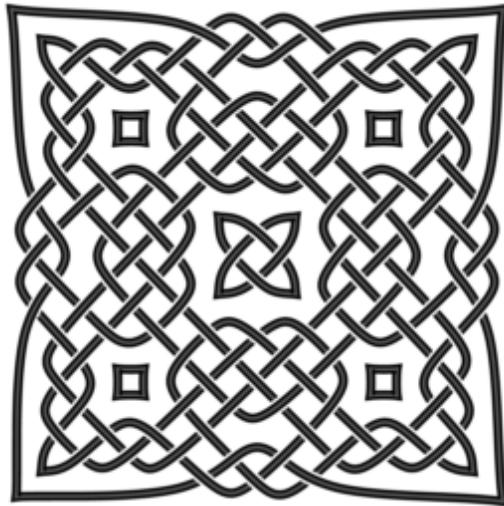


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## Overview

The purpose of this handbook is to provide a guide to the requirements for entering the Kingdom of An Tir Arts and Sciences Championship, which takes place the first weekend of March. This event is an opportunity for artisans from all corners of the Kingdom to come together to create, to learn and to compete for the mantle of Kingdom Arts and Sciences Champion. If you wish to enter this competition, but have questions that have not been addressed here, then please contact the Kingdom Minister of Arts and Sciences.

The duties and privileges of the Arts and Sciences Champion, as outlined in Kingdom Law (as of July 2001, check for changes in recent versions), are as follows;

### **ARTICLE III – CHAMPIONS**

*The Kingdom Champions shall be considered Officers of the Royal Court, but are selected through competition, rather than by appointment. Society membership is required to enter any championship competition, to meet qualification criteria of Corpora (V, C, 2, b) for all officers. The Champion of An Tir, the Champion of Rapier Combat, the Kingdom Protector, and the Arts and Sciences Champion shall collectively be referred to herein as the Champions. The Champion's terms of service shall be for a period of approximately one year until the next championship tournament is held. If a Champion should become an Heir to the Crown or Coronet, that Champion shall surrender the championship, and in all cases the Crown shall choose a suitable replacement. Champions agree to allow personal access information in applicable publications and on appropriate websites.*

A. *The Champions may not be Kingdom Great Officers. They may hold other offices and titles, providing their Kingdom office is not responsible for a championship tournament in which they are competing.*

**B. Duties of all champions:**

- 1) *To swear an oath of fealty and service to the Crown.*
- 2) *To defend the honor and prestige of the Crown and the Kingdom of An Tir, whenever such is challenged.*
- 3) *To support the Crown in war. To take the field at the Crown's command.*
- 4) *To attend all Crown Events, unless that champion receives permission from the Crown not to do so.*
- 5) *To maintain membership in the Society during the champion's term of service.*
- 6) *To speak or act in the Crown's name when delegated to do so.*
- 7) *To further the interests of their area of endeavor.*

**C Rights and privileges of all champions:**

- 1) *To have a place at the high table for the champion and an escort.*
- 2) *To stand armed near the Crown at all events.*
- 3) *To be at the side of the Crown in war.*
- 4) *To bear and display the regalia of their position.*
- 5) *To be exempt from site fees at Kingdom level events.*

### Obligations

There are very few obligations outlined in Kingdom Law for the Arts and Sciences Championship. The victor is selected “to further the interests of their area of endeavor”, and to represent the arts and sciences in the Kingdom. Each previous Champion has performed this duty by utilizing his or her own unique skills.

### Entering the Competition

Competitors for the Championship must notify, in writing, the King, Queen (or Their designated representative) and the Arts and Sciences Minister by the Twelfth Night before the event. If you are not entering for overall Champion, but are entering in the single entry category or the in-depth feedback category you need only notify the Arts and Sciences Minister. Artisans entering in the single entry or in-depth feedback category should clearly indicate this on their notification. This notification must include; your name and branch, any fealty relationships you have (are you someone's apprentice, protégé or squire?), a detailed description of each of your entries, and any special requirements you need from the Arts and Sciences office or the site. Notification is necessary so that the A&S minister and staff may find appropriate judges for all the entries and deal with any scheduling issues that may arise from your choice of entries. Entries must fall within the generally accepted dates (pre-1650) and cultures of the SCA. This includes European, Middle and Far Eastern, Russian etc. An entry can be an object you have made, a performance piece or a research paper. If you are concerned as to whether your entry meets these criteria, then contact the Kingdom A&S Minister.

Any resident of An Tir may enter single items in the competition. Entrants in the Championship must have been a resident of the Kingdom for 6 months. The interpretation of the Kingdom Law by the Kingdom Seneschal is you must be a member to enter, so please bring proof of membership if you are entering for overall Champion. All entrants must attend the Competition. Interaction with the judges and with other entrants is as valuable or perhaps even more valuable than scores.

At the event your entries will be set up “County Fair” style (all together in one place) in a large room along with other contestants’ entries. You will be responsible for setting up your entries. Each item will be judged by a panel of three judges who have expertise in the area of the entry. The judges will come and

meet with each contestant at his or her display. They will discuss the entry with you in detail. The judges will ask many questions. These questions are not meant to intimidate you, but to get a better understanding of what you were trying to achieve with the item and to find out the depth and breadth of your knowledge on the item. You can also ask questions of the judges. The time with the judges is your chance to educate them about your item. Take the time to do this. Do not assume they know that you grew, spun and wove the flax to make the Elizabethan shirt you have on display. Organize your thoughts before the judges arrive making notes if necessary on the critical points you want them to notice.

Judging time is limited to a maximum of 30 minutes per entry. This 30 minutes includes the time speaking with the contestant and examining the item, as well as any discussion the judges may have between themselves and the time it takes to fill in the judging forms. Judging times will be scheduled as well as possible so that each contestant may have time to relax between items. Whether a contestant is entering one item or is a contestant for "Champion" the judging criteria remain the same.

Scheduling the judging slots to find the best possible people for each entry can be very complex. For this reason once your entries are submitted they must not be changed. If there is some reason that you feel you need to make a change you should contact the A&S Minister. If the Minister allows it you will be able to make the change. After February 1st no changes will be allowed at all.

### **Single Entries**

Although the culmination of this event is the choosing of a new Champion, you may also enter single or multiple items without the goal of becoming the overall "Champion". Due to time and space restrictions you may enter no more than three single entries. These items will be judged in the same manner as the entrants for "Champion".

### **Group Entries**

In period it was often the case that more than one artisan would work on a project. This is something we also wish to encourage for the single entry category. When judging it is the object as a whole, not the work of any individual person, which will be

judged. If you are entering a group entry you should document the allocation of work in period. For instance often in period the production of a manuscript one person did the calligraphy, while another would do the illumination and yet another would do the book binding. This is a very new concept for the Kingdom A&S Championship and as such will likely need some of the kinks worked out as we go. If you are interested in entering a project like this please contact the Kingdom Arts and Sciences Minister to discuss your idea in greater detail.

### **In-depth Feedback**

Recognizing that not all artisans wish to enter competitions, but do wish to get in-depth feedback on their work, we will allow a new forum for this type of “entry”. The artisans must still create and document their work in the same manner as any other single entry, but in these instances no scoring will take place. Instead the entrant will only receive the in-depth constructive criticism that all entrants receive. The entrants in this non-scored format will have the option of going over the scoring sheet with the judge who will explain the scores they could expect on their entry if they had entered the competition. This new forum is designed to take away some of the stress many artisans feel when presenting their work in a competition format. NOTE: Only one judge, instead of three, will be assigned to review your work in this category.

### **Research Papers**

Instead of entering an object you can enter a research paper. Your paper may be on any topic that explores, in depth, some aspect of medieval life, culture, history, trade, etc. Three copies of the paper (double-spaced and typed) must reach the Arts and Sciences Minister, by 12<sup>th</sup> night (Don't send the original). Please make sure you follow the MLA or Chicago manual of style for the conventions of your paper.

### **Compositions**

You may also enter a music composition as an entry. You should be prepared to send a copy of the score to the Arts and Sciences Minister, to arrive by 12<sup>th</sup> night (Don't send the original). A listening sample is also recommended.

### **Documentation**

Every entry (except Research Papers), including single entries and entries submitted for in-depth feedback, should include clear, concise documentation. The documentation should include any information that backs up your assertions. Documentation is a written report on your entry. It is your chance to show your knowledge in black and white. Although you may feel writing is not one of your strong suits, the documentation is an important part of your entry. It can also be a valuable tool in ensuring you cover all the information you wish to convey to the judges, but may forget during your oral presentation. The documentation also gives the judges the chance to reflect on your entry in a format different from your verbal presentation. Please ensure your documentation is in a clear, easy-to-read font. Although medieval-looking style fonts can look nice, keep in mind they are usually not very legible and should be avoided (but are acceptable for titles and subject headings). If you find putting together your documentation is too daunting then seek out someone who can help you organize your thoughts and put them together. The important thing is that the documentation be your thoughts. The following are points that should be included in your documentation, along with some sample questions to help frame your entry. Remember these questions are just examples and you should not feel limited to just these questions. Expand or contract your explanations according to the needs of your entry.

- Description of the item - What is it? Who used it? How was it use in period? Etc.
- Historic context of the item - Where is it from? What time period(s) did it exist in? What country or region is it from? Etc.
- Process(es) involved in producing the item. What was the inspiration for the item? How was the item designed? Are you familiar with the processes and tools that would have been used in period, and how those differ from those of today?
- Choices made regarding item – Why did you choose to use one technique over another? Did you use modern materials instead of period ones? Why did you choose to utilize designs from different regions or countries or time periods? Etc.
- A brief summary paragraph that draws together the above (no new points brought up).
- A complete source listing (“source” rather than bibliography because a source can be anything; a book, a musical score, an artifact, etc.)

- Include photographs or samples of your process if they help. For example, if you tried several different period dyes for your wool, then including samples to show the judges the results can be useful, perhaps as part of an appendix.

Throughout the explanation above, sources should be used to support your assertions. Use of primary sources is encouraged, although you are not expected to have access to extant objects. For the purposes of the Arts & Sciences competition a picture of an object will be considered a primary source (but if you do have actual period objects, that is even better!). Keep in mind, even primary source pictures or an actual item do not replace the written portion of the documentation. You still need to have the above supporting material.

Supporting sources in your documentation do need to be referenced. This can be accomplished through footnotes (use MLA or Chicago manual of style and be consistent in your choice) or through the use of parenthetical references in the text pinpointing the source. For example:

*The best beds in Elizabethan households were all the more valuable because of their magnificent hangings, often richly worked in embroidery (Digby, 27).*

The source list would then include a full reference for Digby: author, title, place of publication, publisher, date of publication.

Notes may also be helpful in supporting a specific point, but think carefully before including them. If a note is important enough it should probably be included in the body of the text. Notes are especially useful when inserting the information in the body would break the flow of the text. This is especially helpful in the case of an original translation. For example:

### *Dog Fish*

*Boil it similarly as is said in this other capital, then with strong garlic sauce,\* mixed also with a little of very strong mustard. And fry a little, together with these daubings. But dress it well, as it shall not ever be good when its nature is unpleasant.*

\* Florio - 'Agliata, a meate used in Italie made of walnuts and garlic'. Florio's 'meate' is not animal flesh, but rather a mixture or condiment. Ep. 1598 translates 'agliata' simply as garlic.

The accompanying source list would then include a full reference for Florio and for Ep. 1598 including author, title, place of publication, publisher, date of publication, etc.

There is no limit on the length allowed for your documentation. Make it only the length you absolutely require to get across the necessary information. Keep in mind, that documentation that is long and contains unnecessary information will detract from what you are really trying to convey. Well-organized documentation ensures that any information you wish to show the judges can be found quickly and easily. Remember the total amount of time the judges have for your item is 30 minutes.

### **What the Judges are looking for**

The Kingdom A&S Championship was set up to be the most challenging arts and sciences competition in the Kingdom. However it is not just about creating a pretty object. It is also about the process involved in learning the methods used during the period and trying to follow these methods as closely as possible. Obviously it is not necessarily possible to re-create these items with all the materials and methods used in period; however you should still have done the research to know what these were and explain how yours differs.

The judges are not looking for museum replicas of period objects, but they are looking for items based on the period ideals and techniques. For example, if you are making an item from Celtic Britain you would not decorate it with a pattern from Renaissance Italy, unless you can provide documentation establishing this was indeed possible that the pattern was found in both contexts. This does not preclude an entrant from using creativity in creating their entry but any theories used should be backed up with a logical reasoning for their use. This is particularly necessary for early period items where the entrant may not necessarily have much in way of research materials and must hypothesize in his or her theories. The judges would like to see concrete examples that explain of why you chose to do something in a particular way as much as is reasonably possible whenever reasonably possible. For example, if you decorate your tart with a specific pattern of sugar show an example of the pattern being used in period.

When using modern materials or techniques instead of period materials, for whatever reason, the entrant should try to use a modern replacement that resembles the period material or

method as closely as possible. Substituting materials for availability, health and cost reasons are all valid – just be prepared to back up your choices. Did you choose to use the modern starch because it was handy or because you couldn't find or make period starch?

### Entrants for Champion

- A minimum of 4 and a maximum of 5 entries is required to enter for the overall “Champion”.
- Each entrant must have at least 1 Art entry and 1 Science entry which shall be defined by the entrant. An Arts entry is generally an entry with more artistic elements, while a Science entry is more technical in nature. In general all entries will have elements of both. In the past these have been strictly defined and have left little room for the person making (science) and decorating (arts) a box as opposed to a person doing just one or the other. It also did not take into account the period nature of the craft. In the modern world cooking is considered an Art. In the Medieval and Renaissance world it was a science. If you need help deciding where your entry fits please feel free to get in touch with the Kingdom Minister of Arts and Sciences.
- Of the 4 entries you may have 1 entry in which an element may also be entered separately. For example, if you make a full Italian Renaissance dress with an elaborately embroidered sleeve, then the dress may be entered as a full costume and the sleeve can be entered as embroidery. Keep in mind that if you wish to enter a cross-entry like this, then each entry should be adequate to stand up as a full entry on its own.
- Categories – In the past, the Championship information listed all the possible categories and sub-categories that entries might fit into. New categories were always being created to include items that did not fit into specific existing categories. Also some entries might cross over into two or more categories and pigeonholing them in one was not always the best way to get good feedback for the entrant. Due to these difficulties we will no longer have specific categories but instead ask that you are specific in your description of your project when entering so that we will have the necessary information to find the best set of people to judge the object.
- You may not enter the same object in more than two Kingdom A&S Championships.

On the Saturday of the competition each entry will be judged by a panel of 3 judges, who have expertise in the area of the object. At the end of the day the top scoring 2 or 3 entrants (depending

on the closeness of the overall scores) shall be the finalists for the Sunday judging. The Kingdom Minister of Arts and Sciences in consultation with their Majesties and the Sunday Judges will determine the number of finalists.

The finalists for Sunday present 3 entries before a panel of 5 judges, TRM and any Populace who are interested in watching. The 5 judges for Sunday are selected from former Champions and the order of the Laurel. While the Saturday judges are selected for their specialized knowledge of the crafts, on Sunday we select judges who have an excellent overall knowledge of the arts as they will have to judge entries from many disciplines.

### **Judging of Finalists**

Finalists will determine which items they will present on Sunday and may present them in any order he or she prefers. The winner of a coin toss will have the choice of going first or second. In the case of three finalists the person who draws the short straw will choose which order. The entrants will take turns presenting their entries and will be allotted 30 minutes to present each.

The Sunday panel is looking for the best representative for the arts and sciences in An Tir. The Sunday judges are given the finalists' judging forms from the Saturday judging as a reference guide, but the criteria for Sunday are somewhat different. The Sunday judges are "scoring" the entrants on three criteria, presentation, depth, and breadth. They are looking for a person who can teach, a person who is an expert and a person who is a generalist. They are trying to find the person that best combines these three things into one package.

### Presentation (the teacher)

The Arts and Sciences Champion will be called on throughout the year to teach formally and informally. They will be asked to speak to groups on their experience entering the Arts and Sciences competition. They will be put into a position where they will need to "present" themselves and their arts many, many times. It is therefore important that they have good presentation skills.

Some of the questions the Sunday judges will be asking themselves regarding the presentation skills of each finalist are; How well are the entrants presenting the material to the judges, Their Majesties and the Populace? Are they engaging everyone in their presentation? Are they communicating their excitement

about the project? Are they organized in their thoughts and do they present the material in a concise manner that is easy to follow? How do they handle questions? Are they teaching or lecturing? What is their presentation style like? Relaxed? Tense? Excited? Matter-of-fact? Will they inspire others with their presentation?

### Depth (the expert)

The Arts and Sciences Champion will be called on as an expert in the specific areas they entered. They will be asked throughout the year to spread that knowledge throughout the Kingdom. Therefore it is important that they have a deep understanding of their entries and of the context of their crafts.

Here are some of the questions that the Sunday judges will be asking themselves about the depth of knowledge each finalist displays: How detailed are the entrant's knowledge on the specific projects that they are presenting? Have they explored, in depth, all aspects of the project? Do they have a detailed understanding of the body of existing work on their craft? Have they performed the work from a practical and scholarly perspective? Do they know where the gaps in their knowledge lie? Are any assumptions they make backed up with research? Will they inspire others with their depth of knowledge?

### Breadth (the generalist)

The Arts and Sciences Champion will be expected to know a great deal about many different and diverse forms of arts and sciences (or at least know where to point the inquisitive person who wants to learn more about 16<sup>th</sup> century pottery spittoons). Therefore it is important that they have a broad base of knowledge and experiences to draw from.

When considering a finalist's breadth the judges take many factors into account. How wide is the entrant's knowledge on topics that inform the presentation? Have they explored related arts or sciences in the process of completing this project? How many different techniques and talents were used in creating this project? What are the other entries they have chosen to present? Will they inspire others with their breadth of knowledge?

### Prizes for Entries

Whether a person has entered the competition for overall “Champion” or with a single entry, each is eligible for various prizes awarded during the competition. These prizes include; Populace’s Choice, Crown’s Choice, Competitors’ Choice, Judges’ Choice and highest overall score for a single entry. Other than the prize for highest overall score there are no criteria set for the awarding of these prizes, it is simply a forum where those attending the event can vote on any entry that appeals to them. These prizes will be awarded at final court on Sunday.

### More Information

There is lots more information available on the Kingdom Arts and Sciences Championship on the An Tir A&S web page. This includes the history of the Championship, as well as the thoughts and memories of former Arts and Sciences Champions. If you have questions you will find all of these people very approachable (contact information will be available on the web page). If you are thinking of entering the competition it is recommended that you read this valuable information for more insight into the competition. What you will also gain from reading the thoughts of the former Champions is a sense of the diversity each brought to the position.

### Conclusion

More than anything you should consider the Kingdom Arts and Sciences Competition as a personal challenge. Challenging yourself to push further than you have gone before. Finding that last detail which will make the project right. Using real birch bark for your hat stiffener instead of modern materials. Spinning the silk for your knitting instead of using commercially available threads. Or hand-dyeing the leather for your shoes using a period recipe instead of getting the dye out of a bottle. The process of creating a piece as close to period as possible will become a huge personal challenge. This will be reflected in the work and in the enthusiasm you support your piece with.

**We look forward to seeing the diverse works of the Kingdom’s artisans at the next Championship!**

