

# THE NOBLE COMPANY OF THE COMPANIONS OF SAINT MARTIN



CONSTITUTIONS  
PROMULGATED  
XI. XI. MMXXIV  
APUD BOTEL

# CONSTITUTIONAL CHARTER

## TITLE I THE ORGANISATION AND ITS NATURE

### Article 1

#### Origin and Nature of the Organisation

§ 1 - The Noble Company of the Companions of Saint Martin arose from a group of pilgrims to the Church of Saint Martin in Bailleul-en-Vimeu, who, in the summer of 2024, made the journey, as members of the Balliol Family Association in connection with the Barony of Buittle, to the historic seat of the Balliol Family.

§ 2 - It is a voluntary, heritage based, learned and philanthropic organisation, named after the Patron Saint of the House of Balliol, run in partnership with the Balliol Family Association. Membership open to individuals on a non-discriminatory basis, providing they fit the criteria laid out in Article 6 of this constitution. There is no fee for membership.

§ 3 - In this Constitution, the Noble Company of the Companions of Saint Martin is also referred to as the “Companions of Saint Martin” or simply as “the Companions”.

### Article 2

#### Purpose

§ 1 - The purpose of the Companions of Saint Martin is (1) to promote knowledge surrounding the House of Balliol, particularly as this relates to the Balliol Dynasty of Scotland, (2) to promote awareness and support the upkeep of historic sites associated with the House of Balliol, (3) to extend the cultus of Saint Martin of Tours and increase the knowledge of devotional practices to Saint Martin in the high Middle Ages, and (5) to be of service to the local communities surrounding historic Balliol-related sites, and to the poor and indigent, through disbursing funds voluntarily offered by the membership for this purpose.

§ 2 The Companions carry out their academic, devotional, heritage-related, and philanthropic works without distinction of religion, ethnicity, sex, origin and age.

### Article 3

#### Territorial Organization

§ 1 - The Companions of the Order of Saint Martin is an organisation head-quartered at Buittle Castle, the historic seat of the Balliol Dynasty of Scotland. A chantry altar, dedicated to Saint Martin, is maintained at the chapel of Buittle Castle, at which prayers are offered for the deceased members of the Balliol Family and their blood descendants. A pilgrimage is also made every two years to the church of Saint Martin de Bailleul in France, where a roll of companions is kept.

### Article 4

#### Official Language

The official languages of the Companions of Saint Martin are English and French. Official communications may also be conducted in Latin.

### Article 5

#### Banners, Insignia and Armorial Bearings of the Order

§ 1 - The Banner of the Companions bears the marital arms of John de Balliol and Lady Devorguilla of Galloway. The Pilgrim Banner bears the Arms of Balliol (Gules, an Orle Argent) charge with a depiction of Saint Martin dividing his cloak

§ 2 - The armorial bearings of the Companions display the marital arms of Balliol-Galloway, surrounded by a collar of scallop shells striped with red and white at their edge and having a pendant pilgrim badge of St Martin, all surmounted by the crown of John Balliol, King of Scots (as shown on his seal, i.e. a ducal coronet).

§ 3 - The Colours of the Companions' ribbons are blue - red - blue.



§ 4 - The Insignia of the Companions is as follows: 1) The Neck Insignia: Upon the ribbon is displayed a green enameled Cross Pattée, with the Arms of Balliol-Galloway in the centre, all surmounted by a ducal crest coronet. 2) The Ribband: The Ribband, or Sash, is of the same pattern as the ribbon, and shall be worn from the right shoulder to the left hip. It shall display the gilt pilgrim's badge of Saint Martin of Tours. 3) The Miniature shall be of the same design as the Neck Insignia. 4) The Lapel Badge: Companions may choose to wear either the Miniature suspended from a bow in the buttonhole of their jacket or pinned to their outer-garment, a pin of the Balliol-Galloway arms surmounted by the Ducal Coronet, or, simply, a pin of the Balliol-Galloway arms. 5) The Pilgrim's collar shall be a gilt collar of interchanging shells, edged in red and white, and knots, decorated at the joins with two white and one red pendant pearl. Suspended from the centre of the Collar is a gilt Pilgrim's Badge of Saint Martin of Tours.

§ 5 - All companions may use any of the above insignia, with the exception of the Pilgrim's Collar, which is granted to those Companions who are practicing Trinitarian Christians, and have made pilgrimage either to the principle shrine of Saint Martin of Tours at the Basilica of Saint Martin, or to the Church of Saint Martin in Bailleul, there saying the litany of Saint Martin for the intentions of the Companions, and for the repose of the souls of the members of the House of Balliol. Companions will be responsible for the purchase of their own insignia, through the authorised channels.

## TITLE II

### THE ORGANISATION AND ITS MEMBERS

#### Article 6 Types of Membership

§ 1 - The Noble Company of Companions of Saint Martin comprises members (known as Companions) who participate, according to their state of life, in fulfilling the aims of the organisation, as defined in Article 2. The Companions by Right of Blood (*de Jure Sanguinis*), or Companions of Justice, are, by necessity, members of the Balliol Family Association, and can, thereby, prove descent from the progenitors of the Balliol Dynasty of Scotland (that is to say, John de Balliol (I), Head of the Balliol Estates, Lord of Barnard Castle, Co-sovereign of Galloway, etc, and Lady Devorguilla of Galloway, Heiress of Alan, Lord of Galloway, and Co-sovereign of Galloway).

§ 2 - The Companions of Devotion are those who, by birth, do not qualify, or do not knowingly qualify, for membership by right of blood, but, rather, are offered membership by the Chapter of Companions for their work in increasing the cultus of Saint Martin in connection with the details contained in Article 2.

§ 3 - The Companions of Honour are those who, by birth, do not qualify, or do not knowingly qualify, for membership by right of blood, but rather are offered membership by the Chapter of Companions for their support in advancing the historical and heritage-related aims contained in Article 2.

§ 4 - The Chapter of Companions is comprised primarily of the Companions by Right of Blood. There is, otherwise, no distinction between the types of membership, there being but one 'rank' of Companion.

# TITLE III

## THE GOVERNMENT OF THE COMPANIONS OF SAINT MARTIN

### Article 7 Exercise of Power

The legislative, executive and judicial functions are reserved for the Chapter of Companions, which is convened by the Master General in accordance with the provisions of the Constitutional Charter.

### Article 8 Requisites for Election as Master General

§ 1 - Only a Member of the Chapter of Companions, who is also a practicing Trinitarian Christian, may be elected as Master General.

§ 2 - The Master General is elected for life or until his 75th Birthday, by the Council of Companions.

### Article 9 Conditions for the Validity of Decisions

Decisions of the Chapter of Companions are not valid if they are made in the absence of the Master General, unless expressly authorised by him, or whenever an absolute majority of the Members is not present, or any other legal condition is not met.

### Article 10 The Chapter of Companions

§ 1 - The Members of the Chapter of Companions are: a) Master General, who presides; b) The Members of the Organisation by right of blood; 3) The three chief officers of the Baron's Court of the Barony of Buittle (i.e. The Baron of Buittle, The Baron Bailey, and the Clerk of the Court).

# TITLE IV

## THE GOODS OF THE COMPANIONS

### Article 11 The Nature and Administration of Goods

§ 1 - The Companions of Saint Martin may acquire, manage, dispose of, and use economic goods in accordance with the law.

§ 2 - Economic assets are administered by the immediate manager of the public legal entity (i.e. The Barony of Buittle Ltd.), are held in a separate account, and are used in accordance with the law and this Constitution.

§ 3 - No new expenditure shall be made without the consent by majority vote of the Chapter of Companions.

§ 4 - All monies collected for the purpose of philanthropic endeavours from amongst the Companions shall be used entirely for the purpose for which they were given.

§ 5 - No member of the organisation shall derive a salary from the organisation.