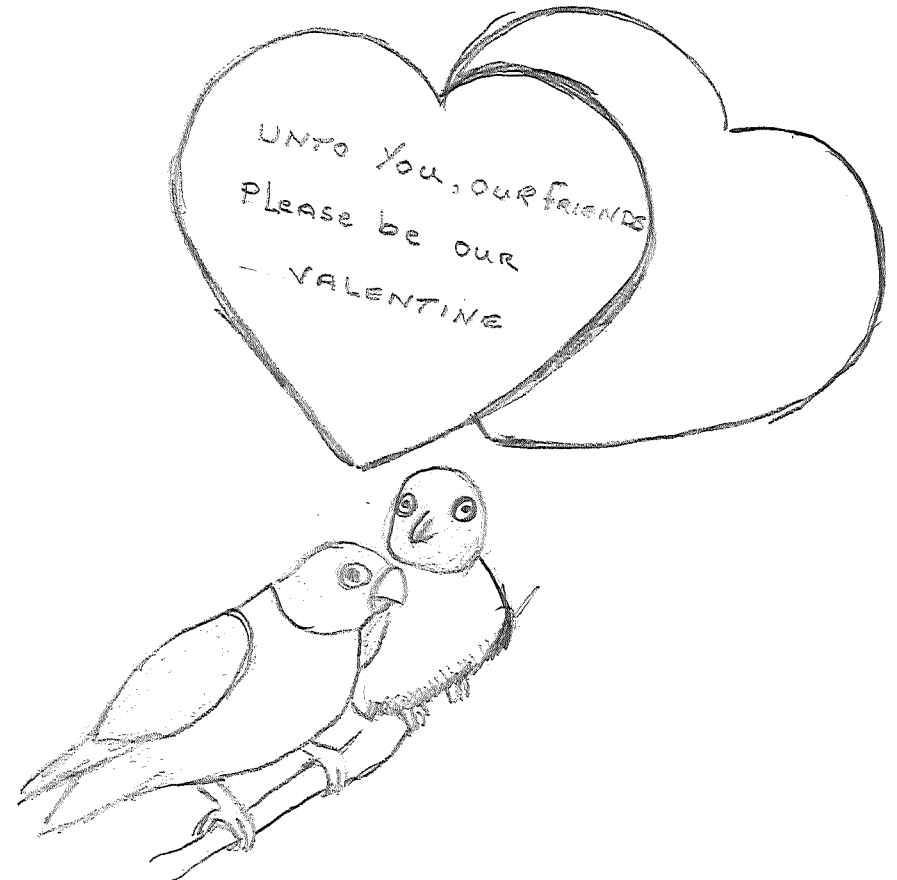


Aurora

February, A.S. XXIX

The Aurora Borealis
Box 159
Gibbons, AB T0A 1N0

This is the Aurora, a publication of the Barony of Borealis of the Society For Creative Anachronism, Inc. The Aurora is available from Valgard at his Vender or Edwina of Loxley, P.O. Box 159, Gibbons, AB T0A 1N0. It is not a corporate publication of the Society for Creative Anachronism, Inc., and does not delineate SCA policies.



The Aurora deadline for Event Copy, Art, and Articles is the 15th of every month for printing in the following month's issue. Please send all submissions to the editor.

Baronial Calendar

LESSER OFFICES

February

- 1 Capilano Dance Hall Veraquilon
Heraldry & Feast Prep Lakelands
(403) 594-7371
- 4 Feast of the Evergreens Lakeland
- 8 Business Meeting Veraquilon
General Meeting & Feast Lakelands (LSV)
Critique
- 11 Groaning Board Feast Veraquilon
- 15 Pysanka (egg decorating) Lakelands (A&A)
- 18-19 Winter War Veraquilon
- 22 Medieval Cooking Class Lakelands (A&A)

March

- 1 Capilan Dance Hall Veraquilon
Brewing Mystery Meeting Lakelands (A&A)
 - 8 Business Meeting Veraquilon
Heraldry Lakelands (LSV)
- * A&A - Adelaine's & Alfheim's (403) 594-1083
LSV - Leisure Sports Village

The submission deadline for the February issue of the Aurora is February 15th. The publishing and distribution date will be February 22nd.

The Aurora is available for \$16 per annum (12 issues). All cheques and money orders are to be made payable to:

"ASCA - Barony of Borealis"

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Canton of Veraquilon Weekly meetings are held on Wednesday evenings at 8:30 pm in Education North, Room 4-110 at the U of A. All Gentles attending meetings are requested to wear Period Attire (or reasonable attempt thereof) with the exception being Council Meetings.

Canton of Lakelands Fight Practices each Tuesday evening, 7:00pm at Assumption High School. Contact Alfheim 594-1083
Classes on various topics take place each Wednesday evening, 7:00pm. see calender for topics and locations.

The Blacksheep Guild (fibreworkers guild) meets every Teusday night at 7pm at HL Erna Kajadottor's. Call HL Erna at 449-1593 for more info and directions to her place in Sherwood Park.

The Roger de Cote School of Fence Meets at 6:00 pm on Wednesdays. For more info call HL Roger de Cote at 449-1593.

Canton of VerAquilon Fighter Practice Please do not hesitate to contact Lord Otto Gruber @ 468-6783 for more information.

Dance Practise is held every second Monday in the Dimwoodie Lounge, in SUB, at the U of A, from 7:30pm until 10pm. Those wishing more information are requested to contact Mordecai Saltzer (Rick Slansky) at 435-2051.

The Groaning Board meets monthly to research and plan for our thrice-yearly feasts. It is our mandate to provide an opportunity for developing excellence in period culinary arts, as well as the science of planning events and autocratting them. If you share our interest, we welcome you. We have a structure for advancement and recognition of the attainment of our goals, based on the period guild system. For more information regarding meeting times and place, phone HL Eleanora fitz John (mka Leeanna Ryan) 449-6834

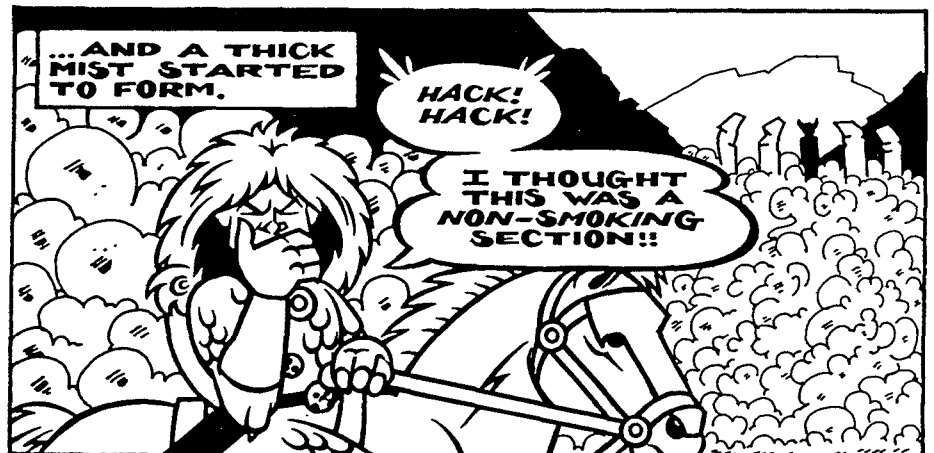
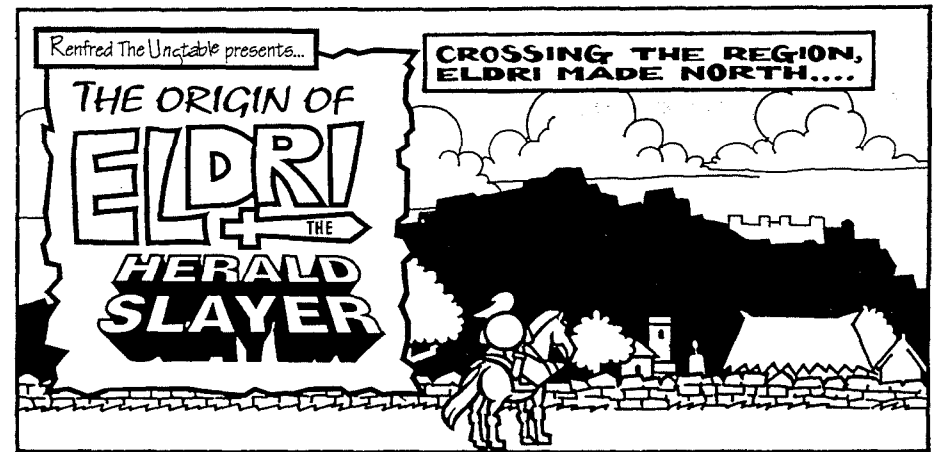
Greetings unto the Barony!

Warm congratulations are extended unto Their Majesties, Tjorkill and Elowyn, King and Queen of An Tir. Congratulations also to Duke Sir Rorik Gunnarson, and Countess Berengaria. We hope they enjoy their period of relaxation.

We hope you've all "recovered" from Christmas and New Year's, and wish you success in any resolutions you've made. It is going to be an exciting and fun-filled year, as we work to promote the Barony and the Crown Principality.

While we were unable to make it to Kingdom 12th Night, we really enjoyed the hospitality of the Principality of Artemesia at their investiture event. Congratulations are extended to Prince Etienne and Princess Jamala, with best wishes for an enjoyable reign. The event itself was great fun, and we were made to feel very welcome. They were excellent hosts, and we would encourage anyone to travel there if they have the opportunity. It was with great pride that we witnessed Sgt. Derik the Exile receive a Prince's Commendation award, and his Lady Marlyse receive the Gryphon's Heart.

On a different note, both of us feel very strongly about service and it is something we actively promote. We encourage everyone to assist others at events. This could include anything from serving at feasts, to helping with setup of other gentles' camps, from waterbearing, to picking up a dishtowel for a harried feastocrat. Even five minutes of your time would be greatly appreciated by someone who could use a hand. A smooth event, with all gentles cooperating and



An Tir Arts & Science Championship

March 4 & 5

Shire of Dragon's Laire welcomes An Tir to the 2nd Annual Kingdom Arts & Science Championship to be held in Belfair WA at the Sand Hill Elementary School.

The Site will open at 6 PM Friday evening and will close Sunday afternoon. There will be a special breakfast for judges and contestants at 8 am Saturday and judging will start at 9 am. The schedule of events is still being worked on but a pot luck feast is planned for Saturday night. Peerage meetings, a Crown Council, an informal fencers workshop, and a heavy fighter practice (weather permitting) are being planned. There will be space for display of items made by non-contestants. Please inform Orfhlaith Broinnfind IngenBhrian (Peggy Sue O'Brian) (206) 367-3120 before the event if you would like to display items in this area so adequate space can be set aside and help enlisted to watch over them.

If you would like a copy of the Championship rules, please contact the Kingdom Minister of Art & Science Ellen Fraser (Ellen Winnie), PO Box 39, Keyport WA 98345-0039 (206) 779-5979 until 9 PM only. Please send a SASE. Entrants need to be committed at 12th Night.

The site is a school and there are some restrictions that we will be expected to observe. There will be no smoking or alcohol allowed on site. If your entry includes alcohol, please contact Charles of Tanglewood and he will provide directions to his home (very near the school) where your entries will be stored and judged. We are not allowed to sell merchandise on site. The shire culinary guild has been given special permission to sell simple breakfasts and lunches for a modest fee on both days of the event.

There will be crash space in the gym Friday and Saturday nights (no tents please) and there is plenty of parking for RVs but no hookups. There is a motel and shopping one mile from the site. You will be given a special rate at the motel if you mention the SCA. Belfair State Park is just a few miles from the site.

Site fee is \$8 US if you pre-register and \$10 US at the event. Make all checks payable to the Shire of Dragon's Laire, SCA Inc. The pot luck is \$2 as we have to rent tables. The meat and bread will be provided so please bring enough of your favorite dish to feed 8 to 10 people.

Directions: Get out your map of Washington state and find your best route to Belfair on the shore of Hood Canal in North Mason county. From HWY 3 turn onto Hwy West 300, go through the four way intersection and turn right on Sand Hill Road. The school is on the top of the hill on your left.

The Co-Autocrats are Inga Calle (Deanna Devitt) 11 NE Kinman Road, Poulsbo WA 98370 (206) 779-3541 and Charles of Tanglewood (Charles Patterson) NE 280 Schooner Loop Belfair WA 98528 (206) 275-4417 (e-mail is deanna_devitt@tscnet.eskimo.com)

assisting, makes the entire time more enjoyable for everyone, and will be envied by all. It adds something for everyone.

In closing, we would like to say goodbye to Ladyship Elizabeth Llandaff. She leaves our great Barony for Three Mountains. They will be gaining a devoted Lady who will greatly enhance their populace. Best wishes, and good luck; you will be missed.

Adelaine and Alfheim

Announcements:

***** NOTE *****

- **Wednesday** meetings in Veraquilon are now held in Education North, room 4-110 at the U of A.

House of Erna : Custom Design and Fashion

Erna would like to announce her costuming service. For an appropriate fee, she will construct garb to your specifications. Alterations also a speciality. For discreet inquiries, contact HL Erna at 449-1593

- **Archery Practice** at the residence of Joan the Just has been discontinued for the winter.

- **Vacant** Baronial positions must be filled. List Mistress, Water Bearer. Those interested please send resumes to the Seneschal.

- **Baronial Meeting** will be held 12:30 pm, Saturday, February 4th at the Feast of the Evergreens, in Lakeland.

- NOTICE TO THE POPULACE OF THE BARONY!

Yes, things are starting to simmer at the Alberta Provincial Museum, in anticipation of Spring-in-the-Middle. Last year, 14,700 people went through the exhibit. This year, the exhibit will run from March 25 to April 17, 1995. The Faire will be held on March 26. There are two sleepovers planned; March 31 and April 7. The feast, which is already sold out, will be held April 1st. The special theme will be a Landsknecht encampment - complete with campfollowers!

If you would like to volunteer, or have

questions, ideas, or items to donate for the exhibit, please contact HL Erna Kajadotter. I will be attending the Canton of Veraquilon Business meetings for the months of January, February and March. Naturally, I can also be reached at home:

HL Erna Kajadotter
mka Karin Thirlwell
244 Regency Drive
Sherwood Park, AB
T8A 5P6

Phone: (403) 449-1593 (no calls after 9pm, please)
Yes, I have an answering machine.

- **The Groaning Board** has decided to release a list of their upcoming events, in order that participants may better prepare themselves (ie: making a special costume) if they so desire. These events will be held over the next couple of years. We encourage and appreciate any extra effort that guests make, and to that end, we will occasionally hold advance workshops if they are deemed helpful. Each event will include a free lecture (pertaining to the event theme), a period menu, special entertainment, and dancing. All reservations must be paid two weeks in advance of the event.

NOTICE : In order that we do not financially burden the Canton with our frequent events, we have decided that in future ALL RESERVATIONS MUST BE PAID IN FULL BY THE RESERVATION DEADLINE TO BE GOOD RESERVATIONS.

After the deadline, we will revert to our waiting list. There will be a maximum of 40 tickets sold.

Please make cheques payable to:
ASCA The Groaning Board

To make a reservation: HL Erna Kajadotter - 449-1593 (mka Karin Thirlwell), 244 Regency Drive, Sherwood Park, AB T8A 5P6)

Site: **** Note - Change of Location ****
February 11, 1995 : St. Steven Anglican Church basement, 10909 - 96 St., Edmonton, AB)

**FEAST OF THE EVERGREENS
AVACAL WINTER EVENT**

February 4, 1995, is the date for our traditional games event, in the Canton of Lakelands, Barony of Borealis, Grand Centre, AB. One and all are invited to attend the festivities, to be held in conjunction with the Avacal Winter Event. The day's activities include:

- Baronial meeting: 12:30pm - 2:00pm
- Baronial Swashbuckling Championship
2:00pm - 4:00pm
- Evergreens games Championship
2:00pm - 4:00pm
- Crown Principality Curia
4:00pm - 6:00pm

These activities will be taking place at the Assumption High School gym. It is located between the Catholic Church and the arena, on the left side of the highway as you enter Grand Centre (pass Macdonald's, Smitty's, before traffic lights).

The day's activities will be followed by a delicious feast at the Leisure Sports Village (LSV) commencing at 6:30pm. To get to the LSV, leave the school by the gravel road in front, pass the arena, pass the town office and the court house. The LSV will be right in front of you.

Costs: Feast (includes site fee): \$13.00
site fee only \$ 5.00
children 12 and under free
non-members pay and additional \$3.00

difficult to research areas of recreation in the Society. For instance--most of us know that a frontier-style calico dress and bonnet has no place in the SCA, but very few notice that an Appalachian folk ballad is just as much out of place. This is not to say that I do not support entertainers' right to play what audiences want to hear--a performer's duty indeed--only that I encourage finding and researching period material for contests specifically geared toward recreating Medieval performance. I hope this guide will prove helpful in other fields as well.

Documentation often looms as a frightening and arduous task, avoided by most. While some of this is due, no doubt, to prejudices we acquired in school, much is due to lack of information about contest expectations for documentation. The following chart is my attempt to convey that there can be good (and bad) documentation on every level of involvement from novice to master. Even very short or verbal only documentation can present a good deal of worthwhile information. I attempt to clarify what kinds of information and *presentation* are most useful, and I hope to dispel the myth that a full three-ring binder is the only way, or even the best way, to do good documentation. My goal for this form is to begin a kingdom conversation about documentation standards, and to create a quick, easy reference that contest and display sponsors can send out with their literature to encourage people to give research a try

It is important to recognize that this chart really only covers half the documentation process--the second half. This chart is focused on how to present information, and how much information to present *after it has been acquired*. Of course, the most important research concept is that it only works in one direction: *research first and then choose a period style or selection based on that research*--this is a concept that most of us keep relearning project after project. Even more important, perhaps, is the inherent reward and excitement which many people find in research, which almost invariably leads to a richer experience of the Middle Ages as we celebrate them in the SCA.

I hope this chart can give possible contest entrants, (and anyone else interested in sharing what they learn) some additional guidance in doing research and in presenting it in a way that judges can really use in the short amount of time usually available during contest judging. Remember that this chart conveys only the second half of the research process. The discovery of finding books and information which reflect our passions, and the joy inherent in honing our expertise, is less easily reduced to a chart. Please *feel free to copy and pass this chart on to anyone you think might be interested*.

"...The best of all boars broke from his cover,
That had ranged long unrivalled, a renegade old,
For of tough-brawned boars he was biggest far,
Most grim when he grunted - then were grieved many,
For three at the first thrust he threw to the earth,
And dashed away at once without more damage.
With "Hi!" "Hi!" and "Hey!" the others followed,
Had horns at their lips, blew high and clear.
Merry was the music of men and of hounds
That were bound after this boar, his bloodthirsty
heart to quell..."

- Sir Gawain and the Green Knight,
ca. 1375 - 1400 (author unknown)

Yes! The Groaning Board is back - this time we are in a German Hunting Lodge. The date is February 11, 1400; the snow is crisp, the lodge is cosy - is the hunt successful? We will have to see...

Meanwhile, back at the lodge, HL Eleanora fitz John will provide a free lecture (on site) from 4:30 to 5:30. The topic: The Hunt in the Middle Ages: ways, reasons, laws governing, social significance of, quarry.

Join us at the lodge at 6:00 pm if you prefer, for Feasting, Tall Tales, and Lusty Ballads. At 9:00 pm, we will break for dancing, courtesy of the Veraquilon dance troupe.

Reservation Deadline is: January 28, 1995

Tickets:	Adult	\$16.00
	Child	\$10.00
	Dessert & Dance (join us at 9 pm)	\$ 8.00

We will need four servers / clean-up crew, who will eat for free. Please call Erna if you would like to volunteer.

- I. German Hunting Lodge (c. 1400)
- II. Chaucer: an English tavern (c. 1350)
- III. Richard III: a Trial by his Peers (England, 1485)
- IV. Eleanor of Aquitaine and the Courts of Love (France, 1175)
- V. Midsummer's Eve: A Celebration (England, 1600)
- VI. Renaissance Masked Ball: All is Not What it Seems (Italy, 1460)
- VII. Don Quixote: Shades of Spain (1605)
- VIII. Hamlet: Something's Rotten in the State of Denmark! (Daneland, 1050)

- **Lost and Found** or rather, Found: At the St. Crispin's Feast, a pair of black pants.
Contact Jane Woods for information. 465-6811

Aurora Cover and Art Contest

The populace is asked to design, draw and submit artwork for a permanent cover for the Aurora. The winning entry will be picked by popular vote at Spring Faire in Veraquilon. Prizes will be awarded for the top entries. (Prizes have not be determined at this time, but will include a bottle of mead, and may include a bottle of Valgard's Brandy Plums). Non-winning entries will go into the pending art file and may be used as filler art in future issues, at the discretion of the Editors.

For further information contact the Chroniclers, Valgard and Edwina, at (403) 923-2864 (no calls after 10pm, please)

The History of a Good Idea or Documenting Your Work

by Ariel de Courtenay
Minister of Arts of the College of Wit's Haven

Our society is made rich by the work of thousands of people, intricately recreating the Middle Ages all around us. As the SCA grows, there are more and more avenues for the display and recognition of good work--from low-key, non-competitive displays to major kingdom competitions. Entering your work--from the simplest cross stitch favor to the most elaborate 12th Night ensemble, from your first attempt at mail to full Renaissance plate--in public forums like these is always a growing experience. One way to get more out of recreating the Middle Ages, both for yourself and others, is to research the kind of work you want to do, and to record what you discover so that others can learn from your process. Developing habits of documentation can give you a feeling of confidence and expertise which really add to the pleasure of creating and sharing your work.

Instead of being a pleasure, however, research and documentation has become for many a frustrating and onerous task because of its role in Society competitions. It can seem very intimidating to enter a contest, especially since, while many contests ask for documentation, few give detailed *or any* indication of what they expect. I have been involved with many major kingdom competitions especially in bardic arts and costuming, both as a competitor and a judge. I have heard judges, contest organizers and contestants all express concern, frustration, and even outrage about the lack of clear expectations and standards for contest documentation. To attempt to begin to create some documentation guidelines, I have been working on creating and distributing a simple, user-friendly chart. I have discussed my ideas with the Laurel I am apprenticed to, and with a few others. Currently another version of this article is going out to many people involved in arts leadership in the Kingdom. I am hoping, with all this exchange of information, both to provide information and inspire discussion. I would very much like feedback since it is my plan to create a class on documentation to teach at Ithras and possibly contest events.

In the meantime, I have drawn on my experience and observations to create the following chart as a way to begin tackling the subject. I wrote out the following guide based on my most recent experience judging Amergin's Revenge Bardic competition, so my thoughts were especially inspired by the difficulties of documenting performance, which I believe is one of the most unresearched and

Please reserve before January 31, and indicate to the autocrat whether or not you require crash space.

Autocrats:

Elizabetta D'Inigma
Chris Durocher (403) 826-7531

Igraine of Hybernia
Pearl-Ann Gooding (403) 594-5961

COME ONE! COME ALL!

and drive the cold winter away
at the February Tavern Night
Wednesday, February 1 @ 8:00 pm
Capilano Hall - 5400 - 108A Avenue
Canton of Veraquilon
Gaming, dancing,
jovial conversation with dear friends
AND A RAFFLE!!

Tickets - one gold piece (mundanely known as a loonie)
Prizes - a metal sword
- material to make a tunic
- a medieval book

Sponsored by the newly-formed Membership
Committee:

Sgt. Edward Bolden
Lord Otto Gruber
Alys Sylfrloc

Interacting with History

or “Why and How to Present Documentation”

Level of Effort:	What works:	What doesn't work:
Minimal, but Perfectly Acceptable:	Verbal citation of period source with brief explanation of presentation choices: what you are & are not recreating (and why not--time, etc.)	No explanation of choices. Descriptions of period practice with no mention of sources. Obviously unperiod work.
Pretty Easy:	Copies from book(s) including citation, applicable parts highlighted. Enough copies for all the judges.	Book(s), or copies of pages from unknown book(s), nothing highlighted. Not enough copies.
Some Effort:	Copies from book(s), applicable parts high-lighted, notes in margin or on another paper saying how highlighted parts support presenter's choices (complete sentences not necessary).	Obscure highlighted parts which may even contradict presentation choices (I've seen this, no kidding). Sources which support piece, but don't prove it period.
Basic Amount for scoring High Points on documentation:	Very short paper (1 page or less) quoting from book(s) including bibliographic citation(s), copies used only for images, clearly labeled as to what aspect of piece they demonstrate.	Short paper which makes claims, but which doesn't quote or cite sources for support. Snowstorm of copies of text passages which could have been summarized.
Likely to score High Points:	Paper of any length (<i>few copies</i>), quoting as above, with big section headings along with enough copies of <i>cover sheets</i> for all judges, outlining paper <i>in brief</i> with notes directing reader to supporting sections of paper.	Long paper, with no road signs, which the judges can't possibly read in the short time available, or which they don't even get to see because there aren't enough copies.
Very Likely to score high points:	Paper as above, which includes sections on 1) historical background, 2) period examples, and 3) <i>presenter's choices about presenting</i> --your process, how you interact with history.	Long paper with lots of historical information, and no indication of <i>how that information contributed to, or influenced your choices in preparing the piece.</i>
Excellent Preparation for Competitions (as well as personally inspiring learning experience):	Paper as above, with copies of period work including notes on how each justifies various aspects of piece, as well as an honest listing of <i>departures from period techniques</i> and why (cost, modern equivalents, etc.).	Examples of period work with no indication as to what aspect of piece they support. Major aspects left out (i.e. color choice but not fabric). Hoping that departures from period won't be noticed.
Highest Level Necessary for Competitions:	Paper as above, with primary reliance on <i>original source material</i> . (Sources written or painted, etc. during the period you are studying.)	Having all that hard work be less valuable because you depended on mistaken impressions of secondary sources (like prudish Victorians).
Above and Beyond --you've fallen in love with the topic:	Paper as above, suitable for publication in <i>TI</i> or <i>CA</i> , or which makes an original scholarly contribution to the field.	Writing a great article that is so technical and obscure or lengthy that no one will want to read it.