

## **Woodwork Judging Criteria**

**AUTHENTICITY** (0-20 points) [SCORE 0-10 and then DOUBLE THE SCORE] Some obvious unauthentic examples: plastic varnish, spray or brush lacquers, most wood screws. Inauthentic but passable: wire nails. Period finishes: raw wood, oiled wood, wax, oil/resin varnish, polychrome, Oriental lacquer; gesso with metal foil, oil paint, or egg tempera. Also period: forged nails, clinched rivets, wooden pegs, glued joints, very large dovetails. Give score based on the following:

- 0-1: Blatantly modern in some respect: e.g. intended use, materials, motifs, etc.
- 2-3: Project fits the context of period, but an adequate understanding of the item being created is missing.
- 4-5: Generally period item, with some obviously modern elements present (e.g. commercial finish, wood screws) OR obvious mixture of elements from different cultures or periods.
- 6-7: Overall period style and execution, with few/minor inconsistencies like modern tools/power equipment.
- 8-9: Period-looking piece with no inconsistencies (materials and finishes are period or reasonable equivalents; wood and design appropriate to intended use of item)
- 10: Special effort to achieve a completely period product by use of period design, materials, tools, and techniques (e.g. entrant cut wood off tree, seasoned it, made tools, pegs and finishes, then built and carved chest).

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

- Difficulty and variety of materials and tools used
- Difficulty and variety of construction techniques used
- Difficulty and variety of decorative techniques used
- Construction pattern and/or decorative design
- Finishing techniques used
- Scope of endeavor (size of work relative to amount of detail)

**WORKMANSHIP** (3-30 points. SCORE 1-10 then MULTIPLY BY 3) Rank the quality of execution and success of the entry on a scale of 1-10 based on the following: (NOTE: it is period, and acceptable, for unseen surfaces to be rough.)

- Mastery of period style and practice
- Choice and handling of wood: appropriateness to use, neatness (no sanding scratches, cut with uniformly sharp tools), grain use (narrow pieces cut with grain longways, carving respects grain, avoids joining cross- and long-grain), consistency of handling (edges and corners all sharp or all chamfered, joint angles consistent), etc.
- Choice and handling of supplemental materials: finishes, glues, fasteners, etc.
- Form/design: aesthetics, pattern development, decorative motifs, etc.
- Function/durability: does it do what it should? drawers fit? joints tight? matched pieces match? will it hold up in use?

**AESTHETIC VALUE** (1-10 points) Evaluate the work as a whole, rating the aesthetic effect and appeal beyond the mere technical proficiency. Consider how you react to the entry (intuitive response) and other items not previously addressed.