

Memo. N^o 12.

Peking, May 24th 1873.

Rank of Ambassadors.

By Article 4th of the Rules of Vienna, Ambassadors rank above all other diplomatic officers. In virtue of Article 2nd of the same Rules, they alone have the representative character, and by the common consent of all the monarchical governments, only the sons and brothers of Emperors and Kings hold precedence over them at public ceremonies. (Martens's Guide Diplomatique, Vol. 1, page 141.)

Salute when embarking.

When an Ambassador embarks either for the port where he will first touch the territory of the Sovereign to whom he is accredited, or to return to his own country, he is saluted with fifteen guns, while Embassies receive but eleven.^(a) Besides, they are entitled to greater military honors than the latter class of Officers. (Martens's Guide Diplomatique, Vol. 1, page 225.)

Notification of arrival.

When an Ambassador notifies his arrival to the Minister of Foreign Affairs, he always does it through his first or second secretary, and other diplomatic officers generally do so by letter. (Martens's Guide Diplomatique, Vol. 1, page 142. — Bluntschli's Code of International Law, Article 188.)

Privileges and honors exclusively granted to Ambassadors.

As the public Audience given by the sovereign, the privileges exclusively granted to Ambassadors are: First - to go in a royal Carriage with six horses. Second - to receive military honors upon his arrival on the coast

(a) The English give thirteen guns to an Ambassador, and fifteen to an Embassy and other duly accredited ministers.

of honor of the palace; that is to say, the Guards,
Precious arms and the drums: beat a Salute,
Third. - So have a dais and canopy in his
hall of audience. Under this canopy is hung
the full sized portrait of the Sovereign whom the
ambassador represents. At the visit of ceremony
which are paid him, the ambassador stands
~~upon the dais~~, taking care not to conceal
the portraits of his sovereign, Secret. He has
the privilege of remaining covered in the presence
of the sovereign to whom he is accredited.
(Martens's Guide Diplomatique, Vol. 1, page 151.)

Envoys are very seldom received in solemn
audience. (Martens's Guide Diplomatique, Vol. 1, page 146.)
Ambassadors almost invariably are,

Audience given to
Envoys.

The title of Excellency belongs exclusively
to an Ambassador, although it is not given to him
by the sovereign at the audience, (Martens's
Guide Diplomatique, Vol. 1, page 149.)

Title of Excellency given
to an Ambassador.

After his reception by the sovereign to whom
he is accredited, he receives the first visit from the
Minister of Foreign Affairs, who calls in his own
name. And in the name of his sovereign whom visit
he returns. (Martens's Guide Diplomatique, Vol. 1, page 148.)

Visit from the Minister
of Foreign Affairs to the
Ambassador.

After his reception in solemn audience by the
sovereign, the Ambassador receives the first call
from all the Diplomatic Offices of a rank in-
ferior to his own, and he generally notifies them
of his arrival at his post of duty either through
the press, or by means of a circular letter.
(Martens's Guide Diplomatique, Vol. 1, page 148.)

Visit from the foreign
representatives to the
Ambassador.

Ambassadors, unless they prefer doing otherwise,
call personally upon officers of the second class,
that is to say, Envoys, and merely leave their cards

Visits returned by the
Ambassador.

Private audience to
Ambassadors.

with those of the King, or Minister Resident.
(Martens's Guide Diplomatique, Vol. 1. page 148.)

In order to avoid the ceremonial of a public reception, an Ambassador is sometimes received in private audience. In this case the ceremony observed is very simple. In instance, the audience is not given in the hall of ceremony, and the Ambassador goes to the palace without any display. The sovereign receives him standing, either alone, or in the presence of the Ministers of Foreign Affairs. While making the usual Compliments to the sovereign, the Ambassador hands him his letter of Credence. (Martens's Guide Diplomatique, Vol. 1. page 146.)

Honoural honors paid to
the Ambassador.

No diplomatic officer can claim greater honors or privileges than are usually given to an officer of his rank at the Court to which he is accredited, unless he is entitled to the same in virtue of special Conventions or treaties. (Martens's Guide Diplomatique, Vol. 1. page 157.)

Why he should receive
honors due to his rank
and no others.

But he is certainly entitled to the honors belonging to his own rank, and not to claim such would be derogatory to his own dignity, and the dignity of the Country he represents.

(Bluntschli's Code of International Law, Article 189.)

Ceremonial of reception
of Ambassadors regulated
by the usage in vogue
at the Court to which he
is accredited.

Mr. Bluntschli, in his Code of International Law, Article 189, states that the ceremonial of reception of diplomatic officers is regulated by the Customs of the different Countries, and that as long as there is nothing in the same that is derogatory to the honor of the Country which he represents; or to himself, he cannot object. Therefore, if there is any difficulty in obtaining from the Prince

When he may object to
this ceremonial.

Government, a suitable public reception for
the Ambassador of Japan, he might be
satisfied with a private audience; and
until he has made the necessary prep-
arations for his reception by the Chinese
Emperor, if he has to converse with his
colleagues, he may visit them as often
as he chooses, and generally have such
relations with them, or with Prince Ming
and the members of the T'ung li' Tamen,
as he may judge proper. As long
as these relations will not affect the
honor of his country, or of himself, ^{as an ambassador,}
he will be blameless. (Bluntschli's
Code of International Law, Article 190.)

Visits to and from his
colleagues, and official
relations with them.

Respectfully Submitted

Chin W. Takemura

His Excellency,
Prince Mi, Soyee-hima,
N. J. M.'s Ambassador & Guardian,
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