

A Handbook for Royal University of Meridies Degree Scroll Design

FROM THE CHANCELLOR

First of all, thank you for your interest in helping the Royal University of Meridies to have scrolls for which to showcase the attained knowledge of the populace. I have worked with Parchment Clerk to develop this program, and look forward to seeing your contributions.

Adelaide de Monferrer

BACKGROUND

So, you want to do degree scrolls for RUM... fantastic! Here is the standard on how to set each one up.

The wording for all of these are based on period degree documents (which are not that different from modern degree wordings). Degree documents were just that—documents. While scrolls in the SCA tend to be based on manuscripts, RUM Degree scrolls are founded in legal documents of the time. Most extant degrees, that are physical, paper documents, are all from the later periods. Earlier than that, degreed professors had letters of introduction from wherever they studied. Letters were simple—like they are today. Legal documents were also relatively simple, usually carrying a seal of some sort; for diplomas, this seal would be the seal of the institution. The base documents had a large initial letter that was simply ink, another style would have a painted

initial or initial done in a different color ink, but they would always be simple capitals, not illuminated initials how we think of them from manuscripts. Fancier degrees might even have a nice inked border, like a cadeaux border or simple dots/squiggles.

There are four levels of degrees:

- **Scholar Degree:** This is the base level degree. It's non field specific. Think of it as an Associate's Degree.
- **Lector Degree:** This starts the field specific. The recipient has to pick a certain number of classes in a certain College. For example: Lector Degree in Scribal Arts. Think of it as a Bachelor's Degree.
- **Magister Degree:** The recipients get this for teaching 5 classes in a specific field as well as doing a paper in that field or completing a Magister Project. As a byproduct of knowing something well enough to teach, and well enough to do a specific project for, this tends to be more specific than the topic of the entire College. For example: Magister Degree in Period Materials of the Scribal Arts. Think of it as a Master's Degree.
- **Philosopher Degree:** To even qualify for this, the recipient needs 5 Magister Degrees. They also need to pick one specific field, in the same vein as the Magister Project, to do a large Philosopher Project. For example: Philosopher Degree in the Production and Use of Metal Pigments in Medieval Manuscripts. Think of it as a PhD.

Please bear in mind, though, that (on average), ___ Scholar, ___ Lector, ___ Magister, and ___ Lector degrees are conferred each year, so prepare them accordingly. A wide array of periods is also never a bad thing!

For more information on degrees, visit
| <http://royalu.meridies.org/degree-programs/>

This means that the scrolls need to reflect the prestigious nature of the degree conferred. This means that each degree gets a specific material, size, and design.

DEGREE DESIGN

Just as period degree documents were standardized, RUM Degrees are standardized. Here are the basics of each degree's design, using late period Batarde + cadeaux as an example. The same could easily be applied to other scripts. The earliest degrees are 13th c so post-13th c scripts are a go-to, but if someone is earning a degree in an early period study, a document in Gothic may not be appropriate. This can easily be adapted to Carolingian and Insular as well, but remember not to use the large knotwork initials for these. Initial letters for all need to just be larger versions of regular script letters/capitals for the time period.

Some styles of large initials for different scripts:

- **Uncial/Insular:** bigger versions of the regular letter
- **Carolingian:** Large Roman initial
(https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Carolingian_minuscule#/media/File:Minuscule_caroline.jpg)
- **Batarde:** Cadeaux/Cadel initials were the most common but they had their own capitals that can be used as well
(<http://luc.devroye.org/MsCoste134f-1.jpg>)
- **Protogothic/Rotunda/Gothic:** These scripts all have their own capitals that you can use

Magister and Philosopher degrees also contain a border and can be as simple or complex as you feel is appropriate, but please keep in mind the prestigious nature of these degrees. Here are a few examples of some cadeaux border elements that can be built off of: <https://s-media-cache-ak0.pinimg.com/564x/9e/dd/70/9edd709f014b4339d997f039597d1d2c.jpg>

All degrees should have ~1” margin and be landscape, not portrait.

- **Scholar Degree:** 8x10 Bristol. Large initial with matching calligraphy for text, all black. Initial letters should be ~2” but probably not smaller than 1.5” and probably no bigger than 3”. Not all letters are square so use your best judgement.
- **Lector Degree:** 9x12 Bristol. Large initial in red with matching calligraphy for text (black). Initial letters should be ~3” but probably stay within 2.5-3.5”. Again, use your best judgement for your letter.
- **Magister Degree:** 9x12 Pergamenata. Large initial in red with matching calligraphy for text (black) and appropriate border (black).
- **Philosopher Degree:** 11x14 Pergamenata. Cadeaux initial in gold with matching calligraphy for text (black) and appropriate border (black or gold).

SIGNATURES/SEALS

The only signature is that of the RUM Chancellor, so a line at the bottom for them with “Chancellor of the Royal University of Meridies” would probably be nice.

We are also following the period practice of including the institution seal on the bottom of the document. The Chancellor has a variety of seals, ranging 1-3” but it is preferred for this seal to be illuminated in Magister/Philosopher degrees. The signature/seal should generally be center bottom of the document (above the 1” margin).

Image of the RUM seal:



The official seal has no border but to fill out the shape, a solid black border or a black/white border (as pictured) can be added.

WORDING

Scholar Degree

We hereby bestow upon _____ (leave full line) _____ a Scholar Degree, together with all the rights, privileges, and honors appertaining thereto in consideration of the satisfactory completion of the courses prescribed by the Royal University of Meridies. In testimony whereof we have hereunto affixed the seal of the University and the signatures of the Chancellor thereof. Conferred this ___ day of _ (short is fine as abbreviations can be used)_, Anno Societatis (or A.S.) __, _____ Gregorian (or C.E, Common Era, Common Reckoning).

Lector Degree

We hereby bestow upon _____ (leave full line) _____ a Lector Degree in _____ (enough room for College Name) _____, together with all the rights, privileges, and honors appertaining thereto in consideration of the satisfactory completion of the courses prescribed by the Royal University of Meridies. In testimony whereof we have hereunto affixed the seal of the University and the signatures of the Chancellor thereof. Conferred this ____ day of _____ (short is fine as abbreviations can be used) _____, Anno Societatis (or A.S.) __, _____ Gregorian (or C.E, Common Era, Common Reckoning).

Magister Degree

We hereby bestow upon _____ (leave full line) _____ in recognition of scholarly attainments and distinguished pursuit of knowledge, a Magister Degree in _____ (enough room for broader field) _____, together with all the rights, privileges, and honors appertaining thereto in consideration of the satisfactory completion of the courses prescribed by the Royal University of Meridies. In testimony whereof we have hereunto affixed the seal of the University and the signatures of the Chancellor thereof. Conferred this ____ day of _____ (short is fine as abbreviations can be used) _____, Anno Societatis (or A.S.) __, _____ Gregorian (or C.E, Common Era, Common Reckoning).

Philosopher Degree

We hereby bestow upon _____ (leave full line) _____ in recognition of scholarly attainments and distinguished and significant pursuit of knowledge, a Philosopher Degree in _____ (enough room for much broader field) _____, together with all the rights, privileges, and honors appertaining thereto in consideration of the satisfactory completion of the courses prescribed by the Royal University of Meridies. In testimony whereof we have hereunto affixed the seal of the University and the signatures of the Chancellor thereof. Conferred this ____ day of __ (short is fine as abbreviations can be used)_, Anno Societatis (or A.S.) __, _____ Gregorian (or C.E, Common Era, Common Reckoning).

Thank you, to all of our scribes, for your hard work and skillful service! We wouldn't be the society we are today without you!