

# Kingdom CHARTER MASTER Design Guide

by Bronwen Elgars – November 2008

**a “Charter Master” is essentially, a black and white line drawing**  
(reminiscent of what you might find in a coloring book)

**The Charter Master is used to replicate a batch of “charter blanks”**  
~ photocopied onto heavyweight archival papers ~ that ~ illuminators can embellish and beautify with paint ~

## GENERAL

- ◆ The Master must be created on 11 x 17 **white** paper.
- ◆ The final Linework and Calligraphy must be **black**.
- ◆ The dimensions of the Final Overall Design (including margins) must measure 11” x 14”.
- ◆ Use the 3 inch Leftover Space - on the 11 x 17 Master – for information or instructions to the Royal Scribe and/or the illuminators, as may be needed.
- ◆ The Master must be clean of any blemish that might transfer to the photocopied blanks.
- ◆ A Scribal Art Release Form should accompany each Master that is submitted.

## WORDS and CALLIGRAPHY

- ◆ Approved texts will be provided to you by the Royal Scribe.
- ◆ Any change to the text wording must go through the Royal Scribe for Royalty approval.
- ◆ The final Calligraphy must be carefully lettered so as to be uniform, even and neat.
- ◆ Lightly ruled lettering guidelines are encouraged, but must be erased clean from the final.
- ◆ One *entire text line* must be left blank for the Recipient’s Name.
- ◆ A Blank text space, large enough to letter the Award Date: month, day, year and year descriptor (“A.S.”, or “anno-societatis”) must be provided – do **NOT** letter in the year.
- ◆ Before breaking a word between two lines, make sure it is an accepted practice.
- ◆ Do **NOT** use a foreign calligraphic hand or simulated foreign hands unless you have permission to do so and if you do, include the full alphabet key in the 3” leftover space.
- ◆ Do **NOT** gloss a foreign hand unless you have permission to do so.
- ◆ If you use a foreign hand or a simulated-foreign hand and have not glossed the text in English, include a neatly lettered translation of the text for the Royal Scribe to photocopy on the back of the charter blanks.
- ◆ The calligraphic hand should be consistent with the culture and period style of the illustration.

## LINEWORK and ILLUSTRATION

- ◆ Reign “theme” information and charter design requirements will be provided to you by the Royal Scribe.
- ◆ The Illustration Lineweights (width of the drawn lines) should be strong enough to create a perfect copy, but not so strong as to actually look like a child’s color book page.
- ◆ Linework should be crisp and continuous and not appear to be sketched.
- ◆ The illustration should have strong, clear paintable elements and should NOT include fine and dainty detail (be mindful of the illuminator’s task).
- ◆ Do **NOT** fill in or shade areas in your illustration.
- ◆ Leave a 1” framing margin at top, left and right, with a slightly larger margin at the bottom.
- ◆ Designate space for Their Royal Majesties’ signatures, but do **NOT** write their names.
- ◆ Include either a 3 1/2” diameter space, designated for the Kingdom Seal, or a 2” diameter space, designated for the Royal Signet Ring Seal.
- ◆ Goutte de Sang and Jambe de Lion charters must include the Badge of the Order as a design element – but do **NOT** include any other registered Kingdom or Personal Heraldry.
- ◆ Do **NOT** designate a space for the recipient’s Heraldry.
- ◆ The culture and period style of the illustration should be consistent with the calligraphic hand.