

Applied Beadwork: Embroidery

Category Rules

This category includes embroidery consisting entirely of beads, and embroidery containing beads as accent. Beadwork applied to costume should be evaluated in the Applied Beadwork: Costume category. This category **does not** include loom, brick stitch/peyote/woven beadwork, wire/freeform beadwork, or other non-cloth-bound beadwork styles (see Division IV, Beadwork: Freeform), nor does it include larger bead and trade bead jewelry accessory pieces.

Beads should be constructed of materials available in period such as glass, precious materials, and metal. The bead variety should be considered and compared with those available in period in the entrant's documentation. Faux look-a-like varieties may be substituted for pearl, coral, gold, and other expensive/rare/precious materials. The cost and lack of availability of such materials should be considered. **The judges should not penalize the Methods & Materials score if reasonable substitutions were made and justified in the documentation.**

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 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. Entry is inconsistent to period, location, and persona (ex: some period elements, but doubtful authenticity of materials, colors, technique, design, or planned use).

- 2 Use of **both** modern materials and methods to produce a work that looks or feels authentic to the time period, location, culture, and economic class for which it was constructed.
- 3 Use of **either** modern materials **or** methods to produce a work that looks or feels authentic to the time period, location, culture, and economic class for which it was constructed without explanation of any substituted materials or methods.
- 4 Use of materials and methods entirely documentable to the period for which it was constructed or the use of modern materials in a way that does not detract from the appearance and feels appropriate to the persona for whom the item was constructed. Reasons for the substitution are explained in the documentation. Substitutions of modern materials will not be penalized so long as an effort has been made to substitute materials with a close appearance and drape to the original.

Scope (Score: 0-6 points for each bullet item)

Rank the **ambition**, not the success, of the entry for each of the following elements.

- Complexity of the endeavor (design has an open sections of ground material visible instead of a solid beaded piece, details of smaller elements vs. simple shapes, etc.).
- Appropriateness of design to time period: Is the design medieval or modern?
- Extent gone to ensure authenticity (both materials and design, beads and materials chosen are appropriate for the piece as documented).

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.

- Complexity of techniques attempted (ex. concentric lines of beadwork contouring to form objects in the design, giving them depth and detail: like a tree or flowing robes vs. straight lines making flat shapes, unless consistent in the sources given).
- Accuracy of design (straight lines, smooth curves, minute details, clear & understandable).
- Neatness (absence of overlapping rows, beads and threads, sagging or arching rows, pulled fabric, uneven bead spacing).
- Durability and structure (threads should hold work firmly and feel secure, absence of loose beads).

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.