

# Documenting Your Scroll

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War of the Wings is almost upon us, and you can earn extra points in the Scroll Blank Challenge for including documentation with your scroll. What's that, you might ask? And how do I write something like that? "Documentation" for any item in an A&S competition is a short description of your item, the sources you referred to when you made it, and the materials you used to make it. You may also include an explanation of why you made some of the choices you did (such as why you used acrylic paint instead of grinding your own pigments, for example).

If you hated term papers in school, don't despair. Documentation, especially for scrolls, can be short and sweet. Usually a paragraph or two is enough! Here are some guidelines that I use when documenting my work:

## Source Information

Write a sentence or two about your source material. Include the name of the source (for example, "the Wenceslas Bible"), the time period the of the source ("between 1390 and 1400"), the geographical location of the source ("Paris, France"), and any tidbits you would like to include ("commissioned by King Wenceslas I"). You may also wish to include where you found your source ("in the book *French Illuminated Manuscripts*"). If you have a scanner or a digital camera, it is very helpful to include a scan or photo of your source. If you used material from more than one source, list all your sources and explain why you chose to combine them. ("Because this scroll is an Award of the Fountain, an image of one of the washing women from the *Wenceslas Bible* seemed particularly appropriate. The fountain itself is modified from *De Sphaera*.")

## Illumination Information

Write a few sentences about the materials you used for illumination ("I used acrylic paint") and any explanation necessary ("because period pigments can be toxic/I can't afford period pigments/I don't know how to grind pigments"). Also mention the material you used for the surface: Bristol board, calligraphy paper, etc.

## Calligraphy Information

If you did calligraphy on your scroll, include the name of the script (if you know it) and the pen and inks you used. If you learned the script from a book, such as Marc Drogin's *Medieval Calligraphy*, say so. If you tried to follow the script in your source material, say so. (Don't forget, scroll blanks can be teamwork! If you only do illumination, pair up with someone who does calligraphy. Just note who did what on your documentation.)

## Bibliography

Here, you can list the books you found your source material in and any calligraphy book or other reference material.

## Still Have Questions?

If you still have questions about documentation, give me a call or drop me an email. I'd be happy to show you some of the documentation I've done or read over yours.