

Scientific Instruments

Category Rules: The category includes instruments created to measure the working of the world or demonstrates a philosophy. The period concept of "science" was very different from the modern meaning. Instruments for the study of the natural world were less "scientific equipment" than "philosophical devices," designed to demonstrate a principle or natural law. However, many such instruments did have a practical value; for example, the astrolabe could be used as a navigational instrument as well as a "philosophical" instrument.

When researching an entry, it may be more advisable to rely on engineering texts rather than scientific texts, since scientific texts from period were unreliable, frequently being repositories of speculation rather than observed fact.

The documentation should include a description of the instrument, how it was used, and if appropriate, its philosophical background.

Documentation (0 to 4 points):

- 0: No documentation provided with entry.
- 1: Minimal information consisting of time, place and style.
- 2: Information consisting of time, place, and style, 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: Information consisting of time, place, and style, 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: Information consisting of time, place, and style, plus explanation of original research/experiment and relation of source material to it. Primary sources along with critical references, if available, are emphasized (ex: sources used are from the appropriate period for the entry, such as period manuscripts, paintings or artifacts, archaeological essays of primary source item, etc.).

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.

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).

- Type of instrument: Example telescope with purchased lenses and tube < hand-made tube < hand ground lenses < hand ground lenses and hand-made tube < hand-made tube, lenses, and fittings.
- Construction techniques necessary.
- Type of materials used.
- Decoration.
- 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 the total Skill score (total elements divided by 5).

- Finishing
- Fit/Craftsmanship
- Precision/Performance
- Durability
- Functionality (Does it work?)

Creativity (0 to 4 points)

0: Rote-copied item with mistakes added.

1: Rote-copied item with no innovations or documented knowledge of period style.

2: Logical combination of period elements with some innovation of embellishment or techniques, all logical to the period context of the persona for whom the costume is constructed.

3: As in #2, plus much individual interpretation and interpolation logical to the period context of the persona for whom the costume is constructed; that is, the range of possible styles considered and innovative combinations which appear to fit logically together.

4: As in #3 plus each element shows such consideration and choice logically innovative to itself. Elements work together in a cohesive fashion which is specific to the needs of the persona for whom the item is constructed.

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: Elli Lutemaker & Bronwyn ferch Gwyn ap Rhys, no date given; Kenna McKenna, 2003.

Editors: Bronwyn ferch Gwyn ap Rhys, 1984 & 1987; Thorhalla Carlsdottir af Bröberg, 1997; Thorkel the Berserker, Gwyneth Banfhidhleir, 2003.