

THE “CALONTIR WAY”

The Kingdom of Calontir has an award system that consists of three levels. The first of these levels is the Award of Arms (AOA), and it will be our focus in this section. The others are covered in Part II of this handbook.

In Calontir, each reign creates an original set of AOA scrolls. Often, the scroll style matches the monarch’s time period and country. This means that approximately every six months, the scribes of the Kingdom have a new set of AOA scrolls to work on and a new style to learn. This has been a wonderful way to become acquainted with many different styles within a few years. (Many Kingdoms use the same scroll texts over and over again.)

Each Crown chooses a Royal Scribe, who, among other duties, creates the original set of AOA scrolls. These scrolls have blank spaces for names, dates, and places, but otherwise the calligraphy is complete. They also have the outline of a design. These scrolls are copied onto high-quality cover stock paper. For most reigns, we use Skytone white cover, manufactured by Georgia Pacific.

These copies of the AOA scrolls (often called *preprints*) are distributed among the scribes of the Kingdom, who volunteer to paint (*illuminate*) them. Some of the larger groups in the Kingdom sponsor scriptoriums—gatherings for people to get together and work on scrolls in a group setting. Some scribes are lone wolves and paint alone. Either way achieves the goal of painted scrolls for the Kingdom. Occasionally, scribal tables are set up at Kingdom events. These tables are always open to newcomers, and I highly recommend joining in the fun at these tables. It’s also a great opportunity to try out the materials and gather advice from more experienced scribes, too.

After the scrolls are painted, they are returned to the Royal Scribe, who fills in the names and information of the intended scroll recipients, as supplied by the Crown. The Crown then hands out these completed scrolls in Their courts around the Kingdom.

A note about other Kingdoms. Some Kingdoms do not use copied AOA scrolls; they attempt to use only completely original work for all of their scrolls. This goal is much to be admired. Calontir uses copies in order to avoid “promissory notes,” which are often handed out in court if the scrolls are not completed in time. Our preprints allow us to give every AOA recipient a hand-painted work of art, without the burden of a “backlog” of uncompleted scrolls.

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