

Animal Accouterments

Category Rules: The category includes any furniture, tack and trappings put on an animal for usefulness, protection or decoration. Photographs of the entry on the animal **must** be included as part of the documentation, unless the animal can be present at the A & S Faire. Photographs must be clear. Close-ups showing the details of fit should be used where possible. Some equine accouterments were severe and cruel in period. Any device that inflicts pain or severe discomfort to the animal **is strictly forbidden**, even if the device is period. Entries should state the period practice and the modern, humane substitute.

Documentation (0 to 4 points):

- 0: No documentation provided with entry.
- 1: Minimal information consisting of time, place and style.
- 2: As in #1, plus use of general sources; reliance on tertiary sources with perhaps one secondary source (ex: use of encyclopedia articles with a possible additional use of a book or article that refers to a period source.).
- 3: As in #2, plus a developed discussion making use of critical references; sources are largely secondary (ex: sources refer to period references; documentation discusses, compares, and contrasts the source's views).
- 4: As in #3, plus explanation of original research/experiment and relation of source material to it. Primary sources, if available, are emphasized (ex: sources used are from the appropriate period for the entry, such as period manuscripts, paintings or artifacts).

Methods and Materials (0 to 4 points):

- 0: Entry is completely modern with no relationship to period elements or practices.
- 1: Use of modern materials and methods to produce a work that would not have been available in period but either bears some relationship to an authentic work or which might be useful within SCA Culture (ex: caparison pieces that would not be found in period, but would be useful for equestrian pursuits within SCA Culture).
- 2: Use of **both** modern materials and methods to produce a work that looks or feels authentic to the time period it purports to be.
- 3: Use of **either** modern material **or** methods to produce a work that looks or feels authentic.
- 4: Use of totally authentic material and methods.

Scope (0 to 6 points): Rank the ambition, **not** the success, of the entry on a scale of 0 to 6 for **each** of the following elements and average for the total Scope score (Total of element scores divided by 5).

- Variety of materials used.
- Level of difficulty of decoration.
- Size of entry (ex: halter or collar vs. hood vs. complete bridle vs. saddle with full breeching).
- Extent of effort necessary to achieve good fit.
- Extent gone to ensure authenticity.

Skill (0 to 6 points): How well is the entry made? Rank the success of the entry on a scale of 0 to 6 points for **each** of the following elements and average for the total Skill score (Total of element scores divided by 4 or 5).

- Fit.
- Decoration (how well are the decorations executed?).
- Construction (is the entry well constructed for safe and active use? Will it last?).
- Utility (does the entry work well?).

If applicable:

- How well do all of the pieces work together?

Creativity (0 to 4 points):

- 0: Standard style with no innovations, use of a commercially available kit.
1: Logical combination of elements with some innovation of embellishment or techniques, all logical to period.
2: Logical combination of elements with more innovation of embellishment or techniques, all logical to period.
3: As in #2 above, but with much individual interpretation and interpolation logical to period.
4: As in #3 above, plus each element is logically innovative to itself. Elements work together in a cohesive fashion.

Judge's Observations (0 to 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 judge may allow her/his personality, private opinions and personal preferences to influence scoring.

Contributor: Isabeau Pferdebandiger, 1997.

Editor: Thorhalla Carlsdottir af Bröberg, 1997, Gwyneth Banfhidhleir, 2003.