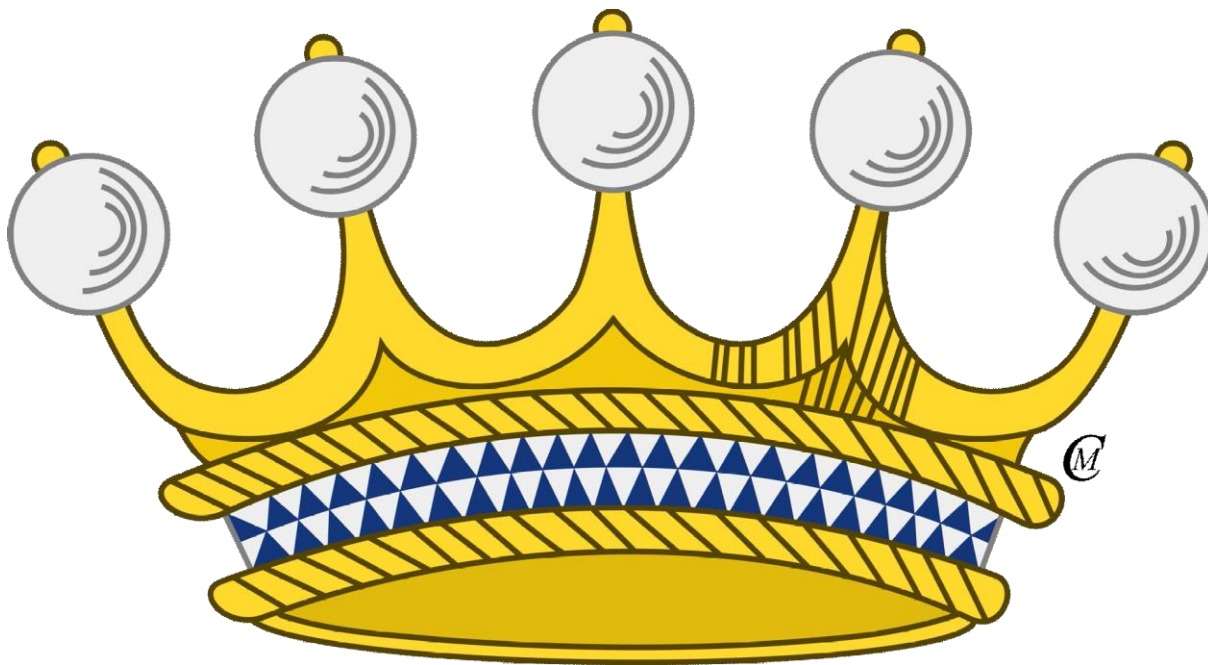
Renunciation of Title

The title and honour may be renounced by the current Chevalier or Dame at any time and for any cause. The renunciation must be in writing and witnessed by two individuals not related to the current Chevalier or Dame. Both witnesses should sign and date the renunciation along with the renouncing Chevalier or Dame, and the document should be delivered to the current Head of the Royal House of Rwanda. Upon signing, the title and honour of Chevalier or Dame will pass by the rules of Article 60 as if the renouncing Chevalier or Dame died. Thus, a renunciation of the title and honour does not dissolve it; the title and honour merely passes to the next lawful recipient under Article 60 or the Letters Patent of the original grantee. Per Article 60, only an extinction of the title and honour by the death or renunciation of all bloodline descendants springing from the original grantee, or all eligible recipients outlined in a specific Letters Patent if the specific Letters Patent outlines a different mode of title transmission, can effectively end its existence.

Article 62

Armorial Achievement

Heraldry is not a significant part of the historic cultural tradition of Rwanda, but there are some precedents. For example, His Majesty King Kigeli V has a heraldic achievement with a Bantu-style shield. The coronet for a Chevalier or Dame will be an Or coronet surmounted by eight balls of pearl. The band of the coronet will display white and blue beading similar to the Crown of Rwanda. The heraldic representation for the Chevalier or Dame coronet will be:



Grantees and inheritors of the noble title and honour may display their heraldry with a Bantu-style shield or else a heater-style shield, the above coronet, a helm, a torse, mantling or a manteau, and supporters or a combination of these. Recipients of the Order at any rank may, but are not required to, also display the Crown of the *Mwami* on his or her escutcheon, but it may not be used as a helm. This prevention of the Crown as a helm ensures that the armiger is not accidentally mistaken for His Majesty the *Mwami*. In accordance with the original vision of H.M. King Mutara III, leopard skin may be used as manteau. Grantees and inheritors also had the right, beginning with H.M. King Mutara III, to decorate their battle shields, and this is akin to a heraldic system.

Royal Order of the Crested Crane of Rwanda

The Order of the Crested Crane (*Usumbere* in the native Kinyarwandan), the third-highest Order in the *de jure* Kingdom of Rwanda, is the inheritor of the Rwandan tradition called the *Impotore*, the torse bracelet. After a warrior killed his 14th enemy in combat, he was awarded this honour on the following conditions: the 14 kills had to be foreign adversaries killed in an authorized battle by the *Mwami*, and the deaths must occur on the field of war. The honour consisted of a bracelet formed from a leaf of iron and a leaf of brass. These were rolled together to form the twisted design of the torse. The torse bracelet was historically housed in a separate location and could not be placed on the ground as a sign of reverence. The torse bracelet could not be worn by a warrior concurrently with the necklace of the seventh, and the two items were required to be housed in different locations.

The Royal Order of the Crested Crane was created by H.M. King Mutara III as a continuation of the *Impotore* tradition. In the Kingdom of Rwanda, the award was granted with a feathered cap, which was a form of coronet. The Order was re-affirmed by H.M. King Kigeli V on the 3rd of January in 1998, and it is inspired by the national bird of Rwanda, the crested crane. The bird also serves as a supporter in H.M. King Kigeli V's heraldry.

There are two ranks in the Order. The higher rank is Grand Cross, and the lower rank is Commander. The Order may be granted as a hereditary award or as a non-hereditary honour, although it is generally issued as a hereditary honour. Nobility is conferred upon the grantee.

Article 63

Style of the Chevalier/Dame

A recipient at the rank of Grand Cross is entitled to the style of "Son Excellency". A recipient at the rank of Commander is entitled to the style of "L'honorable".

Article 64

Title and Address

The title and honour of Chevalier is granted to all male members of the Order whether Grand Cross or Commander. Similarly, the title and honour of Dame is granted to all female members of the Order whether Grand Cross or Commander. This Order confers nobility upon the member. The post-nominal for Grand Cross recipients of the Order is “GCCCCR”. This stands for [G]rand [C]ross of the [C]rested [C]rane of [R]wanda. The post-nominal for a Commander recipient of the Order is “CCCCR”. This stands for [C]ommander of the [C]rested [C]rane of [R]wanda. Therefore, the full name, title, and style of a male holder of the Grand Cross rank is “Son Excellence Chevalier First Name Middle Name Second Middle Name [if any] Surname, GCCCCR”. The full name, title, and style of a male holder of the Commander rank is “L’honorable Chevalier First Name Middle Name Second Middle Name [if any] Surname, CCCCCR”. Similarly, the full name, title, and style of a female holder of the Grand Cross rank is “Son Excellence Dame First Name Middle Name Second Middle Name [if any] Surname, GCCCCR”. The full name, title, and style of a female holder of the Commander rank is “L’honorable Dame First Name Middle Name Second Middle Name [if any] Surname, CCCCCR”. If the Letters Patent for a particular recipient contains a different style, title, and address than the above, the Letters Patent will triumph only for that particular recipient.

Article 65

Regalia of Order

Recipients at the rank of Grand Cross are entitled to a breast star approximately 85 millimeters wide that is a circular star of curved silver (Argent) rays. On an eight-pointed gold (Or) star with fusils enameled green (Vert) with gold (Or) ball finials surmounting the silver (Argent) rays, stylized gold (Or) letters “K” (for Kigeli) are positioned in the angles of the eight-pointed star. In the center of the star is a roundel enameled white (Argent) charged with a crested crane proper facing sinister with two five-pointed gold (Or) stars on the left of the crane and one five-pointed gold (Or) star on the right. The roundel is edged with a band of red (Gules) enamel inscribed “ORDER OF THE CRESTED CRANE” and “RWANDA” in gold (Or) lettering. The band is edged in gold (Or). Individuals at the Grand Cross rank are also entitled to a sash of the Order. The sash is 100 millimeters wide for males, while females have an option of the 100 millimeter wide sash or else a 50 millimeter wide version. The sash is worn over the right shoulder and it rests on the left hip. The sash of the Order is yellow (Or) with a broad blue (Azure) stripe near each edge.

Each blue (Azure) stripe is flanked by two red (Gules) stripes. The sash has an insignia of the Order. This insignia is an eight-pointed gold (Or) star with fusils enameled green (Vert) with gold (Or) ball finials. Stylized gold (Or) letters “K” (for Kigeli) are positioned in the angles of the eight-pointed star. In the center of the star is a roundel enameled white (Argent) charged with a crested crane proper facing sinister with two five-pointed gold (Or) stars on the left of the crane and one five-pointed gold (Or) star on the right. The roundel is edged with a band of red (Gules) enamel inscribed “ORDER OF THE CRESTED CRANE” and “RWANDA” in gold (Or) lettering. The band is edged in gold (Or). The whole star is suspended by the Crown of Rwanda proper. The insignia is 80 millimeters wide from left to right.

Recipients at the rank of Commander are entitled to a breast star approximately 85 millimeters wide that is a circular star of curved silver (Argent) rays. On an eight-pointed gold (Or) star with fusils enameled green (Vert) with gold (Or) ball finials surmounting the silver (Argent) rays, stylized gold (Or) letters “K” (for Kigeli) are positioned in the angles of the eight-pointed star. In the center of the star is a roundel enameled white (Argent) charged with a crested crane proper facing sinister with two five-pointed gold (Or) stars on the left of the crane and one five-pointed gold (Or) star on the right. The roundel is edged with a band of red (Gules) enamel inscribed “ORDER OF THE CRESTED CRANE” and “RWANDA” in gold (Or) lettering. The band is edged in gold (Or).



Article 66

Courtesy Spousal Title and Courtesy Titles for Children

There is no courtesy title for the lawful spouse or children of a member of the Order. However, the lawful spouse of a member of the Order is noble for as long as the spouse is married to the member or is the widow/widower of the same. Yet, the children of the member are not noble.

Article 67

Passage of Title and Honour

The titles and honours of the *de jure* Kingdom of Rwanda may only pass to another person in strict accordance with this document. They cannot be sold, transferred, or otherwise altered. If a grant of the Order is hereditary, the Letters Patent and it alone will state it. Unless the Letters Patent for a particular grantee specifically stipulates another method of transmission, the default method of transmission is bloodline absolute primogeniture springing solely from the original grantee. That is, the honour and title of Chevalier or Dame will only pass from a current substantive title-holder to the eldest child of the title-holder (or the next in line to the title and honour if there are no living descendants of the current title-holder but there are living collateral descendants elsewhere who spring from the original grantee of the noble title and honour) upon the death of the current title-holder, unless the current title-holder renounces the honour in accordance with Article 68. There may only be one inheritor of the title and honour at any time. The rank within the Order will be retained by transmission. Said another way, a member of the rank of Grand Cross who passes the title and honour to an heir will have the heir also be at the rank of Grand Cross. Similarly, a member of the rank of Commander who passes the title and honour to an heir will have the heir also be at the rank of Commander.

Written notice of each transfer of the title and honour should be made to the current Head of the Rwandan Royal House so that good record-keeping is maintained and registration occurs of the new holder of the title and honour. A small registration fee might be necessary to record this transfer. However, title passage will occur without the need for official blessing by a future Head of the Rwandan Royal House. For example, if a title holder dies, his heir according to either the individualized Letters Patent or this document immediately becomes the next holder of the title and honour. This ensures the smooth and

immediate transmission of the title and honour. But notification to the Royal House is required after transmission so that proper record keeping can be maintained. If more than 100 years passes after a legitimate transfer of a title and honour and the Royal Rwandan House has not received notification and recorded the transmission, the title and honour becomes extinct and reverts back to the Royal Rwandan House. Only if the Head of the Royal Rwandan House then regrants the title and honour can it be restored after 100 years of lack of registration after it legitimately transfers.

In the event that the descendant lines of the original grantee of the noble title and honour all fail – that is, that each line eventually has no bloodline heirs left – the title will become extinct, as all possible heirs have died out. Similarly, the title becomes dormant if no person has claimed the title or no claim has been satisfactorily proven. A period of 100 years of dormancy results in the dissolution of the title with no restoration possible except for an explicit new grant from the Head of the Rwandan Royal House. In the event of a dispute regarding who is the true inheritor of the title and honour, the current Head of the Rwandan Royal House has ultimate jurisdiction as to the rightful holder of the title. Note, for purposes of this document, the word bloodline heir means all issue (descendants), not just the immediate children of the original Chevalier or Dame.

In the event that an inheritor of the title and honour resides in a domicile/jurisdiction/state/country of residence that prohibits the use of titles and honours at the time of receiving the title, or a current Chevalier or Dame moves into such a domicile/jurisdiction/state/country of residence, the title becomes honorary solely to allow the grantee to not violate the law in the place of residence. However, this honorary state exists and accords the Chevalier or Dame all rights accorded a non-honorary substantive title and honour. Put another way, the honorary title and honour are honorary in name only, but the title and honour still are substantive in the *de jure* Kingdom of Rwanda. This state of the noble title and honour being honorary will exist until the current Chevalier or Dame moves into another domicile/jurisdiction/state/country of residence that recognizes titles and honours, the domicile/jurisdiction/state/country of residence changes its stance on titles and honours, or a new inheritor, residing in another domicile/jurisdiction/state/country of residence has a claim to the title through the previous title-holder dying or renouncing the honour. Under no circumstances is the title and honour of a hereditary Chevalier or Dame considered extinct until all possible heirs to it have died out. A foreign government cannot extinguish this title and honour as the title falls under the legal jurisdiction and protection of the *de jure* Kingdom of Rwanda.

Article 68

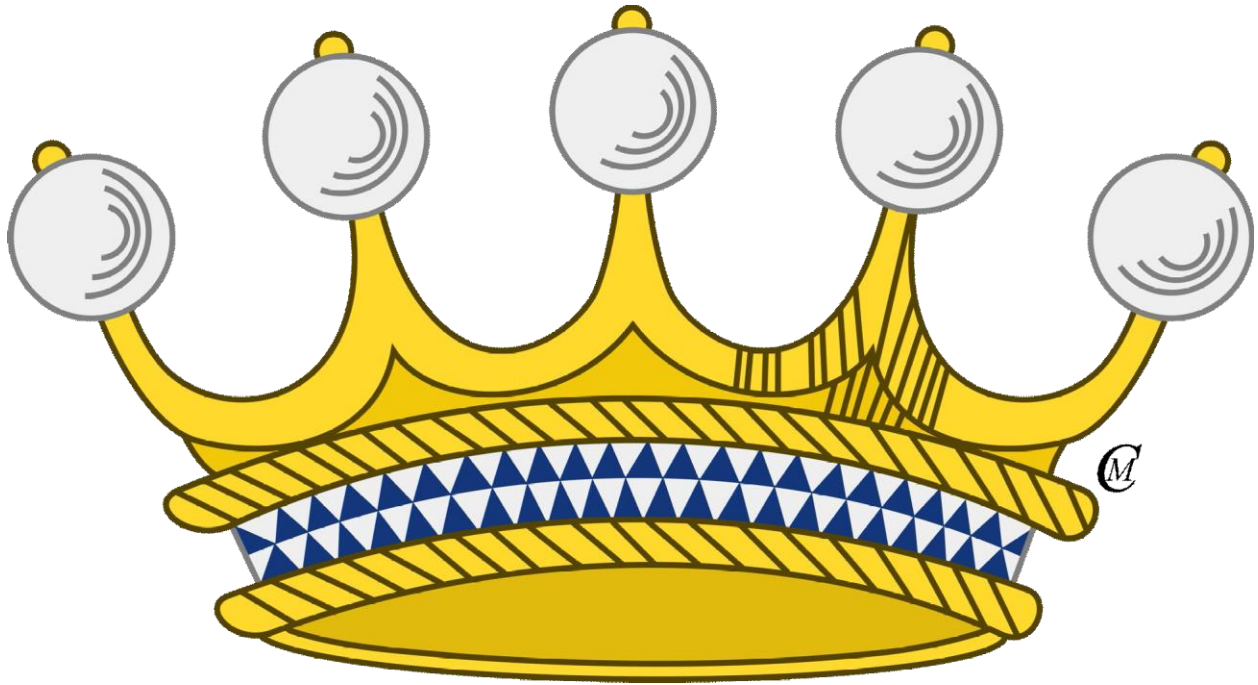
Renunciation of Title

The title and honour may be renounced by the current Chevalier or Dame at any time and for any cause. The renunciation must be in writing and witnessed by two individuals not related to the current Chevalier or Dame. Both witnesses should sign and date the renunciation along with the renouncing Chevalier or Dame, and the document should be delivered to the current Head of the Royal House of Rwanda. Upon signing, the title and honour of Chevalier or Dame will pass by the rules of Article 67 as if the renouncing Chevalier or Dame died. Thus, a renunciation of the title and honour does not dissolve it; the title and honour merely passes to the next lawful recipient under Article 67 or the Letters Patent of the original grantee. Per Article 67, only an extinction of the title and honour by the death or renunciation of all bloodline descendants springing from the original grantee, or all eligible recipients outlined in a specific Letters Patent if the specific Letters Patent outlines a different mode of title transmission, can effectively end its existence.

Article 69

Armorial Achievement

Heraldry is not a significant part of the historic cultural tradition of Rwanda, but there are some precedents. For example, His Majesty King Kigeli V has a heraldic achievement with a Bantu-style shield. The coronet for a Chevalier or Dame will be an Or coronet surmounted by eight balls of pearl. The band of the coronet will display white and blue beading similar to the Crown of Rwanda. The heraldic representation for the Chevalier or Dame coronet will be:



Grantees and inheritors of the title and honour may display their heraldry with a Bantu-style shield or else a heater-style shield, the above coronet, a helm, a torse, mantling, and supporters or a combination of these. Recipients of the Order at any rank may, but are not required to, also display a crested crane on his or her escutcheon or crest. A crested crane may also be used as a heraldic supporter.

Royal Order of the Lion of Rwanda

The Order of the Lion (*Intare* in the native Kinyarwandan language) is the lowest Order in the *de jure* Kingdom of Rwanda. It is the inheritor of the Rwandan *Umudende* ceremony, the necklace of the seventh. This was a Rwandan custom where a warrior was honoured for having killed his seventh enemy in combat. The rules were similar to the aforementioned *Impotore*.

The historical distinction of the *Umudende* granted the recipient a necklace of iron that held small bells in an even number: two, four, or six bells were displayed at chest height. The necklace was historically protected in a separate house and could not be placed on the ground. Pre-conversion to Catholicism, the bells were regarded as a religious talisman that

warded off evils spirits. The recipient was also awarded a lion's pelt, and the investiture ceremony literally clothed the recipient in the pelt. This ritual demonstrated that the bravery of the grantee was akin to the lion, the king of beasts. The recipient was also expected to have a superior social status within the kingdom that would now be described as a noble class, and an annual tribute to the King was required with the regular sacrifice of a young bull. However, a decision of H.M. Kigeli Kigeli IV Rwabugili (a predecessor to the current King) removed some of the earlier obligations of *Umudende* recipients to allow the honour to be accessible to heroes of modest fortune. Under precise rules regarding the conquest or liberation of other kingdoms, a King could also be decorated in this way. Historical recipients include King Ruganzu II Ndoli (1510 – 1543 A.D.), King Mutara I Semugeshi (1543 – 1576), King Kigeli II Nyamuheshera (1576 – 1609), King Kigeli III Ndabirasa (1708 – 1741), King Kigeli IV Rwabugili (1853 – 1895), and King Yuhi V Musinga (1896 – 1931). King Yuhi V removed the killing requirements for the honour after Catholic missionaries and German colonists began their work, and this honour was granted to some of them.

The spirit of the *Umudende* ceremony was retained by the reverence granted to recipients of the Order of the Lion. The Order was founded in 1946 by King Mutara III Rudahigwa, the first Catholic King of Rwanda. It was created as a Royal State Order of the Kingdom of Rwanda, registered with the Vatican State in 1947 (through the Foreign Missions Office in Paris), and it has been awarded to such distinguished international figures as H.H. Pope Pius XII (1950), H.I.M. Emperor Haile Selassie of Ethiopia (1957), H.M. King Baudouin of Belgium (1955), and H.G. Don Francisco Borbon y Escasany, 5th Duke of Seville and Grandee of Spain (2005), among others. The design for the insignia of the Order dates to 1955 when it was drafted by artisan company Arthus-Bertrand. The grant to H.H. Pope Pius XII also contained the traditional lion's pelt, and His Holiness received the first Letters Patent of the Order. Shortly before, H.H. Pope Pius XII had granted King Mutara III and future Catholic Rwandan kings the title of "Most Christian King of the Rwandans", which is similar to a previous style used for the historic kings of France. The lion also serves as a supporter in His Majesty King Kigeli V's heraldry. Its creation as a Royal State Order makes it unique from the other Rwandan honours since the others were created as royal House dynastic honours. The Republic of Rwanda did not retain the Order of the Lion, and H.M. King Kigeli V continues to grant the Order in his right as a *de jure* head of state.

There are five ranks in the Order. The highest rank is Grand Cross, which is followed by the Grand Officer rank. The third-highest rank is Knight Commander or Dame Commander, which is followed by the Officer rank. The lowest rank is the Knight or Dame

rank. The Order may be granted as a hereditary award or as a non-hereditary honour. Nobility is conferred upon the grantee.

Article 70

Style of the Chevalier/Dame

A recipient at the rank of Grand Cross is entitled to the style of “Son Excellence”. A recipient at the rank of Grand Officer is entitled to the style of “L’honorable”. No other ranks in the Order are entitled to a style.

Article 71

Title and Address

The title and honour of Chevalier is granted to all male members of the Order regardless of rank. Similarly, the title and honour of Dame is granted to all female members of the Order regardless of rank. This Order confers nobility upon the member. The post-nominal for Grand Cross recipients of the Order is “GCLR”. This stands for [G]rand [C]ross of the [L]ion of [R]wanda. The post-nominal for a Grand Officer recipient of the Order is “GOLR”. This stands for [G]rand [O]fficer of the [L]ion of [R]wanda. The post-nominal for male Commander recipients of the Order is “KCLR”. This stands for [K]night [C]ommander of the [L]ion of [R]wanda. The post-nominal for female Commander recipients of the Order is “DCLR”. This stands for [D]ame [C]ommander of the [L]ion of [R]wanda. The post-nominal for an Officer recipient of the Order is “OLR”. This stands for [O]fficer of the [L]ion of [R]wanda. The post-nominal for male Knight recipients of the Order is “KLR”. This stands for [K]night of the [L]ion of [R]wanda. The post-nominal for female Dame recipients is “DLR”. This stands for [D]ame of the [L]ion of [R]wanda. Therefore, the full name, title, and style of a male holder of the Grand Cross rank is “Son Excellence Chevalier First Name Middle Name Second Middle Name [if any] Surname, GCLR”. The full name, title, and style of a male holder of the Grand Officer rank is “L’honorable Chevalier First Name Middle Name Second Middle Name [if any] Surname, GOLR”. The full name, title, and style of a male holder of the Knight Commander rank is “Chevalier First Name Middle Name Second Middle Name [if any] Surname, KCLR”. The full name, title, and style of a male holder of the Officer rank is “Chevalier First Name Middle Name Second Middle Name [if any] Surname, OLR”. The full name, title, and style of a male holder of the Knight rank is “Chevalier First Name Middle Name Second Middle Name [if any] Surname, KLR”. Similarly, the full name, title, and style of a female holder of the Grand Cross rank is “Son Excellence Dame First Name Middle Name Second Middle

Name [if any] Surname, GCLR”. The full name, title, and style of a female holder of the Grand Officer rank is “L’honorable Dame First Name Middle Name Second Middle Name [if any] Surname, GOLR”. The full name, title, and style of a female holder of the Dame Commander rank is “Dame First Name Middle Name Second Middle Name [if any] Surname, DCLR”. The full name, title, and style of a female holder of the Officer rank is “Dame First Name Middle Name Second Middle Name [if any] Surname, OLR”. The full name, title, and style of a female holder of the Dame rank is “Dame First Name Middle Name Second Middle Name [if any] Surname, DLR”. If the Letters Patent for a particular recipient contains a different style, title, and address than the above, the Letters Patent will triumph only for that particular recipient.

Article 72

Regalia of Order

Recipients at the rank of Grand Cross are entitled to a breast star 85 millimeters wide that is a circular star of wavy gold (Or) rays. In the center of the star is a red enamel cartouche charged with a gold (Or) lion rampant guardant with the body facing left (Dexter). The cartouche is edged with two bands of gold (Or). Individuals at the rank of Grand Cross rank are also entitled to a sash of the Order. The sash of the Order is red (Gules) and edged with purple (Purpure). The sash is 100 millimeters wide for males, while females have an option of the 100 millimeter wide sash or else a 50 millimeter wide version. The sash is worn over the right shoulder and it rests on the left hip. The sash has an insignia. The insignia is 65 millimeters wide from left to right, and it is a gold (Or) cross. The arms of the cross are conjoined wavy gold (Or) rays. Three silver (Argent) rays are positioned in the principal angles. In the center of the insignia is a red enamel cartouche charged with a gold (Or) lion rampant guardant with the body facing left (Dexter). The cartouche is edged with two bands of gold (Or). The insignia is surmounted by a gold (Or) Crown of Rwanda.

Recipients at the rank of Grand Officer are entitled to a breast star 85 millimeters wide that is a circular star of wavy silver (Argent) rays. In the center of the star is a red (Gules) enamel cartouche charged with a silver (Argent) lion rampant guardant with the body facing left (Dexter). The cartouche is edged with two bands of silver (Argent). Individuals at the rank of Grand Officer are also entitled to a neck riband of the Order. The neck riband for the Grand Officer is 50 millimeters wide and is red (Gules) and edged with purple (Purpure). Suspended from the riband is the insignia of the Order. The insignia is 65 millimeters wide from left to right, and it is a silver (Argent) cross. The arms of the cross are conjoined wavy silver (Argent) rays. Three silver (Argent) rays are positioned in the

principal angles. In the center of the insignia is a red (Gules) enamel cartouche charged with a silver (Argent) lion rampant guardant with the body facing left (Dexter). The cartouche is edged with two bands of silver (Argent). The insignia is surmounted by a silver (Argent) Crown of Rwanda.

Recipients at the rank of Knight Commander or Dame Commander are entitled to a neck riband of the Order. The neck riband for the Commander is 50 millimeters wide and is red (Gules) and edged with purple (Purpure). Suspended from the riband is the insignia of the Order. The insignia is 65 millimeters wide from left to right, and it is a silver (Argent) cross. The arms of the cross are conjoined wavy silver (Argent) rays. Three silver (Argent) rays are positioned in the principal angles. In the center of the insignia is a red (Gules) enamel cartouche charged with a silver (Argent) lion rampant guardant with the body facing left (Dexter). The cartouche is edged with two bands of silver (Argent). The insignia is surmounted by a silver (Argent) Crown of Rwanda.

Recipients at the rank of Officer are entitled to a breast ribbon. The ribbon is 40 millimeters from left to right, and it is red (Gules) edged in purple (Purpure). A red (Gules) and purple (Purpure) rosette is on the ribbon. Suspended from the ribbon is an insignia. The insignia is approximately 45 millimeters from left to right, and it is a gold (Or) cross. The arms of the cross are conjoined wavy gold (Or) rays. Three silver (Argent) rays are positioned in the principal angles. In the center of the insignia is a red (Gules) enamel cartouche charged with a gold (Or) lion rampant guardant with the body facing left (Dexter). The cartouche is edged with two bands of gold (Or). The insignia is surmounted by a gold (Or) Crown of Rwanda.

Recipients at the rank of Knight or Dame are entitled to a breast ribbon. The ribbon is 40 millimeters wide from left to right, and it is red (Gules) edged in purple (Purpure). Suspended from the ribbon is an insignia. The insignia is 45 millimeters wide from left to right, and it is a gold (Or) cross. The arms of the cross are conjoined wavy gold (Or) rays. Three silver (Argent) rays are positioned in the principal angles. In the center of the insignia is a red (Gules) enamel cartouche charged with a gold (Or) lion rampant guardant with the body facing left (Dexter). The cartouche is edged with two bands of gold (Or). The insignia is surmounted by a gold (Or) Crown of Rwanda.



Article 73

Courtesy Spousal Title and Courtesy Titles for Children

There is no courtesy title for the lawful spouse or children of a member of the Order. However, the lawful spouse of a member of the Order is noble for as long as the spouse is married to the member or is the widow/widower of the same. Yet, the children of the member are not noble.

Article 74

Passage of Title and Honour

The titles and honours of the *de jure* Kingdom of Rwanda may only pass to another person in strict accordance with this document. They cannot be sold, transferred, or otherwise altered. If a grant of the Order is hereditary, the Letters Patent and it alone will state it. Unless the Letters Patent for a particular grantee specifically stipulates another method of transmission, the default method of transmission is bloodline absolute primogeniture springing solely from the original grantee. That is, the honour and title of Chevalier or Dame will only pass from a current substantive title-holder to the eldest child of the title-holder (or the next in line to the title and honour if there are no living descendants of the current title-holder but there are living collateral descendants elsewhere who spring from the original grantee of the noble title and honour) upon the death of the current title-holder, unless the current title-holder renounces the honour in accordance with Article 75. There may only be one inheritor of the title and honour at any time. The rank within the Order will be retained by transmission. Said another way, a member of the rank of Grand Cross who passes the title and honour to an heir will have the heir also be at the rank of Grand Cross. Similarly, a member of the rank of Commander who passes the title and honour to an heir will have the heir also be at the rank of Commander.

Written notice of each transfer of the title and honour should be made to the current Head of the Rwandan Royal House so that good record-keeping is maintained and registration occurs of the new holder of the title and honour. A small registration fee might be necessary to record this transfer. However, title passage will occur without the need for official blessing by a future Head of the Rwandan Royal House. For example, if a title holder dies, his heir according to either the individualized Letters Patent or this document immediately becomes the next holder of the title and honour. This ensures the smooth and immediate transmission of the title and honour. But notification to the Royal House is required after transmission so that proper record keeping can be maintained. If more than 100 years passes after a legitimate transfer of a title and honour and the Royal Rwandan House has not received notification and recorded the transmission, the title and honour becomes extinct and reverts back to the Royal Rwandan House. Only if the Head of the Royal Rwandan House then regrants the title and honour can it be restored after 100 years of lack of registration after it legitimately transfers.

In the event that the descendant lines of the original grantee of the noble title and honour all fail – that is, that each line eventually has no bloodline heirs left – the title will become extinct, as all possible heirs have died out. Similarly, the title becomes dormant if no person has claimed the title or no claim has been satisfactorily proven. A period of 100 years of dormancy results in the dissolution of the title with no restoration possible except for an explicit new grant from the Head of the Rwandan Royal House. In the event of a dispute regarding who is the true inheritor of the title and honour, the current Head of the Rwandan Royal House has ultimate jurisdiction as to the rightful holder of the title. Note, for purposes of this document, the word bloodline heir means all issue (descendants), not just the immediate children of the original Chevalier or Dame.

In the event that an inheritor of the title and honour resides in a domicile/jurisdiction/state/country of residence that prohibits the use of titles and honours at the time of receiving the title, or a current Chevalier or Dame moves into such a domicile/jurisdiction/state/country of residence, the title becomes honorary solely to allow the grantee to not violate the law in the place of residence. However, this honorary state exists and accords the Chevalier or Dame all rights accorded a non-honorary substantive title and honour. Put another way, the honorary title and honour are honorary in name only, but the title and honour still are substantive in the *de jure* Kingdom of Rwanda. This state of the noble title and honour being honorary will exist until the current Chevalier or Dame moves into another domicile/jurisdiction/state/country of residence that recognizes titles and honours, the domicile/jurisdiction/state/country of residence changes its stance on titles and honours, or a new inheritor, residing in another

domicile/jurisdiction/state/country of residence has a claim to the title through the previous title-holder dying or renouncing the honour. Under no circumstances is the title and honour of a hereditary Chevalier or Dame considered extinct until all possible heirs to it have died out. A foreign government cannot extinguish this title and honour as the title falls under the legal jurisdiction and protection of the *de jure* Kingdom of Rwanda.

Article 75

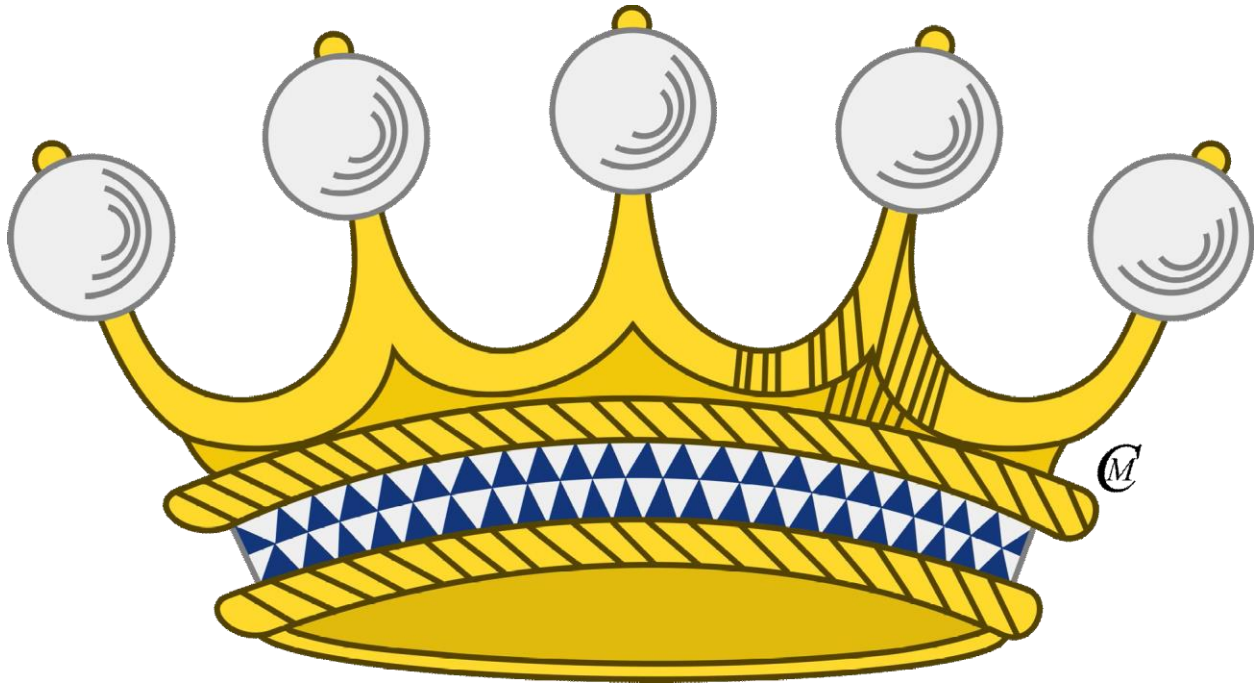
Renunciation of Title

The title and honour may be renounced by the current Chevalier or Dame at any time and for any cause. The renunciation must be in writing and witnessed by two individuals not related to the current Chevalier or Dame. Both witnesses should sign and date the renunciation along with the renouncing Chevalier or Dame, and the document should be delivered to the current Head of the Royal House of Rwanda. Upon signing, the title and honour of Chevalier or Dame will pass by the rules of Article 74 as if the renouncing Chevalier or Dame died. Thus, a renunciation of the title and honour does not dissolve it; the title and honour merely passes to the next lawful recipient under Article 74 or the Letters Patent of the original grantee. Per Article 74, only an extinction of the title and honour by the death or renunciation of all bloodline descendants springing from the original grantee, or all eligible recipients outlined in a specific Letters Patent if the specific Letters Patent outlines a different mode of title transmission, can effectively end its existence.

Article 76

Armorial Achievement

Heraldry is not a significant part of the historic cultural tradition of Rwanda, but there are some precedents. For example, His Majesty King Kigeli V has a heraldic achievement with a Bantu-style shield. The coronet for a Chevalier or Dame will be an Or coronet surmounted by eight balls of pearl. The band of the coronet will display white and blue beading similar to the Crown of Rwanda. The heraldic representation for the Chevalier or Dame coronet will be:



Grantees and inheritors of the title and honour may display their heraldry with a Bantu-style shield or else a heater-style shield, the above coronet, a helm, a torse, mantling, and supporters or a combination of these. Recipients of the Order at any rank may, but are not required to, also display a lion on his or her escutcheon or crest. A lion may also be used as a heraldic supporter.

Royal Guard

The Royal Guard is a historical continuation of a ceremonial guard that provides protection and service to H.M. the *Mwami*. Within the modern context of a title and honour, a grantee into the Royal Guard receives a hereditary knighthood or dameship, but the recipient does not belong to an Order. The Royal Guard is junior to all the official Orders of the *de jure* Kingdom of Rwanda. Nobility is not conferred upon the grantee.

Article 77

Style of the Chevalier/Dame

A member of the Royal Guard is entitled to the style of “Son Excellence”.

Article 78

Title and Address

The title and honour of Chevalier is granted to all male members of the Royal Guard. Similarly, the title and honour of Dame is granted to all female members of the Royal Guard. This honour does not confer nobility upon the member. There is no post-nominal that signifies membership in the Royal Guard, but a member may officially describe himself/herself as a “Member of the Royal Guard of H.M. the *Mwami* of Rwanda” or “Membre de la Garde Royale de S.M. Le *Mwami* du Rwanda”.

Article 79

Regalia of Order

There is no regalia associated with membership in the Royal Guard.

Article 80

Courtesy Spousal Title and Courtesy Titles for Children

There is no courtesy title for the lawful spouse or children of a member of the Royal Guard. Neither is the grantee, the lawful spouse, or children of the same noble.

Article 81

Passage of Title and Honour

The titles and honours of the *de jure* Kingdom of Rwanda may only pass to another person in strict accordance with this document. They cannot be sold, transferred, or otherwise altered. Membership in the Royal Guard is hereditary. Unless the Letters Patent for a particular grantee specifically stipulates another method of transmission, the default method of transmission is bloodline absolute primogeniture springing solely from the original grantee. That is, the honour and title of Chevalier or Dame will only pass from a current substantive title-holder to the eldest child of the title-holder (or the next in line to the title and honour if there are no living descendants of the current title-holder but there are living collateral descendants elsewhere who spring from the original grantee of the

noble title and honour) upon the death of the current title-holder, unless the current title-holder renounces the honour in accordance with Article 82. There may only be one inheritor of the title and honour at any time.

Written notice of each transfer of the title and honour should be made to the current Head of the Rwandan Royal House so that good record-keeping is maintained and registration occurs of the new holder of the title and honour. A small registration fee might be necessary to record this transfer. However, title passage will occur without the need for official blessing by a future Head of the Rwandan Royal House. For example, if a title holder dies, his heir according to either the individualized Letters Patent or this document immediately becomes the next holder of the title and honour. This ensures the smooth and immediate transmission of the title and honour. But notification to the Royal House is required after transmission so that proper record keeping can be maintained. If more than 100 years passes after a legitimate transfer of a title and honour and the Royal Rwandan House has not received notification and recorded the transmission, the title and honour becomes extinct and reverts back to the Royal Rwandan House. Only if the Head of the Royal Rwandan House then regrants the title and honour can it be restored after 100 years of lack of registration after it legitimately transfers.

In the event that the descendant lines of the original grantee of the noble title and honour all fail – that is, that each line eventually has no bloodline heirs left – the title will become extinct, as all possible heirs have died out. Similarly, the title becomes dormant if no person has claimed the title or no claim has been satisfactorily proven. A period of 100 years of dormancy results in the dissolution of the title with no restoration possible except for an explicit new grant from the Head of the Rwandan Royal House. In the event of a dispute regarding who is the true inheritor of the title and honour, the current Head of the Rwandan Royal House has ultimate jurisdiction as to the rightful holder of the title. Note, for purposes of this document, the word bloodline heir means all issue (descendants), not just the immediate children of the original Chevalier or Dame.

In the event that an inheritor of the title and honour resides in a domicile/jurisdiction/state/country of residence that prohibits the use of titles and honours at the time of receiving the title, or a current Chevalier or Dame moves into such a domicile/jurisdiction/state/country of residence, the title becomes honorary solely to allow the grantee to not violate the law in the place of residence. However, this honorary state exists and accords the Chevalier or Dame all rights accorded a non-honorary substantive title and honour. Put another way, the honorary title and honour are honorary in name

only, but the title and honour still are substantive in the *de jure* Kingdom of Rwanda. This state of the noble title and honour being honorary will exist until the current Chevalier or Dame moves into another domicile/jurisdiction/state/country of residence that recognizes titles and honours, the domicile/jurisdiction/state/country of residence changes its stance on titles and honours, or a new inheritor, residing in another domicile/jurisdiction/state/country of residence has a claim to the title through the previous title-holder dying or renouncing the honour. Under no circumstances is the title and honour of a hereditary Chevalier or Dame considered extinct until all possible heirs to it have died out. A foreign government cannot extinguish this title and honour as the title falls under the legal jurisdiction and protection of the *de jure* Kingdom of Rwanda.

Article 82

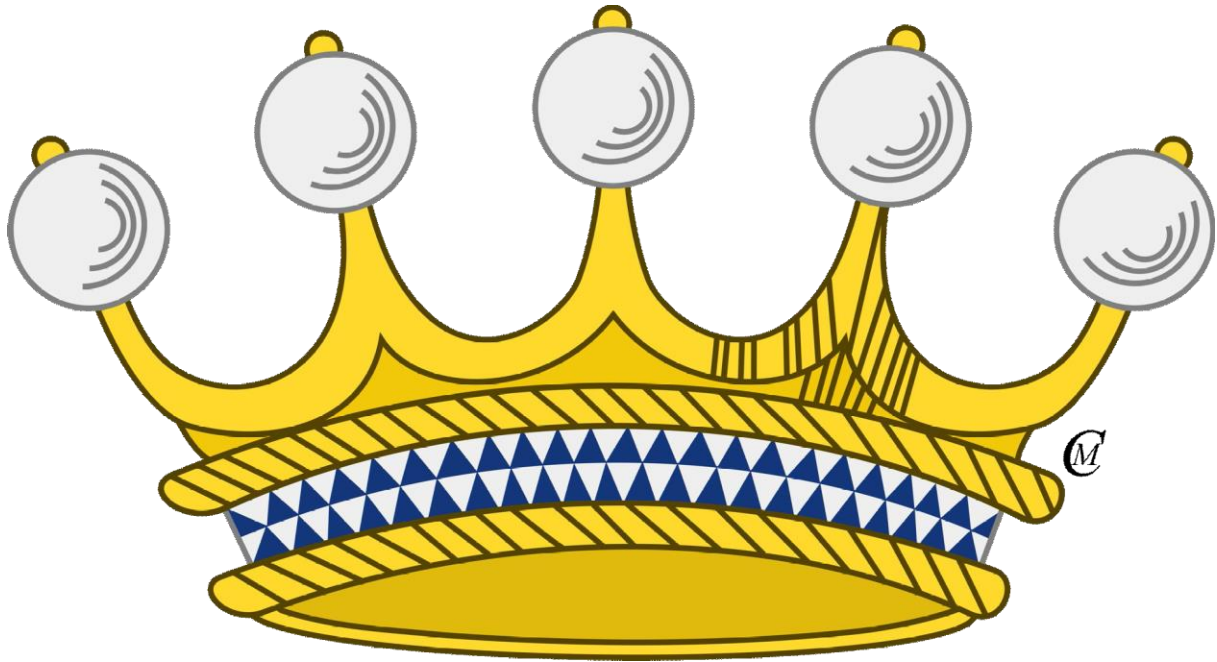
Renunciation of Title

The title and honour may be renounced by the current Chevalier or Dame at any time and for any cause. The renunciation must be in writing and witnessed by two individuals not related to the current Chevalier or Dame. Both witnesses should sign and date the renunciation along with the renouncing Chevalier or Dame, and the document should be delivered to the current Head of the Royal House of Rwanda. Upon signing, the title and honour of Chevalier or Dame will pass by the rules of Article 81 as if the renouncing Chevalier or Dame died. Thus, a renunciation of the title and honour does not dissolve it; the title and honour merely passes to the next lawful recipient under Article 81 or the Letters Patent of the original grantee. Per Article 81, only an extinction of the title and honour by the death or renunciation of all bloodline descendants springing from the original grantee, or all eligible recipients outlined in a specific Letters Patent if the specific Letters Patent outlines a different mode of title transmission, can effectively end its existence.

Article 83

Armorial Achievement

Heraldry is not a significant part of the historic cultural tradition of Rwanda, but there are some precedents. For example, His Majesty King Kigeli V has a heraldic achievement with a Bantu-style shield. The coronet for a Chevalier or Dame will be an Or coronet surmounted by eight balls of pearl. The band of the coronet will display white and blue beading similar to the Crown of Rwanda. The heraldic representation for the Chevalier or Dame coronet will be:



Grantees and inheritors of the title and honour may display their heraldry with a Bantu-style shield or else a heater-style shield, the above coronet, a helm, a torse, mantling, supporters, or a combination of these. Members of the Royal Guard may, but are not required to, display a gold (Or) spear on his or her escutcheon or crest. This golden spear reflects the weapon of choice for historic guards of H.M. the *Mwami*.

Article 84

Future Changes

As an anointed King, only another future anointed King of Rwanda who rules or reigns may unilaterally change this document and its application in the *de jure* Kingdom of Rwanda. However, if a future Head of the Rwandan Royal House who is not an anointed King wishes to change this document, he must have written consensus to do so by a majority of Royal dynasts within the Royal House of Rwanda. This appropriately recognizes the authority of an anointed King within the House over a Royal Head who is not an anointed King.

Closure

Our Royal Signature affixed to these Letters Patent on the 2nd of August of the year 2016 at
Oakton, Virginia, United States of America.

Signature Covered for
Identity Protection

Kigeli V

Signature Covered for
Identity Protection

Boniface Benzinge, Chancellor

Appendix and Commentary

Titles of Royalty

H.M. King Mutara III publicly recites the text of the Consecration of Rwanda to Christ the King before the Archbishop and Papal Legate of H.H. Pope Pius XII. This first picture was taken in 1950, although the text was written in 1947. The text follows in the next picture.



TRANSLATED TEXT OF THE
CONSECRATION OF RWANDA
BY KING MUTARA III



Lord, Jesus, King of all people and all families; you and your mother the Virgin Mary the Queen of earth and heaven. I, Charles Leon Pierre Rudahigwa, bow before you to acknowledge that you are the supreme King of Rwanda and to request that you be the foundation of its institutions and leadership.

Lord Jesus Christ, you are the creator of Rwanda to which you provide leaders to rule in your name; you have expanded Rwanda and have led it throughout times - while it was unaware of your existence - until you deemed timely to have it under your authority; you have brought your servants to extend to it the light of eternal life; you have sent in it your servants to teach leadership and development we need on earth.

On our part, we, Rwandans solemnly accept to be under your authority - you are our King. We respectfully accept the holy principles of your kingdom.

Lord, I offer you my whole country, my brothers and sisters, and myself. Give to men of this nation unfailing courage to promote in it the peace and development you have proclaimed for all nations. Keep them from the iniquities of harming each other, cheating each other, lying, stealing, and all other wickedness contrary to the brotherhood you want reign under your kingdom. Feel them with the holy light that enlighten them and extract from them all pagan behavior that infringe on your law to worship only you the creator of every being.

Give women the integrity; let them sustain the nation and remain an honor to it. Give them the capacity to properly educate the children you gave them to increase the number of the population. Grant them the capacity to transform children's hearts and feel them with your holiness and love from your kingdom and that of the nation of Rwanda; may all its families be granted peace, mutual understanding of married couples - make them one fresh as you and your church are one fresh.

Grant leaders with the ability to rule justly; to triumph over injustices and all other practices contrary to the righteousness you have taught us. Grant them with the courage to stay away from pagan behavior of hating each other and dividing themselves into conflicting groups that would hinder the love you want reign in you nation. Keep them away from deceiving and harming each while working towards the good of the nation you put them in charge of. Keep them away from breaking agreements and from violating the culture of integrity. Empower them to administer justice fairly. Keep them away from the desire for revenge towards whomever and towards people under their leadership. Keep them from plotting against or with whoever anywhere in your Rwanda. Take away from them pagan practices that are contrary to your kingdom.

Bring us together - your servants that came to teach us the gospel; those that came to teach us development, and all of us the citizens- and give us the power to fulfill our duties - which are duties to you. Let all nations praise you publicly in the following manner: "May Christ the Lord and his mother Mary the Virgin live forever with eternal holiness; now and forever". Amen!

Royal Prince or Royal Princesse

Article 4

If a Royal Princesse is a substantive title holder in her own right, the lawful spouse receives no courtesy title. This custom has been followed by many European countries for many generations. If the lawful spouse of a Royal Princesse was accorded a courtesy title, it would be confusing to others as to which spouse was the actual title holder and which one held just the courtesy title when both are announced at the same time. This tradition removes that confusion.

Titles of Nobility

Titles of nobility have been granted to non-Rwandans in the Kingdom of Rwanda historically. Evidence may be seen from *The Guardian*, a publication of the diocese of Little Rock, Arkansas, United States of America. The below was published on July 4, 1947, on page 5.

...ion have recently been published, including a new translation of the New Testament. It is expected that a complete translation of the Bible will be ready for the press this year.

African King Gets Papal Honor From Vatican

Kabgayi, Ruanda, Africa. (C)—King Charles Leo Peter Mutara Rudahigwa of Ruanda, on whom the honor of Grand Officer of the Order of St. Gregory the Great had been conferred, at the express will of the Holy Father received the insignia of his honor here from the hands of Archbishop John Dellepiane, Apostolic Delegate to the Belgian Congo.

Some 50 native chiefs, the Queen, the Queen Mother and the neighboring King of Urundi were among the 20,000 who attended the ceremony in the city stadium. The presence of King Mambutsa of Urundi was of particular interest because he is not a Catholic. However, he has shown himself most friendly to the Catholic missionaries, encouraged their work in his region and recently declar-

ed that he would soon enter the Church.

King Charles Leo Peter Mutara Rudahigwa expressed his gratitude to the Holy Father for the honor conferred on him and declared that he will continue his efforts to raise the spiritual level of his people in the light of Christian civilization. The King proclaimed Archbishop Dellepiane a citizen of Ruanda and granted him a title of nobility in the Basindi dynasty.

Ruanda-Urundi which has a population of 5,000,000, is a former German possession entrusted to the care of Belgium after World War I.

Drive To Rebuild School Opens

Elmira, N.Y. (C)—A \$400,000 building program for St. Anthony's Church and School, almost completely destroyed by fire last February, is being planned here. A fund of \$164,000 is already established, the result of an oversubscribed campaign launched immediately after the fire by St. Anthony's parishioners and sympathetic Elmirans.

On the 12th of December in 2006, His Majesty issued the following Letters Patent affirming that his brother, H.M. King Mutara III, originally envisioned the four Royal Orders that currently are granted, although they were not widely granted until H.M. King Kigeli V moved to the United States. However, although not explicitly detailed in this Letters Patent, a small number of all four Orders were granted historically prior to His Majesty's arrival in the United States, and the recipient's name and date of the grant will be published in a future book. His Majesty also confirmed that titles in the European style were used by both Belgians and Germans within the Kingdom during the colonial period.

Proclamation

We King Kigeli the Fifth, Lawful Inheritor of the Sovereignty
Of the Lands = Lakes and Peoples of Rwanda Hereby
Proclaim that during my Reign and that of My Brother
King Mutara the Third

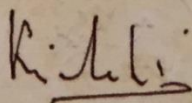
The following Royal Orders Existed though the Prerogative
To Grant such was never Exercised until My Arrival
in the United States.

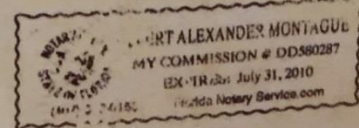
The Order of the Lion
The Order of the Franc
The Order of the Crown
The Order of the Drum

These Orders were created to Reward Individuals and Organizations for
Outstanding Achievement and Meritorious Service
To the Royal Crown of Rwanda and or its People.
The Orders were founded in the European Tradition
Influenced by the Belgium Customs of the Time.
European Titles were recognized and used during the German and
Belgium Occupation and Colonization in Rwanda
as they were in their Respective Countries.

As God is my witness Our Royal Seal and Sign Manual Affixed
to this Proclamation on the 12 th Day of December 2006

In Coral Gables Florida





Prester John Institute Royal and Imperial Council of Nobility Anuarium Vol. II 2006 – 2009
Book A Nobility page 109.

On the 15th of December in 2006, His Majesty issued the following Letters Patent affirming that he or his successors as Head of the Royal House of Rwanda will re-confirm titles of nobility, heraldry, and Orders once they are restored to the throne.

Kigeli V

***By the Grace of God King of Rwanda and Lawful Inheritor of the
Sovereignty of the Lands, Lakes and Peoples of Rwanda according to the
familiar traditions of Our Ancient and respected Dynasty used to Grant
Honors and Titles do hereby Decree that upon my rightful return to the
Throne or by one of my heirs***

And or a Crown Council

***All Noble Titles, Recognitions, Orders and Arms granted in exile in the
European Style in Good Standing including***

Hereditary Chevalier/Knight

Baron

Viscount

Count

Marquis

Duke

The Order of the Lion

The Order of the Crane

The Order of the Crown

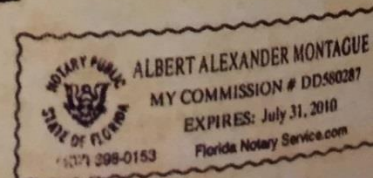
The Order of the Drum

***Will be Immediately recognized by the Country and Peoples of Rwanda
And incorporated into the traditions of the Royal Family.***

***Our Royal Seal and Sign Manual Affixed to this Proclamation Patent
On the 15th Day of December in the year of Our Lord 2006
At Coral Gables, Florida, United States***

His Majesty the King

Kigeli V



Prester John Institute Royal and Imperial Council of Nobility Anuarium Vol. II 2006 – 2009
Book A Nobility pages 83 - 84.

Duc/Prince or Duchesse/Princesse

H.M. Boudouin, King of the Belgians, receives the title of “120” from H.M. King Mutara III in 1955. Many of the 120 spears are arranged in a decorative display immediately behind the *Mwami*.



Article 11

If a Duchesse is a substantive title holder in her own right, the lawful spouse receives no courtesy title. This custom has been followed by many European countries for many generations. If the lawful spouse of a Duchesse was accorded a courtesy title, it would be confusing to others as to which spouse was the actual title holder and which one held just the courtesy title when both are announced at the same time. This tradition removes that confusion.

In Belgium, immediate children of a noble are called in French *Écuyers*, which roughly translates as “Young Lords”, although it is sometimes translated into English as a style of “The Honourable”. However, to distinguish children in the *de jure* Kingdom of Rwanda, the courtesy style for children of the Duc/Duchesse will be “Le Noble” as a prefix to the name for the entirety of the lives of these children. In Kinyarwanda, this is “Imfura”.

Marquis or Marquise

Article 18

If a Marquise is a substantive title holder in her own right, the lawful spouse receives no courtesy title. This custom has been followed by many European countries for many generations. If the lawful spouse of a Marquise was accorded a courtesy title, it would be confusing to others as to which spouse was the actual title holder and which one held just the courtesy title when both are announced at the same time. This tradition removes that confusion.

In Belgium, immediate children of a noble are called in French *Écuyers*, which roughly translates as “Young Lords”, although it is sometimes translated into English as a style of “The Honourable”. However, to distinguish children in the *de jure* Kingdom of Rwanda, the courtesy style for children of the Marquis/Marquise will be “Le Noble” as a prefix to the name for the entirety of the lives of these children. In Kinyarwanda, this is “Imfura”.

Comte or Comtesse

Article 25

If a Comtesse is a substantive title holder in her own right, the lawful spouse receives no courtesy title. This custom has been followed by many European countries for many generations. If the lawful spouse of a Comtesse was accorded a courtesy title, it would be confusing to others as to which spouse was the actual title holder and which one held just the courtesy title when both are announced at the same time. This tradition removes that confusion.

In Belgium, immediate children of a noble are called in French *Écuyers*, which roughly translates as “Young Lords”, although it is sometimes translated into English as a style of “The Honourable”. However, to distinguish children in the *de jure* Kingdom of Rwanda, the courtesy style for children of the Comte/Comtesse will be “Le Noble” as a prefix to the name for the entirety of the lives of these children. In Kinyarwanda, this is “Imfura”.

Vicomte or Vicomtesse

Article 32

If the Vicomtesse is a substantive title holder in her own right, the lawful spouse receives no courtesy title. This custom has been followed by many European countries for many generations. If the lawful spouse of a Vicomtesse was accorded a courtesy title, it would be confusing to others as to which spouse was the actual title holder and which one held just the courtesy title when both are announced at the same time. This tradition removes that confusion.

In Belgium, immediate children of a noble are called in French *Écuyers*, which roughly translates as “Young Lords”, although it is sometimes translated into English as a style of “The Honourable”. However, to distinguish children in the *de jure* Kingdom of Rwanda,

the courtesy style for children of the Vicomte/Vicomtesse will be “Le Noble” as a prefix to the name for the entirety of the lives of these children. In Kinyarwanda, this is “Imfura”.

Baron or Baronne

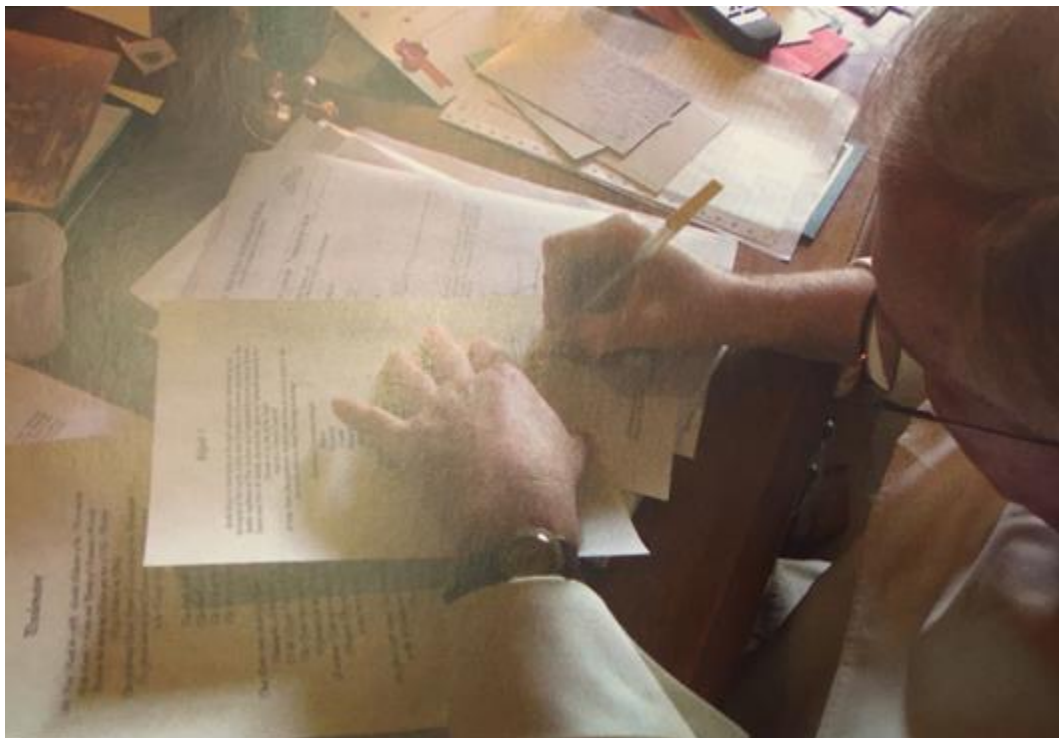
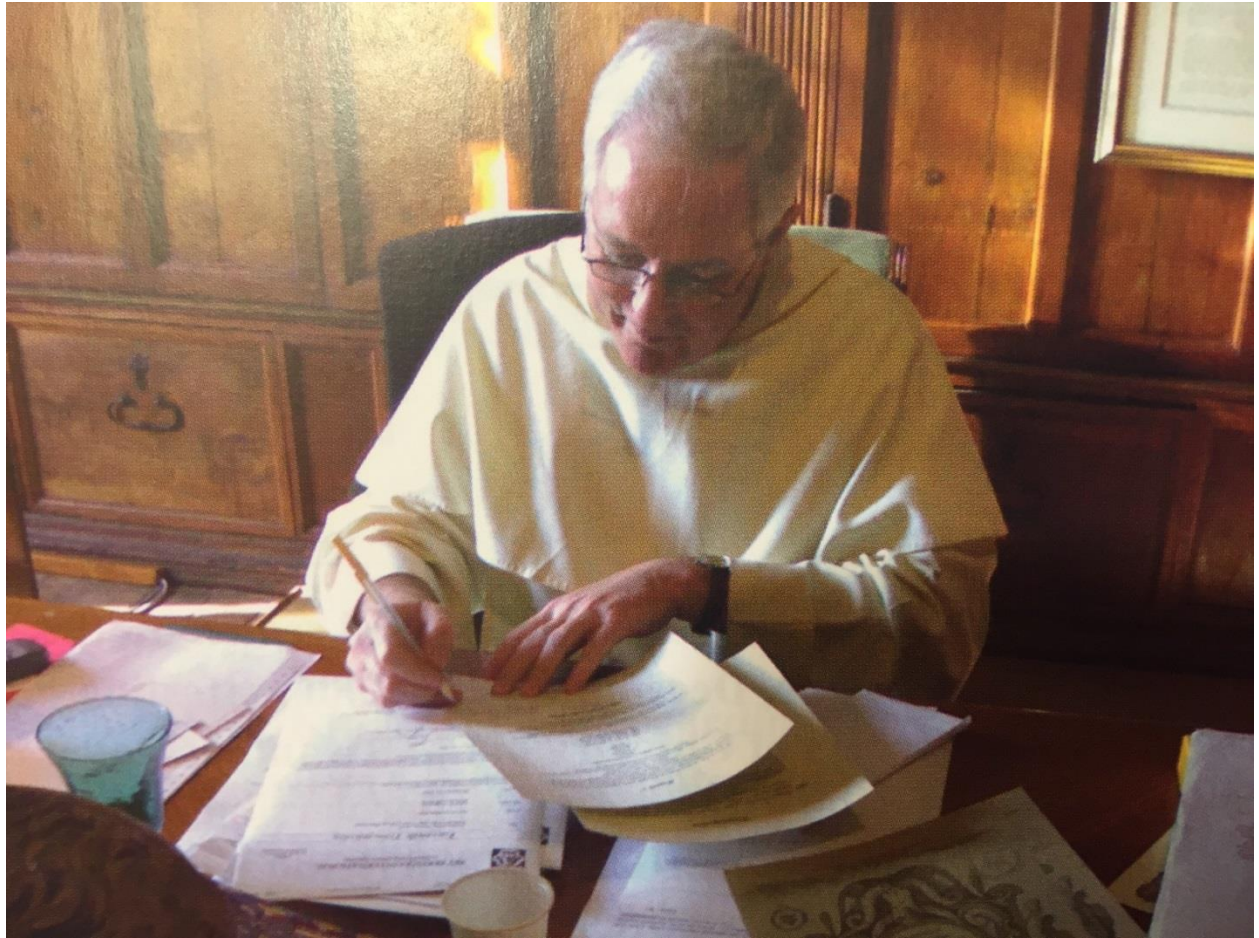
Article 39

If the Baronne is a substantive title holder in her own right, the lawful spouse receives no courtesy title. This custom has been followed by many European countries for many generations. If the lawful spouse of a Baronne was accorded a courtesy title, it would be confusing to others as to which spouse was the actual title holder and which one held just the courtesy title when both are announced at the same time. This tradition removes that confusion.

In Belgium, immediate children of a noble are called in French *Écuyers*, which roughly translates as “Young Lords”, although it is sometimes translated into English as a style of “The Honourable”. However, to distinguish children in the *de jure* Kingdom of Rwanda, the courtesy style for children of the Baron/Baronne will be “Le Noble” as a prefix to the name for the entirety of the lives of these children. In Kinyarwanda, this is “Imfura”.

Orders of the Royal House

Father Allen Duston.O.P., at the Patron’s Office of the Governatorato of Vatican City, witnesses the filing of His Majesty’s Orders on January 22, 2007. This was the 60th anniversary year of the first filings of Rwandan Orders, recorded by Jesuit Father Alexis Kagame in 1947 at the Foreign Missions Office in Paris, France.



Royal Order of the Drum of Rwanda

An important recipient of the Order of the Drum at the rank of Grand Collar was H.R.H. Vittorio Emanuele, Duke of Savoy, who is the heir to the throne of Italy. Other notable recipients at the rank of Grand Collar, including historic grants, are H.R.H. Emanuele Filiberto, Prince of Piedmont and Venice; H.I.H. Prince Ermias Sahle Selassie of Ethiopia; H.R.H. Dom Duarte Pio, Duke of Braganza of Portugal; H.R.H. Prince Sharif Ali bin al-Hussein of Iraq, H.R.H. Osman Rifat Ibrahim of Egypt, H.I.H. Crown Prince Reza Pahlavi of Iran, H.M. Jamshid bin Abdullah, Sultan of Zanzibar; H.E. Julius Nyerere, President of Tanzania; H.E. Jomo Kenyatta, President of Kenya; H.R.H. Crown Prince Pavlos Oldenburg of Greece, Prince of Denmark; H.R.H. Princess Nevine Halim of Egypt; H.R.H. Necla Heybetullah Sultan of the Ottoman Empire; H.R.H. Prince Georgii Bagration-Mukhrani; H.R.H. Dom Afonso, Prince of Beira, Duke of Barcelos; H.R.H. Prince Davit Bagration-Mukhrani; H.I.H. Zere Yacobe Sahle Selassie of Ethiopia, H.M. Mwambutsa IV Bangiricenge, King of Burundi; H.M. Ntare V, King of Burundi; H.M. Sir Edward Mutesa, King of Buganda; H.E. Mikheil Saakashvili, President of Georgia; H.M. Hussein bin Talai, King of Jordan; H.E. Lech Walesa, President of Poland; H.R.H. Prince Nugzar Bagrationi-Gruzinski of Georgia; and H.R.H. Princess Anna Bagrationi-Gruzinski of Georgia. Discussions are currently in process to grant this to another reigning European sovereign and will likely be announced later in 2016.

Royal Order of the Crown of Rwanda

The distinction given a grantee of the Order to be treated as a member of the family of the reigning king is not unlike the noble rank of duke in European traditions.

The physical precedent for the Order dates from a state visit between H.M. King Mutara III and H.M. King Baudouin of the Belgians in 1950. King Mutara III had an artisan weave

a replica of the Crown of Rwanda to give King Baudouin during the visit. This gift was a physical precedent for the Order, and it was also a prelude to its official introduction years later.

An important recipient of the Order of the Crown at the rank of Grand Collar was H.R.H. Dom Duarte Pio, Duke of Braganza, who is the heir to the throne of Portugal. Other recipients at the rank of Grand Collar are H.R.H. Osman Rifat Ibrahim of Egypt, H.I.H. Zere Yacobe Sahle Selassie of Ethiopia, and H.R.H. Irakly Bagration-Mukhrani.

Royal Order of the Crown of Rwanda

In the Prester John Institute Royal and Imperial Council of Nobility Anuarium Volume II 2006 – 2009 Book B, published in 2009, it lists that Grand Cross members receive personal nobility, but it is not hereditary. This information is in error, as the Lion has been granted on a hereditary basis at the sole discretion of His Majesty prior to this.

A picture from a papal meeting with H.H. Pope Pius XII and H.M. King Mutara III of Rwanda, taken from *The Guardian*, a publication of the diocese of Little Rock, Arkansas, United States from November 18, 1955, may be seen below:

Pope Receives World's Tallest King



King Charles Mutara Rudahigwam, sovereign of Ruanda Urundi, in the Belgian Congo, (at left) was received in private audience with his consort, Queen Rosalia, by His Holiness Pope Pius XII. "It was the most moving day in our lives," King Charles commented afterwards. The 44-year old king is almost seven feet tall, belonging to a race of tall people known as Vatussi. In Ruanda, however, there are also Bantu and pygmy tribes. Photo shows left to right, King Charles, The Pope, Queen Rosalia, the King's daughter, and a Belgian Embassy chaplain to the Holy See. (NC Photos)

Although the below is NOT a picture of the *Umudende* Necklace of the Seventh, this picture shows generally what the bells looked like on the Necklace of the Seventh.



<http://music.africamuseum.be/instruments/pic/rwanda/umudende.jpg> Accessed February 18, 2016



<http://music.africamuseum.be/instruments/pic/rwanda/umudende-detail.jpg> Accessed February 18, 2016.

His Majesty Yuhi V (right) and a noble warrior each wear the *Umudende* Necklace of the Seventh.



Royal Order of the Lion of Rwanda

Article 70

Style of the Chevalier/Dame

In the Prester John Institute Royal and Imperial Council of Nobility Anuarium Volume II 2006 – 2009 Book B, published in 2009, it lists that Grand Cross recipients are only entitled to the style of “L’honorable” and no other rank is entitled to a style. However, this is in contradiction to grants made from His Majesty prior to 2009. Thus, the information from the Prester John Institute book is slightly in error. For ease of clarification, a recipient at the rank of Grand Cross is entitled to the style of “Son Excellence”. A recipient at the rank of Grand Officer is entitled to the style of “L’honorable”. No other ranks in the Order are entitled to a style.

Royal Guard

The Royal Guard members had extensive training and were in peak physical form in the protection of the *Mwami*.



Prester John Institute Royal and Imperial Council of Nobility Anuarium Vol. II 2006 – 2009
Book B Orders page 21.

The Royal Prerogatives, Fons Honorum, and Insignia of the Kings of Rwanda

[The following is a valuable short treatise on the source of much of the information from this document, the writings of Reverend Father Alexis Kagame, which is supplemented with information from H.M. King Kigeli V and S.E. Chancellor Boniface Benzinge. This was first published in the Prester John Institute Royal and Imperial Council of Nobility Anuarium Vol. II 2006 – 2009 Book A Nobility pages 72 – 79, published in 2009.]

The main source for the recorded history of the ancient *Honour System of the Rwandan Kingdom* are the writings of the late historian and poet, *Reverend Father Alexis Kagame* (1912 – 1981), a Roman Catholic Missionary Priest and Chivalric Scholar, who became the first person to document the ancient traditions of distinction in his 1947 report to the Foreign Missions Office, part of which was later published in his 1952 work “*Le code des Institutions Politiques du Rwanda*”.

The work of Kagame deserves this short biographical résumé. Born in Kiyanza, he was a Noble son of the Deputy Chief of the *Tutsi* Clan and having subsequently converted to the Catholic Faith, was baptized by Jesuit Missionaries in 1928. “*Having been moved to a higher calling*”, he completed his studies for the Priesthood and was Ordained in 1941, to the great personal satisfaction of His Holiness Pope Pius XII.

Whilst still in his youth, he became the first person to introduce the written art to Rwanda, both in his own native language, *Kinyarwanda* and in French. After obtaining a Doctorate from the *Pontifical Gregorian University* in Rome, he went on to study and translate all of the (then still [existing]) ancient pictogram parchments of the *Pantheon of the Abamis* that recorded the acts of the Rwandan Kingdom, its culture, traditions, Honour Systems and most importantly, the Genealogy of its Monarchs.

Father Kagame also recorded, for the first time ever, many of the ancient oral traditions that had been handed down, from father to son, for hundreds or even thousands of years. Subsequently, he grew to become regarded as the world’s leading expert on Rwanda and his unpublished manuscripts still enclose a wealth of knowledge waiting to be shared.

Appointed *Confessor and Chaplain to the Royal Family*, Kagame was the most trusted *Advisor for the Mwami*, a Charge he maintained with honour throughout the reign of three Monarchs and which he continued to hold in the Council of the Court of King Kigeli V, in Exile. This Jesuit was still actively promoting the return of the Monarchy right up until his death in 1981, at the age of 69.

Acclamation, Coronation and Anointing

According to the ancient Chronicles; “*all members of the Tutsi, Hutu and Twa are to be considered blessed (Nobles) in the ancient rights of the Kingdom of Rwanda*” and much like the members of the Noble families of Europe that elected their Kings from amongst their Clans (ie: the Kings of Poland or the Doges = *Dukes* of Venice), *all Clan Chiefs, as Pretenders to the Throne, shared in a certain type of Royalty in the right to succeed on the Throne of the Mwami (King).*

Given the influence of the Belgian Colonials, the Royal Advisors saw to it that the immediate family of the reigning Mwami came to be regarded as the sole *Royal Family* in the true European sense with the name and whereabouts of the Heir Apparent... chosen by the reigning Mwami and the Elders to be kept secret, until the death of the King, at which time, the new King would be acclaimed by his people and Crowned.

In keeping with an ancient belief, the *Fons Honorum* powers of the deceased King could only be transferred to the new Monarch, once the deceased [King] was buried, but to ensure the continuation of the Monarchy, the deceased could not be interred until the name of the new King was pronounced and the new Mwami acclaimed.

Thanks in part to the influence of Father Kagame, the last two Monarchs of Rwanda were anointed with Sacred Chrism at Confirmation, administered shortly after their Coronation by the Archbishop so that these would be the first Kings of Africa to be considered *Most Christian* in the European sense.

Royal Fons Honorum

As for the Powers and Prerogatives of the Rwandan Abami, tradition had it that only the ruling King held sole *Fons Honorum* power to be able [to] bestow or remove Nobility, Titles, Arms, Orders, Distinctions and Properties. Father Kagame in his various works states: “*It is to the King that belongs the right to bestow honorific distinctions.*”

Before the German and then Belgian Protectorates were installed, the Kings of Rwanda possessed sole power to freely judge, absolve, punish, or condemn to death any of his subjects in a Royal Court of Elders known as the *Gacaca*.

Father Alexis Kagame related, as fact, that once a Mwami (King) had been proclaimed and crowned, even if he were deposed, he would still maintain all of his powers and so would therefore have to be exiled so as to not be able to interfere in the physical government administration and representation of the Kingdom. [Yet, the new] Mwami would not however, possess the power of *Fons Honorum*, previously granted the deposed Mwami, who would continue to be the Spiritual and Moral Head of the Dynasty until his burial at which time it was believed, the powers would be transferred [to the newer Mwami].

Titles of Nobility and Grants of Arms

By the late [1940s], the Mwami's wife or Queen had also achieved European Queenly status with the firstborn male son given treatment as Heir Presumptive or Crown Prince (although he did not always become the Successor). Other Royal Children and immediate relatives (uncles, aunts...) received the status of Blood Princes or Dukes [this document declares Blood Princes as Royal Princes or Royal Princesses, while the Ducal or Princely non-blood title is a separate honour, as recently clarified by His Majesty King Kigeli V] in the tradition that every 25 years of a King's life or of his Reign, he should ennoble an equal number of persons through the granting of the highest ancestral tribal titles. This was complimented by the distribution of an unlimited number of titles and honours in lesser classes to national or foreign persons.

Another misunderstood custom that is still maintained, and only recently explained by His Majesty King Kigeli V, is that only ten titles (five in each of the two upper classes, *symbolizing the trusted ten fingers of two hands*) can ever exist at one time. Westernized, these are Duke and Marquis. If a King chanced to lose fingers in battle or was born with less or more fingers than normal, only an equivalent number of titles with rights to bear arms (actual painted and woven shields) could ever be granted in his reign. [Akin to] Ethiopian customs, all tribal titles (in the case of Rwandan Titles, these were granted as numbers with a gift of corresponding number of spears) eventually became Westernized under King Mutara III with the following equivalency: 7 = Lord (Noble) [now represented by the Orders], 24 = Baron, 30 = Vicomte, 50 = Comte, 63 = Marquis and 120 = Duke. King Boudouin of Belgium received the highest title of 120 when he visited Rwanda in 1955. On

major anniversaries, the Mwami also assumed or spiritually recognized as relatives, much like the Portuguese Kings did, with the bestowal of the hereditary family titles of *Dom*, *Parent* or Noble with *Honras de Infante*, likened to the Spanish or Ethiopian Kingdoms' *Grande* = Grandee or *Infante*. Titled Nobles in the Western style use leopard (for [Nobles]) or lion (for [Royals]) skin mantling.

The Royal Insignia

Still considered to be the most important of all the Royal Insignia (Crown Jewels), [which is] used to distinguish the Mwami of Rwanda and other Kings in Africa is the *Royal Drum*.

This instrument, made of animal skins stretched over reeds, symbolized the Mwami as (head of all three family Clans) [the] Tribal Chief's *absolute power* over the lives and destiny of his Subjects (originally nomadic clans of shepherds).

The Drum, which could summon Warriors to battle or convoke a Council of Elders to a meeting or to partake in a festive dance, was also depicted on the earliest known Royal Battle Shields, with two guiding stars painted above it and another star below it (symbolizing the Hutu, Tutsi, and Twa Clans) and symbolizing, much like a Western King's Orb, the Mwami as sole, absolute, Ruler and representative of all the Peoples of Rwanda.

An elaborate *Royal Staff* or walking stick with dual coloured spiral pattern evolved to replace the simple, traditional *Mwami Shepherd Staff* and was the Rwandan equivalent of a Royal Sceptre.

Whilst in ancient times, only the King of Rwanda, as both *Temporal and Spiritual Ruler* and Head of State, became entitled to wear a Ceremonial Headdress, [the Royal Crown that was woven with beads and feathers] towards the latter part of the 19th century]. Other members of the immediate Royal Family, or Court, were also granted permission to use embroidered beads, feathers, or horns on decorated Coronets, the colours and styles of which would help distinguish them as members of one of the three Clans within the hierarchy.

Like many of the other colonized African and Asiatic Monarchies of the late 19th or early 20th centuries, the Abami [Kings] of Rwanda also began incorporating, into the Royal Insignia, various elements of European military uniforms items (helmets, capes, batons, horse whips, guns, etc.) that to the people symbolized the rank of *Commander-in-Chief* of the Royal Armies of the occupying European protectorate forces.

A dark blue Belgian military officer's cape with velvet collar, as worn by Belgian officers over their gala uniforms, was adopted as a King's *Royal Mantle*, symbolizing his role as *Commander-in-Chief*. This covered the traditional Roman-style toga that replaced the woven, patterned, coloured or white, tribal over wrap previously worn by historical Abami.

Royal Coat of Arms

The earliest known Royal Coat of Arms adopted by the Abami (Kings) as a *Royal Seal* were composed of a traditional Drum with two five-pointed stars above it and one below it. [This composition,] according to Father Kagame, symbolized the King's elected right to rule and guide the lives of each of the three ethnic clans. A Royal Shield surmounted by the Royal Crown was already in use before 1950 and adopted by King Mutara III, who had the Drum, Lion, and Crested Crane surmounted by a Western-style crown, placed on gold-embossed stationary he used to type the text of the Consecration of Rwanda to Christ the King in 1946.

Royal Orders and Honour System

In 1947, a copy of the text of the Consecration of Rwanda to Christ the King, was personally presented to His Holiness Pope Pius XII by Father Alexis Kagame, and, in 1950, a dossier of bylaws and drawings for a new Royal Seal incorporating the Insignia of European-styled Orders of Chivalry and of Merit, instituted by King Mutara III adopting decorations of an already existing traditional Honour System, was also filed with the Vatican, against the wishes of the Belgian Protectorate. A copy of these documents, registered in Rome, was recently found in the former archive of the Foreign Missions Office in Paris, France, thus constituting proof of the institution of said Orders by the King. In 2006, for the 60th Anniversary of the Consecration, His Majesty King Kigeli V, on Pilgrimage to the Shrine of Our Lady at Fátima, Portugal, privately renewed the Consecration. [This was] filed with the Bishop of Leiria – Fátima, a signed copy of the text [His Majesty] had recited as a fervent prayer in the Chapel of the Apparitions. In 2007, on the 60th anniversary of the official institution of the Order of the Lion, King Kigeli V filed

and registered a second declaration of the existence of the Dynastic Orders and of his continued right of *Fons Honorum* with the Governatorato of the Vatican. In 2009, on occasion of the 50th Anniversary of His Majesty's Coronation and of the erection of the Monument to Christ the King in Lisbon, His Majesty will again travel to Fátima to pray for Peace and Prosperity in Rwanda.