

## DUTIES

### CHAMBERLAIN

The chamberlain, sometimes called a house-steward, has a sitting room for his use in the manor and is exempt from menial duties. His duty is to engage and dismiss all of the household staff, with the exemption of the personal domestics and the nursemaid. He handles all of the money to pay the staff's wages and makes the necessary purchases to run the household. Once a month, he presents account books to the master of the household for approval.

### HOUSEKEEPER

In larger households, the housekeeper engages and dismisses all of the female household staff, with the exemption of the nurse, the cook and the ladies-maid. She manages the storeroom (placing orders and giving out stores as necessary) and cares for the household linens and dishes (mending and cleaning). She supervises the preparations of the bedrooms (both visitors and residents) and decides which rooms they will occupy (with approval of her mistress). She supervises the serving of all meals, teas and other refreshments. She keeps the household accounts and does the greater part of the needlework. In smaller households, the duties of the housekeeper are performed by the cook, the ladies maid or even the mistress herself.

### COOK

The cooking, and the cleaning of the kitchen, scullery, larder and all the kitchen utensils is the responsibility of the cook, although, she is helped by the scullery maids. Each morning, she makes a menu for the day's lunch and dinner according to the contents of the larder and the preferences of the family. This menu is brought to the mistress of the house at the start of the third watch for her alterations then returned to the cook.

In town, the cook gives the necessary orders to the merchants who serve the house then, returning home, starts the soup for the next day since soup is seldom made on the day it is eaten. The pastries, jellies, creams and entrees are all made in the morning at the same time as she prepares lunch.

The fifth watch is the busiest time for a cook as she finishes the preparations for dinner and ensures that it is served correctly. When dinner is served, the duties of the cook are over for the day and the cleaning is left to the scullery maid.

### DAIRYMAID

The dairymaid cares for the chickens, milks the cows, churns the butter and makes the cheese. When the household is small or if there are a number of dairymaids, the dairymaid also assists the cook as a kitchen maid.

### ALEWIFE

Usually an alewife comes to her profession by first being a midwife and village healer. While developing her herbal remedies, it is a natural next step to develop recipes for teas, ales and other potables. In addition, long brewing times give her plenty of time to care for patients and brewing in general gives her something to do when everyone is healthy.

Before inns combined the functions of alehouse, cookhouse and hostel, alewives openly sold their ale to those in the villages. Since innkeepers usually couldn't compete with the quality of ale produced, they used political power to pass laws that only they could sell ale. Physicians, in the same situation of not being able to compete with the midwife's healing skills, use a different method. They use rumors of evil magic and claims of witchcraft to discredit their competition.

The alewives and midwives still practice their crafts and prosper through their reputations. Sometimes they stay within the law and sell ale through innkeepers. At other times they sell ale and other potables as medicine ("for medicinal use only").

### GARDENER

In addition to caring for the household's vegetable garden, gardeners care for flowers and shrubbery to bring beauty into the lives of the nobility. Gardener's pay for themselves by being skilled at getting more produce from the garden and by using storage methods that allow that produce to last longer. By pleasing the nobility, gardeners draw about them considerable authority and usually won't allow others to cut flowers and reap vegetables from their gardens. Being largely ignored, they also frequently overhear privileged conversations and should be hired for their discretion.

### NURSEMAID

Since the nursemaid cares for and trains the children, she should be even tempered, should not gossip, and should speak clearly (children tend to copy the speech mannerism and moral qualities of the nursemaids).

If the nursemaid is young, she should be selected from a large family and be accustomed to helping their mother with the care of their brothers and sisters. If, on the other hand, the nursemaid is a widow woman, she should have raised children of her own who have grown and left home.

The nursemaid raises early to feed the children and take them on a daily walk. At the middle of the third watch, the children are fed and put down for a nap so the nursemaid can lunch with their parents and discuss any instructions regarding the children. In the afternoon, the children are given instructions in the skills they will need as adults and, at the start of the fifth watch, they are brought to their parents for the nursery-tea. An hour and a half later, the children end their day and are put to bed. After the nursemaid has her dinner with the rest of the household staff, she spends some time in the nursery sewing the children's clothes.

### LAUNDRY MAID

The laundry maid cares for the cleaning and sewing of the clothes of the family and household staff. If there are more than one laundry maid, the upper laundry maid is in charge of the more delicate items of linen. If there is only one laundry maid, the other servants are expected to care for their own clothes. When the household is too small to have a laundry maid, a laundry maid within the village (or a

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nearby village) is hired for a week. In this case, room and board for the week is part of the wages.

## VALET OR MAN SERVANT

The duties of the valet, or man-servant, is to care for the cleaning and mending of his master's clothes, to assist his master in dressing and grooming, to make all travelling arrangements, to serve his master's meals and to arrange for any messengers his master needs. In smaller households, the same person performs the duties of the chamberlain, butler and valet.

## LADIES MAID

The duties of the ladies maid is to be a hair dresser and dressmaker, to assist her mistress in dressing and grooming, to make all travelling arrangements, to serve her mistress's meals and to arrange for any messengers her mistress needs. In smaller households, the same person performs the duties of ladies maid and housekeeper.

## OCCUPATIONAL SKILLS

Chamberlain	Heraldry 2/4, Intrigue 4/5, Mathematics 1/3, Oratory 3/4, Rhetoric 3/4, Script
Housekeeper	Cookery 3/4, Housekeeping oml/oml+sb Textilecraft 1/3, Mathematics 1/3
Cook	Cookery 3/5, Herblore 1/2, Rhetoric 3/4, Script
Assistant Cook (scullery maid)	Cookery 3/4, Herblore 1/2, Housekeeping oml/oml+sb
Dairymaid	Domestic Animalcraft 2/4, Cookery 3/4, Herblore 1/2, Housekeeping oml/oml+sb
Alewife	Cookery 3/4, Herblore 3/4, Brewing 1/4, Physician 2/5
Gardner	Agriculture 3/5, Weatherlore 1/3, Intrigue 4/5, Herblore 2/3
Nursemaid	Cookery 3/4, Housekeeping oml/oml+sb, Rhetoric 3/4, Singing 3/4, Textilecraft 1/3
Laundry Maid	Textilecraft 2/4, Hideworking 1/3, Housekeeping oml/oml+sb
Valet or Man Servant	Textilecraft 1/2, Hideworking 1/2, Cookery 3/4, Housekeeping oml/oml+sb, Intrigue 3/4, script
Ladies Maid	Textilecraft 2/3, Hideworking 1/2, Cookery 3/4, Housekeeping oml/oml+sb, script
Ratter	

\* Housekeeping is mentioned in Harnlore Issue 11 but the skill content is not mentioned. I suggest: Str End Wil; Tai/Mas+1; Sko+2; OML SB4 (males) / SB6 (females).