

## The History of the Principality of the Mists

In the beginning of the Society there was only one kingdom, based in the San Francisco Bay area in California. It was referred to alternately as the Kingdom of the Mists, or the Kingdom of the West. When the Kingdom of the East was founded in 1968 the use of Mists was dropped and the West Coast was known as the Kingdom of the West. The San Francisco Bay Area, the capital area and the place of origin, continued to be referred to as the Mists. This area came to be the Principality of the Mists, although it was never a working entity, but more like a name for an area. When Caradoc set up the present tournament system in the West in 1969 he decreed that the Kingdom Tournaments- the Crown Tourneys and Coronations- should occur within the Principality of the Mists, which is the first official use of the title. The Principality of the Mists includes those counties of California which border on the San Francisco Bay, namely the Counties of Sonoma, Marin, Contra Costa, Alameda, Santa Clara, San Mateo, and San Francisco. There was no separate Prince of the Mists. In January 1972 the Board of Directors granted this title to the King. Later it became traditional to confer the title of Prince and Princess of the Mists upon the Crown Prince and Princess upon the completion of the Crown Lists. From time to time there have been Principality officers appointed by the Kingdom officers to coordinate matters in the Principality, but never on a consistent basis. Many of the offices were handled by the chief kingdom officer, who was usually resident in the Mists.

There are four Provinces that make up the Principality of the Mists. They are the Province of the Mists (the counties of Alameda and Contra Costa), the Province of the Southern Shores ( Santa Clara County), the Province of St. Andrew's (the counties of San Mateo and San Francisco), and the Province of Ceantyre (Marin and Sonoma Counties). The Province of the Mists is the capital province of the Principality and of the Kingdom. Most of the Kingdom and Society officers have resided there and the Society headquarters is located there. The Province of the Mists is also the birthplace of the Society.

During the early years the principality offices and the provincial offices were handled by the kingdom officer. In 1971 the Provinces began to organize as independent entities with officers of their own. Samuel de Basset became Seneschal of St. Andrew's in January, and in the Fall Andrei de Sevastopol became Seneschal of the Province of the Mists and Paul of Bellatrix became Seneschal of the Province of the Southern Shores. Gregory of Drakesland had been Seneschal since May of 1970, but nothing much had happened. Henrik of Havn was the first Seneschal for Ceantyre, which didn't really organize until the fall of 1974, although Henrik had been holding his annual island wars since 1967. In March of 1972 Sir Steven MacEanruig took over as Seneschal for the Province of St. Andrew's, which then took its name and became properly organized. The first Principality officer was Caradoc, who was appointed Knight Marshal by Edwin Bersark, then Earl Marshal, in February, 1970.

On September 24, 1977, AS XII King Paul decreed that the Principality of the Mists was to include all of Northern California above Caid, plus Hawaii. Thus the Kingdom was divided into three principalities. King Paul decreed that the Principality of the Mists would become fully functional, with officers and a Prince and Princess. Maythen of Elfhaven was designated Principality Seneschal. Leon de Asturias, Greencloak Herald, became the Principality Herald. Roderick dubh MacRae became the Principality Master of Sciences.