

# Skeletal Materials

## Category Rules

This category is for entries created out of bone, antler, or horn, such as bone or horn corset stays, needles, pins, buttons, beads, and multiple piece items such as reliquaries, diptychs, and polytychs. Consideration must be given to the legality of owning certain materials, such as new elephant ivory or whalebone/teeth. Natural substitutes for ivory and whalebone such as bone, tagua nuts, antler, or animal teeth should not be penalized. The use of plastic, polysaturated linen, or other synthetic ivory substitutes is acceptable if a particular piece could not be made out of a natural substitute. Shell and coral may be included in this category or the Division 4, Sculpture category depending on the nature of the entry.

**Caution:** The dust produced from the creation of items out of skeletal materials is unhealthy if inhaled so entrants are advised to wear the proper respiratory masks when working. The dust is also abrasive. Eye protection should be worn when working with skeletal materials.

## Research and Documentation (Score: 0-4 points)

- 0 No documentation provided with entry. Face-to-face judging adds very little information.
- 1 Minimal information is provided for time, place and style. Face-to-face judging adds some background information.
- 2 As in #1, generalized sources are given with no emphasis on primary and/or scholarly resources. In face-to-face judging, no further understanding of the resources is evident. Materials and methods of construction of the entry are described.
- 3 As in #2, there is a good balance of resources: primary and/or scholarly sources well supported by other resources. Documentation and/or face-to-face judging provides well developed discussion of research. Materials and methods of construction are described and the reasons for the choices made are discussed.
- 4 As in #3, in-depth and extensive documentation provides a good balance of resources, emphasizing primary (if available) and/or scholarly resources backed up with a significant selection of other resources. Documentation and/or face-to-face judging provide a good explanation of original research and experimentation related to the research. Face-to-face judging indicates a keen grasp of the research and the entrant can discuss it easily with active engagement. Appendices included in documentation (if any) help provide further pertinent information to subject and time period.

## Materials and Methods (Score: 0-4 points)

- 0 Entry is completely modern with no relationship to period elements or practices.
- 1 Use of modern materials and methods to produce an item that would not be accepted in period but bears some relationship to an authentic work or which might be useful within SCA culture. Entry is inconsistent to period, location, and persona (ex: some period elements, but doubtful authenticity of materials, colors, technique, design, or planned use).
- 2 Use of **both** modern materials and methods to produce a work that looks or feels authentic to the intended time period, location, culture, and economic class for which it was constructed.
- 3 Use of **either** period material **or** methods to produce a work that looks or feels authentic to the time period, location, culture, and economic class for which it was

constructed without explanation of any substituted materials.

- 4 Use of totally authentic materials and methods. Substitutions of modern materials for materials which are no longer readily available will not be penalized so long as an effort has been made to substitute materials with a close look & feel to the original. Please explain the substitution in your documentation, and, if possible, explain how your substitution either resembles a period material, or how the handle of a period material would differ from the replacement.

**Scope** (Score: 0-6 points for each bullet item)

Rank the **ambition**, not the success, of the entry for each of the following elements

- Scale and complexity of the piece: Is the entry just a simple object (like a needle) or an intricate object (like a full relief carving)?
- Complexity: Is it hot- or cold-formed, or just tool-worked? To what extent has it been worked? Are several small pieces joined to make a larger piece?
- Extent gone to ensure authenticity of patterns, techniques and materials

*Optional*

- Type and extent of decoration: carving (bas relief, full relief, in-the-round); coloring (dyeing, heating, bleaching); etc.

**Skill** (Score: 0-6 points for each bullet item)

How well is the entry made? Rank the **success** of the entry for each of the following elements. Skill should reflect appropriate style and choice of materials for a given time and place.

- Construction: Does the piece do what it is supposed to do? (I.e., does a drinking cup hold liquid?) Does it work properly?
- Application of techniques: How well did the artisan execute the entry? Are the lines clean? Is the decoration clear?
- Finishing and cleanup: Is the piece finished in any way? Is it polished? Is it colored? Did the finishing affect the coloring? Does the piece have a non-period finish?

*Optional*

- Joinery: If more than one piece is joined together in the creation of the entry, how well are they put together? Is the method of joinery correct? I.e., is the piece held together with superglue or modern screws or glue, OR did the entrant heat-meld the pieces or join them like a piece of wood with pegs or other period joints?

**Ingenuity** (Score: 0-4 points)

Judge the ingenuity of the entry. Was the entrant resourceful and inventive in the approach to creating their entry? Does the entry reflect the entrant's vision of period context? Is original thought, contemplation, interpretation, and vision evident according to the entrant's period?

**Judge's Observation** (Score: 0-6 points)

Rank the entry as a whole. How well do all the separately judged parts fit together? The entry's overall effect is judged in this section. This is the only section of the criteria where the judges may allow their personality, private opinions, and personal preferences to influence scoring.