

Herbcraft

Category Rules: The category encompasses all useful, pleasant and comfortable preparations of herbs. There are three broad subcategories which will be judged:

- Culinary: teas, seasonings, herb candies, preserves, etc.
- Comfort and cosmetic: perfume, soaps, lotions, green salves, etc.
- Ornamental: dye stuffs, potpourri, pomanders, rose beads, etc.

Any herbal preparation that is used for medical, magical or poisonous uses will **not** be eligible for entry into the A & S Faire. Any herbs and spices used in the entry **must** be listed in the documentation with their Latin botanical names and **must** be in compliance with the Prohibited and Restricted Herbs list.

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 an item or performance that would not be accepted in period but either bears some relationship to an authentic work or which might be useful 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 materials 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 3).

- Manner in which ingredients were acquired (commercially prepared, homegrown or foraged).
- Steps in preparation.
- Extent gone to ensure authenticity of techniques used.

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).

- Sensitivity to materials and selection of highest quality ingredients.
- Care taken in processing, including properly drying herbs, combining ingredients and careful straining.
- Balance and harmony of ingredients.

- Skill of construction: (Does the finished product appear to be well done? Does the entry have a pleasant texture, taste (if applicable), and aroma? Is the container appropriately functional?).

Creativity (0 to 4 points):

- 0: Rote-copied item with mistakes added.
- 1: Rote-copied item with no innovations or documented knowledge of the range of period style.
- 2: Logical combination of period elements with some innovation of embellishment or techniques, all logical to the period context when the item is constructed.
- 3: Shows much imagination and personal creativity. A recipe which shows a good understanding of the period involved. Not necessarily prepared from a single recipe, but with authentic ingredients and with authentic processes such as a creative person of the period would have improvised and elaborated.
- 4: A highly imaginative and personal interpretation of period recipe and practices. Evidence of both period knowledge and processes is found in this product.

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.

Contributors: Bess of Umberthorn, 1982; Tamarra Amalthea of Romany, 1986; Catlin Siobhan McNulty of Mountain Bridge & Alysoun de Roos, 1997.

Editors: Myrra de Blackwood, 1984; Bronwyn ferch Gwyn ap Rhys, 1987; Thorhalla Carlsdottir af Bröberg, 1997; Gwyneth Banfhidhleir, 2003.