

The History of the Crowns of Æthelmearc



Name: The Half Escarbuncle Crowns

Creation Date: Circa AS XXIII (1988-1989)

Artisan: Unfortunately, the 's name has been lost although it is remembered as being a woman from Thescore.

Composition: Unknown

The Half Escarbuncles are the first set of crowns created for what was then the Principality of Æthelmearc and were used to crown Tarbold and Cainder, the first Prince and Princess of the Principality on December 2, A.S. XXIV (1989) in the Barony of the Rhydderich Hael.

They are still in use as of the time of this writing as Heir's crowns, and are the set most popular set for this purpose.



Name: The Ancient and Venerable

Creation Date: Circa A.S. XXV (1990)

Artisan: Mistress Cori Ghora

Composition: They are enameled brass with camelians.

These are the second oldest set of Crowns, and were delivered at the second Principality Coronet Tourney where Yngvar I and Hodierna were named as the Heirs at the 2nd Coronet Tourney held on June 2, A.S. XXV (1990) in the Barony of Delftwood.

As of this writing, they are still used as Heir's crowns, and are the ones used to crown the winners at every Coronet and Crown Tourney since they were first introduced.



Name: Royal Byzantine

Creation Date: Circa AS XIX (1994-1995)

Artisan: Master Lugh the Black

Composition: Brass studded with garnets or possibly camelians

These were originally made for the Prince and Princess of the Principality, and are now used by the King and Queen

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Name: Heir's Byzantine

Creation Date: Unknown

Artisan: Possibly Father Dunn.

Composition: Brass studded with garnets or possibly camelians

These were created for the Heirs to the Kingdom, and as of this writing are still in use.



Name: Brass Fleur-de-lies

Creation Date: Circa AS XXXI (1996-1997)

Artisan: Master Karl von Elfstein der Schmuckmacher (who donated his labors)

Composition: Made of brass and studded with garnets (Materials were donated by Yngvar and Caryl's household)

These were commissioned by Count Yngvar and Countess Caryl and created for Their Coronation as the first King and Queen of Æthelmearc on September 20, A.S. XXXII (1997) in the (then) Shire of Endless Hills



Name: Silver Fleur-de-lies crowns

Creation Date: Circa AS XXXI (1996-1997)

Artisan: Master Karl von Elfstein der Schmuckmacher

Composition: Made of silver and studded with garnets.

These crowns were intended for King and Queen as these are the only crowns made of a precious metal. They were delivered at our first Kingdom 12th Night. AS XXXI.

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Name: The En Glorious crowns (the band says “En Glorious Æthelmearc”)

Creation Date: Circa AS XXXVIII (2003-2004)

Artisan: Mistress Lailin, the Proprietor of Darkridge Jewels.

These crowns were commissioned by Duke Rurik and Countess Elsbeth, the 11th monarchs of Æthelmearc. This is the set of crowns of most frequently used by our Kings and Queens.

Commentary collected from the Æthelmearc History Facebook

Group.

Regarding the Old and Venerables and Half Escarbuncles

Mistress Cori was given the direction that they must stand up to "being drop-kicked across the battlefield at Pennsic”.

Cori wrote: The half escarbuncles were the first set and were worn by Tarbold and Cainer. The second set were the (ancient and venerable). They were commissioned as the Heirs coronets and have served that purpose, Principality to Kingdom, since the second Coronet tourney. Because they have been used at each tourney, I believe they are the only ones that have been used for every Reign but the first Prince and Princess.

The stones are carnelians, not garnets, and I need to find where I put the spares cause it looks like a couple got knocked out again (it happens).

When the commissions were decided, I was asked if I could have them done by the first tourney. I wasn't sure I could so the committees decided to award the Prince and Princess coronets to the lady who made the half escarbuncles and have me make my design for the Heirs. I delivered the newly made set to the Coronet Tourney Yngvar and Hodierna won. (Principality 2nd Prince and Princess)

The first people to wear them were Yngvar and Hodierna. Is an extremely vivid memory because the first time he had it on his head, Yngvar lifted it up off his head and squeezed it, breaking solder joints. I was beside myself with panic cause the damned thing didn't last one event much less a whole reign.

Viscount Alexander recalls: I broke one during a rather vigorous game of Ping-Pong. I dove to take a shot and the coronet went flying. No biggy- a little solder in the right place after I received a lecture from Rannviegr about how the Tanist shouldn't be playing with his coronet on and the coronet was a good as new. However, I took a bit longer to recover from the lecture. (Principality 3rd Prince)

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Countess Kallista recounts: I was told that Mistress Cori made these. When we got them they were a bit worn with age and a couple stones had fallen out so we did not wear them much for fear of further damaging them. Cori took them back and breathed new life into them. They look great! (Kingdom 30th Queen)

Viscountess Hodierna wrote regarding the **Half Escarbuncle**: These were the Prince and Princesses coronets at the beginning of the principality. The great heavy wagon wheels were worn by the heirs back in the very, very old days. It was quite a shock to get something so delicate after the heavy ones. We did not yet have boxes during the 2nd Principality reign and I lived in fear of bending the points too far and breaking one. (Principality 2nd Princess)

Regarding the **En Glorious**, Duke Rurik wrote: Elspeth and I commissioned them. Christopher and Maurya were our heirs. The kingdom paid for them. Mistress Lailin was EXTREMELY kind in her pricing. (Kingdom 11, 15 and 20 King, Principality 15th Prince)

Countess Caryl writes about the **Fleur-de-lies crowns** - It was the brass first. I believe the silver were delivered at 12th night. The brass ones were donated by my household for the materials and Master Karl for the labor. They were worn at Coronation. The silver were purchased by the kingdom and delivered later. We then passed the brass ones to our heirs and wore the silver ones. For the next several reigns it flipped back and forth as to who wore which set. The silver ones are slightly larger and have fancier bezels.

Duchess Dorinda remarked: You remember everything!

Countess Caryl responded: Not even close, but I remember my coronation. The purchase of those crowns was not without drama, and I remember it well. There was a committee formed to review bids for new crowns for the kingdom. The original specs as written were impossible to meet, so there were no bids. The committee pushed the deadline to twelfth night and re wrote the specs. We went to Karl, who had a lovely design and a stack of documentation and worked out a deal to cover the materials and he donated his labor. The brass crowns were delivered to Coronation and were so lovely that the committee ordered the silver pair to match.

Countess Caryl is the First Queen of Æthelmarc, and the Principality's 14th Princess.

Regarding the **Royal Byzantine**, Mistress Ekaterina quirked: The royal Byzantines were also called the "high and mighties" by those of us who had to polish them.

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Regarding the **Heir's Byzantine**: Duchess Dorinda remembers being told these were made by Father Dunn. (4th and 7th Queen)

Duchess Meirwen wrote: The angled crowns (Heirs Byzantine) were, in fact, created as I recall to be just that--heirs coronets to compliment the Byzantine Crowns for large public events

Duchess Dorinda added the memory: You had the silver ones during your first reign, I believe. You wanted to use the silver ones for heirs (because gold tops silver) and the two of you tried to put the big one on Cygnus and it fell over his ears so you removed it and put it on the big haired one.

Duchess Meirwen responded: I think we're talking about different ones (though I do remember the "fitting" problem). Maurya and Christopher were the "gold tops silver" people--we were "precious metal trumps brass." I thought for our first reign there were just the historic ones, and the fleur d'lys sets, but sometime between our first and second (maybe during James and Elina?) the Byzantine ones came around. I know the first time I wore those crowns was during our second reign. But I could just be forgetting. If we wore the Byzantines during our time as C&M's heirs, it would make sense we would think to use them for you

This article was created from the main history of the Crowns was written by Countess Alexandra of Clan Donald, 5th Countess of Æthelmearc. Dame Hrefna Ulfvarrinndottir added in details from The Introduction to Æthelmearc History paper and commentary from the Æthelmearc History Facebook group.