

## Illumination

**Category Rules:** The 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 dealt with under the appropriate category.

### Definitions:

Rubrics: The red inked writing/designs in margins or text to highlight text or at beginning of chapters. (Sometimes in blue ink).

Historiated letter: A scene is depicted inside the letter.

Inhabited: A person (or part of), grotesque or animal, not depicting any scene. They are in margins, plants or letters. (Each as a separate item.) Not to be confused with a historiated letter or a miniature.

### 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 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 materials **or** methods to produce a work that looks or feels authentic.

4: Use of totally authentic materials and methods (ex: paints made from pigments by hand, but not necessarily hand ground, leaf or shell metallics applied using period methods, vellum or period style paper, etc.).

**Scope** (0 to 6 points): Rank the ambition, **not** the skill or 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 5-25).

Rank the ambition, **not** the skill or success, of the entry on a scale of 0 to 6, mandatory for the first four elements and at least one optional element, and to include other elements if applicable, as listed.

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

*Optional Elements, if applicable:*

Miniatures.	Carpet.	Abstract forms (geometric shapes).
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Architectural forms.	Human forms.	Animal forms.
Plant forms. (This is <i>not</i> vinework. Look at single flowers, trees, herbs, etc. if used.)	Interlace.	Historiation. A scene is depicted inside the 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. (Is Initial illuminated or rubric) Rubric: The red or blue inked writing/designs in margins or text to highlight text or at beginning of chapters.	Application of metallics.
Metallic design work (Engravings such as diapering, stamping, etc., that is done on top of metal)	Drolleries.	Foliated forms. (foilage/vinework)
Linework (Designs using lines—usually red, blue, green, black that are associated with capitals, sometimes not. These can be in forms of squiggles or shapes, such as birds, grotesques, etc.)	Whitework/Blackwork/Redwork/Yellowwork, etc. (Intricate design work on top of paint)	Dot work. (Designs or outline of letters)

**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 4-21).

Mandatory elements:

- Layout (neatness and aesthetics).
  - o balance of text
  - o balance of illumination
  - o white space
  - o smudging
- Control of media (for each medium attempted). Consider the following items:
  - o shading
  - o even color throughout
  - o highlighting
  - o metallic work
  - o penwork (Precision of lines, connections, etc.)
  - o brushwork (neatness, consistency, may include other forms of applying paint)
  - o neatness (edgework. lines, smudges on background)
- General proportioning [Example: if leafwork is to be single size, such as the leaves on French vinework, are the leaves a half inch larger or are they proportional to all the others? 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 the following items:
  - o overall layout (balance and design)
  - o use of color
  - o execution of details
  - o overall neatness (edgework, lines and smudges)

*Optional Elements, if applicable:*

Miniatures.	Carpet.	Abstract form (geometric shapes).
Architectural forms.	Human forms.	Animal forms.
Plant forms. (This is <i>not</i> vine-work. Look at single flowers, trees, herbs, etc. if used.)	Interlace.	Historiation.
Diapering.	Stamping.	Borders.
Barring. (This may be a form of border, but can also be another element if not used as a border.)	Versals. (Differentiate between illuminated or rubric initials, along with the execution of initial.)	Application of metallics.
Metallic design work (Engravings such as diapering, stamping, etc., that is done on top of metal)	Drolleries.	Foliated forms. (foilage/vine-work)
Linework (Designs using lines, sometimes dots-usually red, blue, green, and black that are associated with capitals, sometimes not. These can be in forms of squiggles or shapes, such as birds, grotesques, etc.)	Whitework/Blackwork/Redwork, etc. (Intricate design work on top of paint.)	Dot work. (Designs and/or outline of letters.)

**Creativity** (0 to 4 points):

- 0: Standard style with no innovations.
- 1: Logical combination of elements with some innovation or embellishment or techniques, all logical to period context.
- 2: Logical combination of elements with more innovation or embellishment or techniques, all logical to period context.
- 3: Same as #2, plus much individual interpretation and interpolation logical to period.
- 4: Same as #3, 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.

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