Invictus Titles in the Camarilla Requiem Chronicle

The Invictus book describes a number of titles and their usage, but leaves a number of uncertainties, and at least a few contradictions, leaving some confusion about what's correct. To complicate things further, the Camarilla has extended the titles slightly, adding new positions and knightly ranks into the mix. This document attempts to consolidate the various rules and practices, define them more specifically, and serve as the definitive reference for Invictus titles in the Camarilla Requiem chronicle.

Types of Titles

Every Invictus, or even prospective Invictus, has a title of esteem, and nearly every form of address uses it. Titles of esteem are the primary label that any Invictus will have and use, which makes it telling that only age or knighthood advances your title of esteem beyond simple manumission.

Some Invictus earn titles of tribute, granted by the Inner Circle. They're generally used only during formal introductions, to sign formal letters, or if someone is using a submissive tone.

Most Invictus have a title of function, granted by Guilds (or an Inner Circle, in the absence of an appropriate Guild) to demonstrate training and competence in a specific subject area. Nearly every form of address uses a title of function as well, and often, choosing which title of function to use tells the listener something about the topic of conversation.

More on each type of title in the appendices.

Formal Tone

The most common way for Invictus to refer to each other in public, an address in the formal tone is a simple combination of the titles of esteem and function. If they have no title of function, then substitute a surname. When in doubt, use the formal tone.

"Master Greyson, please see to the Alder Notary’s coat."

"Madam Player, might we enlist your assistance?"

"Mister Reeve, I have a video you might be interested in."

"Sir Knight, can I offer you a drink?"

"Yes, Alder Prince, right away sir."

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1 Invictus book, p.37-43
If the simple formal address might be ambiguous, such as when there are three Invictus Princes in the room, adding a surname in addition to the title of Function is recommended. This form is also suitable for opening a letter or email, or in other formal public announcements.

"Mistress White, please inform Alder Prince Wakefield and Alder Seneschal Blake that the performance is beginning."

"The Inner Circle congratulates Mister Almoner Jackson on his recent victory."

**Submissive Tone**

Often used when addressing an Invictus of significantly higher rank, and sometimes used when asking a favor or otherwise attempting to get on the good side of an Invictus of slightly higher rank (or even a peer, if it's a larger favor), the submissive tone combines the word "Most" with a complimentary adjective, a title of tribute (or esteem if there is no title of tribute), and a surname.

"Please, Most Benevolent Lord Edison, I swear I had nothing to do with it!"

"Most Generous Duke Emmerson, I was hoping to speak with you ever so briefly."

**Most Formal Tone**

Flowery and long, most formal tone is intended to provide a relatively complete picture of the subject's rank and role in the covenant. While some believe it to be too formal, it allows Invictus, in the space of a few introductions, to know exactly where everyone in the room stands with respect to one another. Most formal tone is most often used when introducing one Invictus to another, though it also comes into play when signing a formal document or correspondence where significant formality is appropriate, or when formal authority is being exercised.

Most formal tone can be somewhat complex to construct, but always follows a certain pattern, and we can examine each element of that pattern individually:

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\text{[embellishment]} + \text{[esteem]} + \text{[simple tribute]}^3 + \text{[name]} + \text{[long tribute]} + \text{[function]}
\]

The embellishment typically comes from certain titles of tribute (Viscount and higher), though the titles of function for Viceroy and Prince can impact the embellishment in unique ways.

The title of esteem is nothing more than the appropriate title of esteem: Mistress/Master, Madam/Mister, Alder, or Dame/Sir. Note that only one title of esteem applies - Dame/Sir replaces Alder; one does not use both.

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2 "Most formal" is a term invented here, but the practice is described on p.37, though with fewer specifics.

3 In one place, the Invictus book explicitly says all titles of tribute come after the name, but numerous examples in the book contradict this rule. We chose to follow the examples for stylistic reasons.
The “simple” tribute slot is where one would use a title of tribute that has no place name. The titles of Lord/Lady and Baron/Baroness would go here. Additionally, a Viscount/Viscountess or Earl/Countess where the place name no longer applies (see Appendix II).

Name can include either the subject’s full name, or only a surname, at the speaker’s option. When introducing kindred with non-Western names, or Invictus with many names, it is considered wise to use a full name unless very, very sure that you are choosing the correct name as the surname, as this is not always the last one in the string of names.

The long tribute slot is for titles of tribute that include a place name (see Appendix II).

Finally comes the list of titles of function, in descending order of importance. There may not always be a clear precedence, but you always imply something by choosing one order over another. Precedence may also be situational - in a meeting of martial types, titles of function like Soldier and Knight may be listed before Almoner or Interpreter.

"Mistress Jennifer Tandy"

"Mister Jackson, Judex, Almoner, and Player"

"Alder Baroness Vivian, Speaker"

"The Right Honorable Alder Dolores, Marquise of Seattle and Meister Interpreter"

Optionally⁴, a speaker of most formal tone may add a complimentary adjective to embellish the address, indicating submission or flattery. Adding such an embellishment to one title, but not to another title by a higher ranking Invictus, would indicate either a close personal relationship with the first, or an insult to the second.

"The Stalwart Sir Nelson, Marquis of San Francisco, Knight of the Thorned Wreath"

"The Glorious Alder Baron Edward Listenberg, Speaker"

Familiar Tone

Intended for use between strong allies, close blood relatives, or coterie-mates, familiar tone is usually used in private. In public, it is suitable for use between peers, or used to address one of lesser rank, and publicly indicates that a strong tie exists (if not refuted). If used to address one of superior rank, this is either an insult, or a declaration that one rises above one's apparent rank (with consequences likely either way).

⁴ This option probably doesn’t appear in canon, but it makes perfect sense, and sounds like fun.
The familiar form is a simple combination of the title of esteem and a first name.

"Master Michael, fetch me my fighting trousers!"

"Alder Frederick, it's so good to see you again."

"Of course, Alder William, one would never wish to challenge your ultimate authority."

**Intimate Tone**
Using another Invictus' first name, alone, without any titles, is a statement of extreme intimacy. This form is used only between (current or former) lovers, or as a carefully crafted insult that's still likely to backfire. Better to use a social attack that doesn't tie the speaker so closely to the attacked.

**Disparaging Tone**
Using "My" in connection with a title of tribute or esteem, with or without a disparaging (or sarcastically complimentary) adjective, is a deliberately demeaning form of address.

"My Lord Rothchild, would you be so kind as to absent yourself from this conversation?"

"My Dearest Madam Peyroux, it's so lovely to see you. Yet again."

**Appendix I: Titles of Esteem**
Titles of esteem are used in nearly every form of address within the Invictus. These are the only titles which are "automatic" - that is, they can be claimed by anyone who meets the criteria without an Inner Circle or other authority making an explicit grant of title.

- Master/Mistress: Used prior to manumission. May be applied to non-Invictus, though use of any title for a non-Invictus may be seen as overly formal.
- Mister/Madam: Used for Invictus once they have completed manumission. Most Invictus use this title of esteem.
- Alder: Used for Invictus who are well above the average vampiric age. For our chronicle, this is suitable after about 250 years of existence as a kindred. (Time as a mortal or ghoul does not contribute to this title.)
- Sir/Dame: Used by Knights, replacing any other title of esteem, even Alder.

Additional titles to indicate blood relations are described on pages 38-39 of the Invictus book.
Appendix II: Titles of Tribute

Titles of tribute are awarded, or (more rarely) removed, by the Inner Circle of a domain. While most of these titles are associated with a particular achievement, this is a prerequisite and not a guarantee that a title will be awarded. In all cases, the Inner Circle can use its discretion to determine if the achievement warrants the title, and whether the proposed recipient is worthy of such a rank. Use of these titles usually implies significant formality.

Lord/Lady
Granted for honorable service to the Invictus. An Invictus who performs typical tasks well, maintains trouble-free relations with their superiors, and makes no notable missteps will often achieve this rank in a few decades. Those who achieve something notable, or simply have a powerful and influential sire or patron, may achieve this title after as little as a few years. Troublemakers may never see this advancement.

Baron/Baroness
Granted for repeated notable achievements for the Invictus. Simply executing one’s duties will not rise to this level, nor will any single achievement - this requires multiple accomplishments, and a reputation for avoiding scandal and offending one’s elders.

Viscount/Viscountess
This title accompanies a grant of permanent tenurial domain within a city (you can find details on subinfeudination in the MET Requiem book on page 39), and is announced with the embellishment “The Good,” and with the place name as part of the title.

If the tenurial domain is ever lost, such as if the title-holder leaves the domain or goes into eclipse, the title Viscount or Viscountess is retained, but the place name is removed.

“The Good Mister Charles Theodore, Viscount of Soho, Judex, Almoner”

“The Good Dame Renault, Viscountess of Westlake, Councilor, Advisor, Knight of the Thorned Wreath”

“The Good Alder Viscount Hightower, Magistrate of San Antonio, Judex, Commissioner”

Earl/Countess
Given for adding to the territories of the Invictus, typically by bringing new lands under the rule of an Invictus Prince. Often, but not always, accompanied by a grant of tenurial domain over the newly acquired territory. Acquiring a minor, unimportant neighborhood would not rise to the level of this title, though it may contribute to earning Baron or Baroness - this level of title requires the addition of a sought after territory, usually against some opposition. As usual, the discretion of the Inner Circle is paramount, and often influenced by the power and influence of the potential bearer of the new title.
This title is announced with the prefix “The Honorable,” and with the place name as part of the title. If the territory ever leaves Invictus control, the title of Earl is retained, but the place name is removed.

“The Honorable Sir Maxwell Amison, Earl of Jacksonville, Knight of the Golden Lion”

“The Honorable Alder Hisham Ramez, Earl of San Jose, Prince of San Francisco”

Marquis/Marquise
Given along with a permanent seat on a city's Inner Circle. This is a tremendous honor, awarded to one whose long-term place in the city is assured, and limited to only one holder of the title in any given city. It is only removed through death or exile. The title is announced with the prefix “The Right Honorable” and with the place name for the city where the title was granted.

“The Right Honorable Alder Arnaud Montebourg, Marquis and Magistrate of Boston, Advisor, Judex, Au Pair, Steward”

“The Right Honorable Alder Karamba Diaby, Marquis of Chicago, Advisor, Soldier, Au Pair, Advocate”

Duke/Duchess
Awarded for conquering a city for the Invictus and establishing a strong, lasting base of power. Typically, only a single kindred bears this title in a given city, with the rare exception being a city that is lost to the Invictus and is then reconquered by another, allowing a title such as “The Second Duke of Glasgow.” The title is announced with the prefix “His/Her/Your Grace,” and is lost only with the death or utter disgrace of the title bearer.


“Her Grace Dame Genevieve Savreux, Duke of Berlin, Archon to the Viceroy of the Southeast, Magistrate of Atlanta, Judex, Knight of the Shadowed Sword”

Appendix III: Titles of Function
Some titles of function are held due to a position, and are listed here in roughly descending order of precedence. Note that when among Invictus, use of the appropriate title of function is preferred to use of the city position equivalent. Positional titles of function can be used by an Invictus as soon as they are confirmed or appointed to the position in question - if the position is contested in some way, use of the title is considered presumptuous and reflects poorly on all involved.

- **Viceroy**: The chief Invictus executive for a region (Camarilla-specific title).
- **Prince**: Prince of a city.
● **Primus**: Head of the Inner Circle in cities without an Invictus Prince.
● **Secretary**: A region’s administrator of Guilds.
● **Magistrate**: The primary arbiter for the Invictus of a domain (Camarilla-specific title).
● **Seneschal**: Seneschal of a city.
● **Knight Commander**: National or worldwide head of a knightly order.
● **Councillor**: Member of a domain’s Inner Circle.
● **Meister**: Head of an Invictus Guild.
● **Knight Captain**: Regional leader within a knightly order.
● **Advisor**: A city’s Primogen.
● **Priscus**: A city’s Priscus.
● **Minister**: A city’s Herald or Harpy.
● **Reeve**: A city’s Sheriff.
● **Archon**: A city’s Hound or Scourge.
● **Whip**: A city’s Whip.

The title of Viceroy is unique among titles of function in that, much like advanced titles of tribute, it may apply the term “Venerated” when using most formal tone. This modifier would appear immediately after any modifier for a title of tribute.

“The Right Honorable Venerated Alder Webster Marks, Marquis of Augusta, Viceroy of the Southeast, Advisor, Soldier, Au Pair, Advocate”

“The Honorable Venerated Countess Alder Melissa Finnigan, Viceroy of the South Central, Judex, Speaker, Interpreter”

It’s also common to refer to a Prince with the prefix “His/Her/Your Excellency” in the absence of a title of tribute with a prefix. Thus, a Lord would be “His Excellency,” and a Baroness would be “Her Excellency,” but a Viscount would still be “The Good Viscount.” While not formally an Invictus title, “Excellency” is a common mode of address for a head of state, such as a Prince, and is often used for that reason. In the unlikely event that a Viceroy did not also possess a title of tribute with a prefix, they could also use “Excellency,” though with the Viceroy modifier making it “Venerated Excellency.”

“His Excellency, Alder Baron Johan Torgulson, Prince of Amsterdam, Interpreter, Meister of the Guild of the Silken Dove”

“His Venerated Excellency, Alder Jackson, Viceroy of the Northwest, Magistrate of Seattle, Judex, Notary, Advocate”
Other titles of function designate training and competence in a particular subject area. Invictus who hold these titles can be presumed to have skills that the covenant is able to draw on, and use of the title indicates availability to perform related tasks - albeit perhaps for a boon if the request is from someone other than the kindred’s own Inner Circle.

The titles of function are granted by a recognized Guild, or in the absence of a Guild, by an Inner Circle who is convinced that the title has been earned. Such titles are generally equal in terms of precedence, though many Invictus tend to lend more weight to the titles Judex, Notary, and Au Pair above the others. Other Invictus may list them based on their personal belief that some are more important than others, or in essentially random order.

- **Advocate:** Specialist in public relations or advocacy for the covenant.
- **Almoner:** One who cares for the less fortunate, whether mortal or kindred.
- **Au Pair:** Specialist in training neonates in Invictus etiquette and vampiric survival.
- **Commissioner:** Expert in tracking, coordinating, and distributing resources.
- **Groom:** Keeper of herds, whether mortals or animals, for feeding or as retainers.
- **Interpreter:** Translator and expert in subterfuge.
- **Judex:** Judge, mediator, and settler of disputes.
- **Knight:** Oathsworn soldier belonging to a knightly order.
- **Librettist:** Connoisseur of arts and entertainment.
- **Notary:** Witness to declarations and recitations of oaths.
- **Player:** Professional artist or performer.
- **Senator:** Philosopher and advisor, whether spiritual or occult.
- **Soldier:** Warrior who is not part of a knightly order.
- **Speaker:** Specialist in etiquette and diplomacy.
- **Steward:** Preserver of valuable artifacts and/or protector of torpid kindred.
- **Technologist:** Expert in study and application of disciplines.

New titles of function sometimes appear, granted by a particular Inner Circle to satisfy or flatter a particular Invictus. Many Invictus ignore such titles unless also sanctioned by a Guild with appropriate clearance from the region’s Secretary, omitting them during introduction, and subtly scoffing at those who insist on their presence. Some extremely conservative Invictus may ignore them until such titles achieve recognition in several regions. We hope to update this document with new titles as they arise in play once they reach recognition in at least two regions.

**Appendix IV: Titles of Rank**

In addition to the well-known, covenant-wide system of titles listed above, many Guilds and Knightly Orders implement additional titles to allocate rank or status among their own members. Internal systems may vary widely, and are always contextual. Most such organizations will use these titles in communication within the organization, but rarely with outsiders. They are rarely secret - simply narrow in scope, and not meaningful outside of the group’s own context.
Credits and Updates
This document was written by Wes Contreras, with significant help from Eric Chronister, Kate Pope, and too many others to try and list. If you see something in this document that looks like an error, or would like to suggest an improvement, you can reach Wes at wesc@antitribu.com. The document was last edited on 2013-07-31.