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note LERNIMUS LATIUNUS

7. The 16TH Century and After: The Reformation and its ensuing religious wars, together with the strategic necessity for France, the cradle of chivalry, to seek the help of the Muslim Turks against encirclement by the Habsburg power, completed the process whereby knighthood was reduced to an honorific title that sovereigns could bestow as they pleased. The glory of the sieur de Bayard (q.v.) from whom Francis I of France chose to receive his own knighthood, and the archaic knightliness of the emperor Maximilian I only emphasize by contrast the unchivalrous background to their exploits. The Spanish religious Orders of knighthood were subject to royal control. The grand master of the Teutonic Order became a Protestant and obtained from Poland the creation of the Order's lands in Prussia into a secular duchy for himself (see Albert, Duke of Prussia). Although the Order of St. John of Jerusalem, which had long lost its strongholds in Palestine, distinguished itself in the defense of Rhodes and later of Malta, its membership became more and more a ~~par~~ perquisite of exalted families who sought to establish their younger sons in its priories and benefices.

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The persistence of feudal theory in Germany led to a particular and peculiar development of knighthood. The greater princes and counts were seeking to mediatize the nobility; but the immediate knights of the empire, that is to say knights who had acquired their status of hereditary nobles, who owed allegiance to the German King or Holy Roman emperor alone and whose numbers had been reinforced by the accretion of *ministeriales* (q.v.) to their ranks, resisted by this pressure, especially in Swabia, in Franconia, and in ~~some~~ ~~was~~ ~~particular~~ ~~on~~ ~~part~~ ~~of~~ ~~the~~ ~~empire~~. From 1329 their obligation to personal military service was removed, and payment of the so-called *Lehnsteuer* or *Lehngeld* substituted. In 1356 the emperor Charles IV, in the collective body of the *Reichsrath* or imperial knighthood was organized in three circles, Swabian, Franconian and Rhenish, each subdivided into numerous cantons. The threat of mediatization was thus averted till the beginning of the 19th century, but the *Reichsrath* failed to secure the rank of an estate of the empire (*Reichsstandschaft*) which it would have attained if it had been accorded a collegiate vote in the council of princes.

In France the style of *chevalier* by itself, as opposed to *chevalier des Ordres du roi* or *de Malte* (i.e. of St. John of Jerusalem) came to be used in official documents merely as an alternative to *seigneur, noble* or *noble homme* in order to assert nobility - which was not only a hereditary quality but was also accorded with increasing frequency to persons outside the profession of arms.

In England the quality of knighthood never became hereditary and the degree of knight bachelor survived. A baronet (q.v.) is not a hereditary knight, as the common use of the prefix "Sir" before the Christian name might lead some people to think; however, one of the earliest privileges of baronets was that they and their successors to the baronetcy, eldest sons and heirs apparent were entitled to receive knighthood ~~by~~ ~~virtue~~ ~~of~~ ~~their~~ ~~office~~. Should they wish it on attaining their majority, this privilege was omitted from patents of baronetcies created after Dec 19, 1827; and although earlier creations still possessed it in theory, applications for knighthood by such heirs apparent were ~~discouraged~~ ~~and~~ ~~refused~~. All claims were refused after that of Ludlow Collier, son of Sir James Lawrence Collier, 4th baronet of Rock Forest, who was knighted in 1874. The survival of the accolade makes knighthood ~~by~~ ~~such~~ ~~means~~ ~~now~~ ~~discouraged~~ ~~and~~ ~~refused~~ the only British title still conferred (as all dignities used to be) by a ceremony in which sovereign and subject kneel and the sovereign touches him with a drawn sword (usually the sword of state) first on the right shoulder, then on the left.

## II Orders in the Modern World: Orders in modern times may belong to one of three groups: (1) The prime orders reserved exclusively to sovereigns and to men of the very highest distinction in the nobility and in the service of their country. (2) dynastic or family orders, bestowed by the sovereign on his kin or on number individuals in recognition of personal service to the dynasty. (3) other orders awarded for meritorious public service, whether military or civil.

Membership in a modern order does not necessarily mean knighthood mean knighthood and there are orders which have no knights. An order may consist of a single class, with the title members, companions or knights of companions; or it may comprise three classes such as knights grand cross, knights commanders and companions; or it may have five, six or more classes. Generally the insignia of knight grand cross, ~~knights~~ ~~commanders~~ ~~and~~ ~~companions~~ consist of a star worn on the left breast and a badge, usually some form of the cross paty, suspended from a ~~wide~~ ribbon at the buttonhole, or cordon over the shoulder, or in certain cases from a collar; commanders wear the badge from a ribbon round the neck and the star do they wear on their breast; companions have no star and wear the badge from a narrow ribbon at the buttonhole. Often the word order is used merely as a synonym of insignia.

### ① British Orders: The most noble Noble Order of the Garter

The composition of the Order of the Garter in the 14th century has been noted above. No change in its numbers was made until 1786, when the sons of George III and his successors were declared eligible not withstanding that the Chapter might be complete. In 1805 it was provided that the lineal descendants of George II should be likewise eligible supernumerarily; but while the order was declared to consist of the sovereign and 25 knights companions, without regard to a earlier division between those of the sovereign and those of the Prince of Wales, the latter's place in the Chapter apart from the supernumerary members of the royal family was assured to him as "a constituent part of the original institution". In 1833 the privilege of supernumerary eligibility was extended to the descendants of George I.

The order has five officers: prelate (the bishop of Winchester), Chancellor (the Marquess of Salisbury in the 1960s), the Registrar (the dean of Windsor since Charles reign), King of Arms (Garter principle, King of arms) and usher (the gentleman usher of the Black Rod). First, third, and fifth offices date from the beginning, the Fourth added by Henry the Fifth, the second by Henry Edward III. The chapel of the Order is St. George's Chapel in Windsor. The insignia comprise the garter itself, with the motto *Honi soit qui mal y pense*; the staff with the St. George's cross; and the collar with a badge representing St. George and the Dragon.

The Most Ancient Order of the Thistle - Dedicated to St. Andrew, patron st of Scotland, this order was founded by James II (VII of Scotland) in 1687 for the sovereign and eight knights companions, fell into abeyance in 1699, but was revived by Queen Ann in 1703 with an increase of the knights companions to 12; and in 1927 the number was raised to 16. Most ancient Order of the Thistle Officers are, Chancellor, dean, secretary, Lyon King of arms and the gentleman usher of the ~~green~~ Green Rod. The Chapel is in St. Giles Cathedral, in Edinburgh. The order's collar is made of thistles alternating with ~~thistles~~ Springs of rue and the motto is *Nemo me impune lacessit*.

Brand

Abeance

Sprigs of rue