

Judges' Guidance – Bookbinding

For all entries: If you are not familiar with this type of art/science, can the entrant explain clearly the information you seek, based on their knowledge and research, in a verbal format?

Documentation:

- Did the documentation include a list of the materials, techniques and tools that were used, and dates of when types of materials, techniques, and tools were available to be used?
- Did it explain what the particular entry was and where and when it would have been used during period?
- Did the documentation explain any special purpose or use of the model?
- To what degree did the entrant explain the selection of design elements, materials, and styles appropriate to the project?
- Were appropriate examples of recipes, design/decorative elements, and styles in the form of drawings, pictures, or photos of work stages or diagrams included?
- Did the entrant cite examples, list sources, and include a bibliography?
- Were appropriate examples of the period piece included?
- Did the entrant explain changes &/or compromises made in the creation of item/s and rationale for any substitutions?
- Was the documentation organized, legible and well-structured?

Complexity:

- What was the variety used and difficulty attempted with respect to media being bound, binding style, materials, techniques, and design elements?
- How much material was bound?
- How complex was the scope (i.e., size of work and amount of detail and decoration) of the entry?
- Did the entrant make specialized tools required for the project?
- Did the entrant undertake extended techniques (e.g., mixing dyes &/or glues using pre-1600 recipes/techniques, gilding, leather tooling, metalwork, etc.)?
- What form(s) of binding decoration were undertaken?

Creativity:

- Did the entrant make an exact copy of a period piece?
- To what degree did the entrant produce a binding that is not an exact copy of the model(s)?
- Did the entrant base an original work on a period piece?
- Was the entry presented in a creative manner?
- Did the entrant personalize the finished binding using pre-1600 design elements and details?
- How well did the entrant adapt use of modern materials, tools, and techniques towards the production of a pre-1600 effect?
- Overall, was this an "original" binding that would have been acceptable within a pre-1600 context?

Authenticity:

- Were the binding style and associated decorative elements appropriate to the entrant's stated time frame &/or culture for the project?
- To what degree did the entrant use pre-1600 media, materials, tools, and techniques to produce the finished work?
- Overall, to what degree could the entry be mistaken a fine period work?

Aesthetic qualities:

- Was the product finished properly?
- Was it attractively presented?
- Did it look and feel the way it should?
- Was artistry shown in the choice of materials used?
- Was the overall effect pleasing, beautiful, or useful?
- Was design and construction appropriate for the purpose designated?
- Was binding and application of any decorative elements consistent and well proportioned?
- Were there obvious errors and/or corrections or repairs?

Workmanship:

- Was the basic binding itself (by pre-1600 standards) appropriate and consistently well executed?
- Was the binding sturdy and did it operate well?
- Were decorative element(s) applied well aligned, consistent, and completed with skill?
- Overall, did the design elements of the binding and any decoration work appropriately together (by pre-1600 standards)?
- Overall, how well did the entry achieve the design and purpose(s) proposed by the entrant?