

Calligraphy

Category Rules

This category includes fine handwriting done with pen, brush, or reed when appropriate to the style of calligraphy, on paper or other writing surface. Simulated writing, such as embroidery, etching or inlaying, should be entered under another category. 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 (ex: derivation/interpretation of letter forms from period manuscripts or facsimiles, use or modification of period recipes for ink, use of vellum or parchment, etc.). 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.

- Difficulty of script(s): account for number of strokes, changes in pen angle, number of special letter forms and/or ligatures, foreign scripts. Foreign scripts are scripts that do not use the Roman alphabet, such as Cyrillic, Arabic, and Hebrew. Variety of techniques used.
- Embellishment (not including illumination) and multitude of different-sized beads worked into a piece.
- Variety of elements used.
- Scale of undertaking (scroll, book, etc.).
- Effort made to ensure authenticity of techniques used: were all letters made with pen, were only some pen, or were they outlined with modern draft pen and then filled in with brush? Is this in keeping with calligraphic practice for that hand from that time and place?
- Type of pen or stylus used: a cartridge pen should score lower than a reed pen, for example.

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.

- Letter forms.
- Control of medium.
- Letter/word spacing and evenness, as appropriate to period, style, and place. I.e., if the entrant has a primary source on the table and the primary source is lacking in evenness and has what the modern eye considers spacing issues, the entry should follow the primary source, not the modern conception.
- Execution of capitals.
- General proportioning (interrelation of scripts, margins, etc.), as appropriate to period, style and place. I.e., if the entrant has a primary source on the table and the primary source has what the modern eye considers lopsided proportioning; the entry should follow the primary source, not the modern conception.

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.