

Illumination

Category Rules

This category includes decoration of fine handwriting done with pen on paper or other writing ground such as the decoration of text, page, or initial letters with ornamental designs, miniatures, or lettering. Simulated writing such as embroidery, etching, or inlaying on swords or chain mail rings should be entered under the other appropriate category.

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 totally authentic materials and methods (ex: paints made from pigments by hand, but not necessarily hand-ground, leaf or shell metallic applied using period methods, vellum or period style paper, etc.). 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 skill or success, of the entry for each of the following elements.

- Scale of undertaking: simple piece with minimal detail and few and/or easy techniques vs. complex piece with many elements and techniques.
- Number of elements used.
- Design and layout.
- Techniques required.

Optional

- Miniatures.
- Carpet.
- Abstract forms (geometric shapes).
- Architectural forms.
- Human forms.
- Animal forms.

- Plant forms (*not* vinework; single flowers, trees, herbs, etc.).
- Interlace.
- Historiation (scene depicted inside a letter).
- Diapering.
- Stamping.
- Borders.
- Barring (this may be a form of border, but can also be another element if not used as a border).
- Versals (illuminated initial or rubric [red or blue inked writing/designs in margins or text to highlight text or beginning of chapters]).
- Application of metallics.
- Metallic design work (engravings such as diapering, stamping, etc. on top of metal).
- Drolleries.
- Foliated forms (foilage/vinework).
- Linework (designs using lines; red, blue, green, black sometimes associated with capitals. These can be squiggles or shapes such as birds, grotesques, etc.).
- Whitework/Blackwork/Redwork/Yellowwork, etc. (intricate design on top of paint).
- Dot work (designs or outline of letters).

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.

- Neatness/Aesthetics of layout: Consider balance of text, illumination, and white space, smudging.
- Control of media (for each medium attempted): Consider shading, evenness of color, highlighting, metallic work, penwork (precision lines, connections, etc.), brushwork (neatness, consistency, other forms of applying paint), neatness (edgework, lines, smudges on background).
- General proportioning: (i.e., if leafwork is to be single size, are they? Some leafwork will vary in size, as flowers may vary sizes in flat (squashed) flower work. It may be noted by the entrant in the documentation).
- General mastery of style and technique: Consider overall layout (balance and design, use of color, execution of details).

Optional

- Miniatures.
- Carpet.
- Abstract forms (geometric shapes).
- Architectural forms.
- Human forms.
- Animal forms.
- Plant forms (*see above*).
- Interlace.
- Historiation.
- Diapering.
- Stamping.
- Borders.
- Barring.
- Versals.
- Application of metallics.
- Metallic design work.
- Drolleries.
- Foliated forms.
- Linework.
- Whitework/Blackwork/Redwork/Yellowwork, etc.
- Dot work.

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.