

INTRODUCTION TO CHARTER PAINTING

Lady Cinara beguy Urdina, 2004

A.S. 39

Supplies

Charter to paint

Gouache or period pigment

Brushes

Palette

Water

What is the difference between a Charter and a Scroll? A charter is a pre-printed, pre-calligraphed award with “blank” spots left for signatures, seal, and recipients name and date to filled in. A scribe will fill in the design areas with paint, and possibly calligraph the names. The Charter fulfill’s the Crown and/or Coronet’s obligation to the recipient. However, a recipient of a charter can request a genuine scroll at a later date if they so choose.

A scroll is an original award document created specifically for the recipient. A scroll may include the recipient’s Arms if they are registered with the College of Arms. Recipients may also pay for special elements on the scroll.

When you first start out as a Scribe you will usually be assigned lower level awards like Award of Arms charters to paint.

Getting Started

Welcome to the wonderful world of Scribing ☺ Before you get started on your journey there are a few small things I would like to point out.

- **Scribal code of silence**, the majority of SCA scrolls are charters are given out as awards. Scribes are entrusted with the knowledge of who is receiving the award. You must not divulge this information to anyone. Be discreet if you are finding out information about a recipient for a charter or scroll. Remember that your voice carries, so talk softly. Many of these awards are surprises. If you cannot keep this level of trust than you won’t be asked to do many scrolls or charters.
- These charters and scrolls **will hang on someone’s wall, therefore** please treat every charter and scroll you paint with care. This is an award, and honor that someone has received. Treat it with respect and appreciation. I usually sum it up with this “treat every charter and scroll that you do, as if you were going to hang it on your own wall”. If you wouldn’t display it in your house due to poor painting, chances are someone else won’t either ☺

So you have your charter, and your ready to go...

Pick out a color scheme for the charter. If you are using warm colors, stick to that, don’t all of a sudden through in a green for fun. It goes for cool colors. If you have a period exemplar handy use that for a guide. Modern elements should be avoided

if at all possible. A good example is the modern rainbow...rainbows in period were usually done with varying shades of green, brown, blue etc, not the ROYGBIV that we are familiar with. Try to keep your recipient in mind if you know who they are. If not keep it simple. Too busy is just as distracting as poorly painted; the exception here of course is Slavic or Celtic designs. If you don't understand the charter design as a more experienced Scribe to explain it to you. We are here to help you get started. We WANT you to succeed, to enjoy this experience.

Take your time when you are painting. Do not give yourself 1 hour to attempt to paint a Russian Charter, unless you are working last minute on site by Their Majesties or Highness' request.

Charters are available to paint through your Principality Scribe (HE Thora Golvik) and her Deputy (L. Cinara beguy Urdina). When you are finished your charter just simply return it to one of us and we will ensure it gets to Their Highnesses for presentation. Please transport it flat. Never roll a charter or a scroll as the paint may break and crack. If you are putting it between two layers of cardboard make sure that there is glassine or tracing paper between the paint and the cardboard to prevent sticking.

Supply Sources

Curry's art store online - www.currys.com

This has a wide variety of art supplies and is very reasonably priced.

Opus Art supplies – found usually in major cities

Your local office supply store, just be wary of their prices if they need to special order something.

Most local craft stores have brushes and papers etc.

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