

Beadwork: Freeform

Category Rules

This category includes beadwork which is not normally fabric-bound such as loom, woven (brick, right-angle, gourd/peyote), fringed, netted, and twisted. It also includes beads strung on wire or thread. Entries consisting of bead embroidery should go in one of the Applied Beadwork categories in Division 2.

The beads themselves are only considered a 'material' and do not need to be made by the entrant but they should be consistent with beads that were available in period and documented as such. Artificial pearls made of glass are acceptable as period if properly documented, as are other "fakes" that might have been available. Substitution of materials because of prohibitive cost or unsuitability should be explained in the documentation and should not be counted against the entrant.

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.
- 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.

- 3 Use of **either** period material **or** methods to produce a work that looks or feels authentic to the relevant time period, location, culture, and economic class.
- 4 Use of materials and methods entirely documentable to the period for which it was constructed (beads are the size, style, and colors of beads found in purported time and place; methods used bear some resemblance to period styles documented through artifacts, paintings of the period, and textual examples). Substitutions of modern materials for those 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.

- Complexity: number of pieces, detail involved.
- Variety of techniques used.
- Difficulty of techniques attempted: this could include increases/decreases, different stitches, and multitude of different sized beads worked into a piece.
- Extent gone to ensure authenticity.

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.

- Accuracy: lack of missing beads, consistent patterns.
- Neatness: straight lines, smooth curves, even tension.
- Durability: will it stand up to its intended use?
- Complexity of techniques attempted.

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.