

Embellishers' Guild Information, Policy and Guidelines

(rev. 21 Aug 2017, this revision supersedes all previous revisions)

The Embellishers' Guild is one of the Guilds in the Kingdom of An Tir.

Guild Memberships:

Membership is open to everyone. All meetings are open to everyone. There are currently no membership dues collected and no plans for membership dues to be collected.

Current Guild Minister:

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Regional Guild Ministers/Deputies:

In order to facilitate management of the guild over the vast distances of our beloved Kingdom of An Tir, the guild has developed positions for regional and/or group guild ministers (sub-guild ministers). These ministers have simple duties, mostly involving collecting new member applications and holding challenges at local events. The purpose of these is to create and advance interest and membership in the guild and encourage members to learn new crafts and skills.

Additionally, places are available for regional challenge deputies, who are charged with holding and/or helping to organize challenges in their area. These deputies can work on every event which has challenges, or only one.

Please consult the documents 'Embellishers' Regional Guilds' ([regional_guild_guidelines.pdf](#)) and 'How to Run Challenges' ([how_to_challenges.pdf](#)) for more details.

Guild Badge:

The guild badge (designed and submitted by Alicia le Wilfulle; it is now an officially registered badge) can be used by any guild member. Those with the rank of member will be asked to use an uncolored/un-embellished badge. As the person rises in guild rank different colors can be used to embellish the badge in whatever manner/design (as long as the main structure of the badge is not infringed upon). Some ideas for this embellishment include having different colored threads threaded through the needle, simple decoration (e.g. circles) along the hammer handle, etc. To discover which colors correspond to which guild rank, see the guild ranking information.

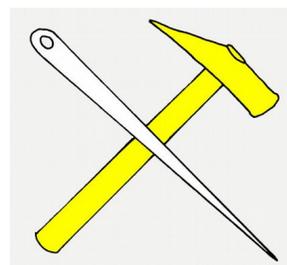


Illustration 1: Embellishers' Guild Badge: Designed by Alicia le Wilfulle

Guild Motto:

The motto is 'It Needs a Little Something...'

Guild Ranking:

There are six ranks within the guild:

- I. **Member** – has indicated interest in the guild and filled out a membership form. A member can wear or show the guild's badge, without any colors or beads associated with rank (see the various rankings below).

- II. **Junior Student** – has submitted for evaluation and had accepted one (1) piece at a working knowledge level
 - A. Color of bead or embellishment on badge: Blue.
- III. **Senior Student** – has submitted for evaluation and had accepted:
 - A. One (1) piece at a competency knowledge level, and
 - B. One (1) additional piece at a working knowledge level
 - C. Color of bead or embellishment on badge: Green.
- IV. **Journeyman** –
 - A. Has submitted for evaluation and had accepted four (4) pieces of which at least two (2) must be of competency knowledge level and the remaining two (2) can be at working knowledge level
 - B. and, one of the following:
 - i. teach an accepted form of embellishment as a class at least once (see below, under 'Teaching' for more information) or,
 - ii. mentor and teach one (1) member of the guild to working knowledge level in an accepted form of embellishment
 - C. Color of bead or embellishment on badge: Red.
- V. **Craftsman** –
 - A. Has submitted for evaluation and had accepted eight (8) pieces of which at least four (4) must be at competency knowledge level. The other four (4) can be at the working knowledge level
 - B. and, has participated in evaluating guild challenges and contests
 - C. and, one of the following:
 - i. mentor and teach one (1) member of the guild to competency knowledge level in an accepted form of embellishment or,
 - ii. mentor and teach two (2) members of the guild to working knowledge level in an accepted form of embellishment or,
 - iii. teach 1 or more of the accepted embellishment forms in which you have achieved a competency knowledge rating* for a total of two classes.
 - D. and, one of the following:
 - i. mentor and teach one (1) member of the guild to competency knowledge level in a second accepted form of embellishment or,
 - ii. mentor and teach two (2) members of the guild to working knowledge level in a second accepted form of embellishment or,
 - iii. teach 1 or more of the accepted embellishment forms in which you have achieved a competency knowledge rating* in guild challenges for a total of two classes.
 - E. Color of bead or embellishment on badge: Purple.
- VI. **Artisan** –
 - A. has submitted for evaluation and had accepted twelve (12) pieces of which:
 - i. at least four (4) must be at expert knowledge level,
 - ii. at least four (4) must be at competency knowledge level,
 - iii. the remaining four (4) pieces may be at working knowledge level. However the guild would like to strongly suggest that at artisan ranking a minimum of competency knowledge level be attained for these remaining four (4) pieces. If the guild member decides to submit working knowledge level pieces, please be aware that at the artisan ranking, even working knowledge pieces must be complete. A “work in progress” is not acceptable at this rank.

* as determined by passing a challenge in that form at that knowledge level.

* as determined by passing a challenge in that form at that knowledge level.

- B. and, has participated in evaluating guild challenges and contests
- C. and, one of the following:
 - i. mentor and teach one (1) member of the guild to expert knowledge level in an accepted form of embellishment, or,
 - ii. mentor and teach two (2) members of the guild to competency knowledge level in an accepted form of embellishment, or,
 - iii. teach 1 or more of the accepted embellishment forms in which you have achieved an expert knowledge rating* in guild challenges for a total of six classes.
- D. and, one of the following:
 - i. mentor and teach one (1) member of the guild to expert knowledge level in a second accepted form of embellishment, or,
 - ii. mentor and teach two (2) members of the guild to competency knowledge level in a second accepted form of embellishment, or,
 - iii. teach 1 or more of the accepted embellishment forms in which you have achieved an expert knowledge rating* in guild challenges for a total of six classes.
- E. Color of bead or embellishment on badge: Black.

Levels of Knowledge:

- I. **Working** – must achieve a minimum of the following:
 - A. Demonstrate a basic understanding of the work. Most mistakes should be recognized by the challenger and important concepts of the chosen form of embellishment understood for future correction;
 - B. May be an unfinished work or a work in progress if the sample is sufficiently large to demonstrate ability. Note however, that If this knowledge level is to be used for challenging at the Artisan ranking, the piece **MUST** be finished. (18 July 2017 – take this Note out, there is really no way to be sure of this and it doesn't matter frankly!).
- II. **Competency** – must achieve a minimum of the following:
 - A. Demonstrate a thorough understanding of the work. Mistakes should be few and of minor impact;
 - B. Must be a finished and usable work (i.e. on a garment or on a completed project);
 - C. Must be accompanied by a minimum of oral documentation (see below for an explanation of oral versus written documentation); written documentation is **strongly** encouraged.
- III. **Expert** – must achieve a minimum of the following:
 - A. Demonstrate a complete knowledge of the work. If there are mistakes, the evaluators should be very hard pressed to find them;
 - B. The work must be authentic in concept and execution;
 - C. It must be a finished and usable work (i.e. on a garment or on a completed project);
 - D. The work must demonstrate the various aspects of that particular form;
 - E. Be accompanied by extensive written documentation, mostly using primary sources. Where primary sources are not available, secondary sources and extrapolations may be considered;
 - F. Anyone presenting expert level projects is strongly advised to discuss the entire project beforehand with the Guild Minister or another Guild Officer.

Documentation

- I. **Oral**
 - A. The challenger must be able to quote examples of when and where the form was found.
 - B. The challenger should be able explain the parameters of the form in period, including materials (e.g. types of fabric, thread, wood, metal, etc), tools, and methods of construction.

- C. The challenger must be able to effectively defend any differences or changes made from the original methods of working (i.e. "I used a modern foil-wrapped thread instead of real gold thread due to the current availability of the latter").

II. Written

- A. The challenger must have used a minimum of two (2) different primary sources for each aspect of the form. These sources should be 'primary' in that they are actual extant examples of the form from period.
- B. The challenger must be able to prove the authenticity of style, concept, execution, and materials of the form.
- C. The challenger must be able to effectively defend any differences or changes made from the original methods of working (i.e. "I used a modern foil-wrapped thread instead of real gold thread due to the current availability of the latter").

Evaluating

Rank challenges may be evaluated by any combination of the following as long as there are a minimum of three (3) evaluators – or some cases at regional events two (2) evaluators will be accepted:

- Members in the Embellishers' Guild who have achieved a knowledge level (via undertaking their own challenges) in the embellishment form at least equal to that being challenged. If this is not possible then the members can be of the rank expected to be challenged or higher, with achieved knowledge levels in different, ideally related, forms.
- Laurels who have an understanding of the embellishment forms challenged.
- Any past or present guild minister of the Embellishers' Guild.
- Any person recommended by a Guild member and approved by the guild minister.

Rank challenges shall be open to anyone who has completed the requirements of the attempted rank or anyone who wishes to observe. Evaluators may confer in private regarding acceptability of each candidate.

Rank is not conferred until the guild minister and guild webminister have received the appropriate paperwork. The challenger will be notified of the official results by the guild minister. The results will also be available on the website soon after the challenge is completed and the appropriate paperwork is received.

Teaching

I. Classes:

- A. Proof of classes taught will be evaluated much as an item is evaluated. The teacher is expected to speak to the evaluators, discuss their proof(s) of the class(es) taught and perhaps verbally demonstrate adequate teaching knowledge in the embellishment form(s) challenged.
- B. Obtaining proof of teaching is the responsibility of the challenger. Subjects of classes must be forms of embellishment accepted by the Guild. Each instance of teaching must be unique for each rank challenged. For example, an instance of a class used to obtain Journeyman Rank can not be used to obtain Craftsman. However, new classes taught in the same form of embellishment can be used.
- C. All classes must be advertised in SCA approved media and sponsored by a formal entity of the SCA
 - i. Media include: email lists and/or newsletters and/or websites
 - ii. Formal Entity is: Kingdom or Principality or Barony or Shire or College/Canton/Etc
- D. Proof of teaching includes the following
 - i. Class handout/plan presented/discussed during the challenge and
 - ii. Class roster with signatures of attendants or
 - iii. Verification from Ithra or other Kingdom/Principality accepted learning colleges or

- iv. Signed acknowledgment by Event Steward, Baronial Seneschal, Guild Minister, Guild Officer, etc (basically whoever is organizing/overseeing the classes) that the class took place

II. Mentoring and Teaching

- A. One on one teaching requires proof in the form of the student (a member of the guild) challenging and attaining the required knowledge level in an embellishment form accepted by the Guild. The student may only be used to satisfy the one-on-one teaching requirement once at the knowledge level challenged by the student.
- B. Proof of mentoring and teaching includes
 - i. signed affidavit from student as to identity of mentor/teacher and
 - ii. record(s) of challenge(s) in the Guild successfully made by the student guild member
- C. Please note, the form of embellishment taught via mentoring (one-on-one teaching) must be a form in which the teacher has attained an equal or higher knowledge level than the student.

Exceptions, Variances, Prior Guild Rankings, Etc

All challenge results, classes taught and other elements necessary for attaining rank in the Guild achieved prior to the date of issuance of the original form of this document (21 Aug 2017) are valid as long as:

- I. Form challenges: the guild has records of those challenge results or adequate substitutes for such records exist
- II. Classes taught: the classes taught and circumstances of teaching meet the requirements ordained by the Guild at that time those classes were taught or sufficient evidence of meeting the new requirements as outlined above can be obtained.

Variances to the above guidelines may be granted by the Guild Minister in consultation with Guild Officers. For example, under certain conditions a written paper on an embellishment form may be acceptable in lieu of teaching or mentoring, or a class taught many years ago, but remembered by several students, may be acceptable to satisfy a rank requirement.

Accepted Forms of Embellishment

(rev. 28 Feb 2017)

Only one (1) piece per form may be submitted for each rank challenge with the exception of the OTHER category in which two (2) different forms may be challenged.

Forms are generally divided by material/media and technique into categories. There is also an 'other' category under each material/medium. This category is used to suggest new forms for that material/medium when challenging. If the new form is approved, it'll be added to the acceptable forms list under the appropriate material/medium.

All forms of embellishment should be executed upon period appropriate items if those items are to be submitted for challenging the ranks of the Guild. Period appropriate means the item and the form of embellishment come from the same time frame and location and both are acceptable to the SCA.

Note: A form may be consecutively challenged for increasing ranks up to three (3) times providing that each time the form is challenged it increases in knowledge. A form may not be challenged at the same level of knowledge twice, improvement must be shown.

Note: Forms that are not completely documented as being period (e.g. we have tools but no extant pieces; for example, lucet cord in which we have tools but no actual cord) can only be challenge to competency level and no further. As soon as it is documented that these forms are period, they can be challenged to expert level.

- **Fabric**

- Stitched Fabric
 - Applique
 - Applied, reverse, single thickness, etc
 - Foreign items: i.e. shells, mirrors, quills, beads, etc
 - Quilting
 - Trapunto -- corded or stuffed
 - Smocking
 - Other
- Embroidery
 - Counted Thread
 - German Brick Stitch
 - Cross Stitch
 - Long Arm Cross Stitch
 - Voided Work
 - Assisi
 - Reversi
 - Counted-thread Blackwork
 - Pattern Darning
 - Other
 - Metal Thread
 - Surface Couching (metal thread)
 - Or Nue
 - Bullion Work
 - Underside Couching
 - Other

- Canvas Work ("needlepoint")
 - Tent Stitch
 - Cross Stitch on Canvas
 - Brick Stitch
 - Upright (gobelin) stitch
 - Satin Stitch
 - Other
- Surface Embroidery
 - Surface Couching (non-metal thread)
 - Basic Embroidery
 - Laid Work
 - Beadwork
 - Split Stitch
 - Crewel
 - Raised Work
 - Other
- WhiteWork
 - Drawn Thread
 - Pulled Thread
 - Cutwork
 - Buratto work
 - Reticella
 - Other
- Painting
- Other
- **Thread**
 - knitting
 - Decorative netting
 - lace
 - Bobbin
 - Needle lace
 - Drawn Work
 - Punto in Aria
 - Pulled Work
 - Weaving
 - Loom Woven Narrow Wares (e.g. Inkle)
 - Tablet (Card)
 - Decorative weaving of cloth
 - Braiding
 - Kumihimo
 - Fingerloop/Fingerweaving
 - Sprang

- Thread-woven Buttons
 - Wooden Core
 - Other
- Other
 - Lucet (not entirely documented as period, so can only be challenged to competency knowledge level)
 - Other
- **Metal**
 - Wire Weaving
 - Etching
 - Enameling
 - Pierce work
 - Casting
 - Sheet metal work (chasing, repousse, etc)
 - Other
- **Earthenware**
 - Painted
 - Glazed
 - Carved/Etched
 - Moulded
 - Other
- **Leather**
 - Carving/Tooling
 - Painting
 - Braiding
 - Decorative Applique
 - Other
- **Wood**
 - Carving
 - Burning
 - Painted
 - Inlay
 - Other
- **Stone/Gems**
 - Carved
 - Painted
 - Other
- **Glass**
 - Painted
 - Stained
 - Engraving
 - Other

- **Bone/Antler/Horn/Ivory**
 - Carving
 - Inlay
 - Other
- **OTHER:** a piece that does not fit into one of the above categories of material and/or forms. However, every entry in the other category, regardless of rank challenged, must be accompanied by written documentation to prove the appropriateness of the material and/or form. If the material and/or form is accepted, a new category and/or form will be created and added to the list above.