

Animal Accouterments

Category Rules

This category includes any furniture, tack, or 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.

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 an item that would not be accepted in period but either bears some relationship to an authentic work or might be useful within SCA culture.
- 2 Use of **both** modern materials and methods to produce a work that looks, feels, or tastes authentic to the intended time period or culture.
- 3 Use of **either** modern materials **or** methods to produce a work that looks, feels or tastes authentic to the intended time period or culture without explanation of any substituted materials.
- 4 Use of totally authentic materials and methods (hand-prepared materials, etc.) to produce a work that looks, feels, or tastes authentic to the intended time period

or culture. Any substitutions and the period materials/methods are thoroughly explained.

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

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

- Variety of materials used.
- Level of difficulty of decoration.
- Size of entry (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 (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.

- 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?

Optional (If more than one element is being presented)

- How well do all of the pieces work together?

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.