

Poetry Judging Criteria

DOCUMENTATION (1-10): Must have at least "EZ Doc" information. More is acceptable, although one or two pages (not counting visuals and bibliography) should be more than enough. If your documentation is more than three pages for exceptionally detailed and in-depth work, you should provide an executive summary. The best documentation will cover what they did in period, what the creator did in the project, and why the difference (if any). It will explain any conscious compromises made, and provide references as well as any original research or experimentation as it applies to the project. Footnotes may be helpful. Give score based on the following considerations:

- A minimum of: What it is, Where is it from, When is it from, Characteristics of style for that period, and References.
- Techniques used during the process
- Research (country, period of origin, typical characteristics, etc), visual and descriptive references (books, portraits, etc.) if relevant, from reliable sources
- Artistic design in terms of particular devices or techniques in terms of the conventions of the times, the limits of the form, justification for unusual themes or devices; explanations of possible obscurities, explanation of the relationship of subject, theme, conventions, literary devices, as appropriate to choice of form and to social context of specified place and time, using period examples.

AUTHENTICITY (1-10 points):

- 0: Extremely out of period form (Ex., free verse) or out of period variation on period form (Ex., rhymes that are clearly modern in concept)
- 1-2: Period form containing glaring anachronisms
- 3: Period form with obviously non-period elements in style, themes, subject; OR period subject and themes, but non-period form; OR obvious mixture of elements from incompatible periods or cultures (e.g. courtly love in Norse verse).
- 4: Period form but subject inappropriate to or inconsistent to form OR one or two slight inconsistencies or subtle anachronisms in theme or subject (Must score 4 or above to be eligible for the Golden Violet)
- 5-6: Few if any slight inconsistencies in form, theme, subject, method; overall, the work has the flavor and character of its period
- 7-8: No anachronisms or inconsistencies in form, theme, subject. Some attempt at proper use of period diction and phrasing.
- 9-10: Proper use of period language and vocabulary (or reasonable equivalent if style would have required a foreign language); special effort to use themes, literary devices, language, sentiments, subjects, conventions, etc. as appropriate to form and consistent with each other; appropriateness to a specified time-place context or occasion

COMPLEXITY (1-10 points) Rank the ambition of the entry, not the workmanship, scale of 1-10 based on the following:

- Precise literary use of puns or double entendres (dreadful puns excluded)

- Good job of mood setting, use of period conventions, precise literary use of puns, symbols, allegory, extended metaphor
- Number and variety of period conventions, symbolism, allegory, extended metaphor, allusion, etc.
- Use of period vocabulary and period grammar; i.e., use of kennings in alliterative verse or conceits in sonnets
- Form (examples: narrative couplets -very easy, ballads -easy, triolets and rondels --average, sonnets and villanelles -above average, alliterative and complex acrostics -hard, complex fixed forms--very hard, depending on the way the form is used. For short forms, complexity may be demonstrated by a stricter adherence to formal rules or conventions in the original language. For example, the use of counted "on(morae)" in a tanka would be more complex than counted syllables.)
- Subject and theme, including levels of meaning attempted.
- Appropriateness of form to subject matter of work.

WORKMANSHIP (1-10): Rank the quality of execution and success of the entry on a scale of 1-10 based on the following:

- Application of form (including technical details of rhyme, meter, alliteration, etc. as applicable)
- Use of language and vocabulary, including grammar and literary devices
- Clarity and logic
- Use of conventions as appropriate
- Special appropriateness to time, place, person, occasion, or situation

OVERALL IMPRESSION (1-10 points) Evaluate the work as a whole, rating the complete effect and appeal beyond the mere technical proficiency. Consider how you react to the entry & how the entrant seems to have related to the materials, processes & finished project. For troubadour poems, did they demonstrate any of the three vital qualities of power, knowledge, and longing?

Consider:

- Difficult to read or reasoning cloudy?
- More than one level of meaning?
- Presentation and your intuitive response?