



The APC new award scheme aims to promote excellence in parchment craft. It seeks to encourage parchment crafters by assessing work and giving feedback where needed. It will set challenges to produce high quality work for personal achievement.

Work will be assessed by experienced parchment crafters: Alison Yeates and Wendy Stone. Both Alison and Wendy have been teaching for over 20 years and are experienced in judging and assessing parchment craft.

There will be 3 levels of award - Bronze, Silver and Gold. There will also be a pre-award assessment available in order for candidates to ascertain whether their work is of sufficient standard for entry to the award scheme.

Assessment will be by way of a video, so that a more personal feedback can be given. A certificate and badge will be awarded to successful candidates. The video files will either be put onto a DVD; or sent via email (your choice).

A Pass or Needs Improvement mark will be given to each technique.

When candidates pass all the techniques and gain the award, they will receive a badge and certificate. Candidates who pass the pre-award will receive a certificate.

Candidates that have a technique/techniques which need improvement; only need to resubmit these specific techniques, this can be done using the same pattern as before or a new piece whichever the candidate feels will best demonstrate the improvements needed.

Pre-award assessment

You will be required to submit 4 FINISHED PIECES of work showing the following techniques - Simple **embossing** i.e. solid white embossed shapes showing sharp edges, simple shaded / graduated embossing, aiming for bright white shading gradually to nothing. Freehand embossing is expected, but some use of multi grids or embossing plates is also permitted.

Tracing - When white pencil is used, this must be erased properly. If ink or fine pen is used, then aim for fine consistent lines.

Perforating - Use of a 2 needle tool to perforate around an edge or shape (edge then to be cut), perforations should be of a consistent and appropriate size to allow cutting. Also use a multi needle tool e.g. semi-circle, semi-square etc. to make an edge which should be cut away.

Cutting - showing an attempt at picot edge cutting.

Colouring - using blendable pencils or oil / dorso pastels with blending medium where necessary, demonstrate colouring on back of parchment, either for a background or for colour of a flower for instance.

Presentation and finish of cards will be assessed.

Feedback will be given for the submitted work to enable the candidate to either practise their techniques further or as to whether an appropriate standard for entry to the bronze award has been reached.

Bronze Award

You will be required to submit 6 FINISHED PIECES of work showing the following techniques -

Tracing - When white pencil is used, this must be erased properly. If ink or fine pen is used, then fine consistent lines should be shown.

Embossing - showing good solid white work and some graduated / shaded embossing. Freehand embossing is expected, but some use of multi grids or embossing plates is also permitted. Demonstrate use of the sun / star tools.

Perforating - to a consistent standard, demonstrating use of 2 needle tool around an edge or shape and use of multi needle tools for decoration and or around an edge.

Stippling - .

Cutting - a consistent technique of picot edge cutting is required. Also, an area of cut out sections is to be shown e.g. within lacework.

Grid work - demonstrate grid work using the bold / standard straight grid. This should incorporate freehand embossing, but may also include some use of a grid or multi grid or embossing plate. Some cutting of perforations is expected.

Colouring - demonstrate colouring and blending on the back of parchment, using blendable pencils or oil pastels / dorso pastels in several colours.

Demonstrate use of coloured blendable pencils on the front of work.

Presentation and finish of cards will be assessed.

Silver Award

You will be required to submit 8 FINISHED PIECES of work showing the following techniques -

Tracing - At least one piece should demonstrate tracing with black ink or fine black pen.

Embossing. good understanding of embossing techniques demonstrated.

Stippling -

Perforating - At least one piece of work should demonstrate use of multi needle tools to create lacework or pattern.

Cutting - Consistent technique of picot edge cutting is required. At least one piece should demonstrate cut crosses (using 4 needle tool or grid) within lace work.

Grid work - demonstrate use of any bold / standard straight or diagonal grid.

Demonstrate use of the fine straight or diagonal grid.

Incorporate freehand embossing and cutting, but may also include some use of a grid or multi grid or embossing plate.

Colouring - on the back of parchment to create a background.

On the front of parchment using coloured blendable pencils showing a good understanding of the technique.

Painting - use felt tip pens or watercolour pencils, these *may* be combined with sparkle type gel pens, or pearlised paint. One piece with black traced outlines, and one piece with no tracing.

3D work - On at least one of your pieces add some 3D elements.

Presentation and finishing will be assessed.

Gold Award

Submit 10 finished pieces of work demonstrating the following techniques -

Tracing

Embossing

Perforating and cutting

Lacework without using a grid

Grid work using a variety of grids.

Colouring using blendable coloured pencils.

Painting with felt tip pens or watercolour pencils, these may be combined with sparkle type gel pens, or pearlised paint.

Painting with ink **or** acrylic paints.

Face and hair - include at least one piece of work demonstrating colouring of facial features and hair, using mediums of your choice.

Designing - include at least one piece of work that you have either designed completely yourself or have taken elements from other designs and arranged them into a new pattern.

A signature piece of work that should be in the form of an A4 mounted picture.

Presentation and finish of cards / projects will be assessed.

Conditions for entry -

Each piece of parchment craft work submitted, should be a completed card or small mounted picture.

No patterns are given so that you may choose your own subject matter, but you will be expected to vary the designs and subject matter e.g. not all flowers etc.

The designer of the pattern used for each entry must be given, or if an own design then this must be stated. If you have used parts from one pattern and parts from another pattern, then as far as possible the designers must be credited.

All the techniques to be assessed on each item must be listed along with all embossing and perforating tools; grids; colouring and painting mediums; etc.

Any make of parchment tool or grid may be used. Coloured parchment may also be used.

Feel free to add inserts, punched flowers, gems, glitter. embellishments etc. to finish your pieces of work.

You may not apply for the gold award until you have passed the silver award.

All entries will need to include – Name; address; telephone number; email address;
Also an indication as to whether you would like the assessment videos by email or DVD.

If you intend to submit an entry, you will need to email your intention approximately 1 month before the submission date to – heather@associationofparchmentcrafters.co.uk . This will give us some indication of the number of entries and in order to look out for the parcel.

There will be 2 entry dates each year, 1st February and 1st August. We will aim to return the entries within six weeks.

In order to take part in the award scheme, membership of the APC is expected, which is £6 per year and you will receive 4 newsletters a year. If you are not a member, then please contact Heather - heather@associationofparchmentcrafters.co.uk .

Costs of entry are - Pre award £20
 Bronze award £25
 Silver award £30
 Gold award £35.
 Re-submission £10

Your work will be returned by normal Royal Mail second class post. If you prefer to have your work returned by '1st class signed for', please add £1.50 to your entry; if you prefer to have your work returned by 'special delivery' please add £4.50 to your entry.

Payment is to be made by cheque or bank transfer with the entry. Bank and payment details will be given once your notice of intention to submit an entry is given.

International entries will be accepted but payment will be through PayPal. Because of the fees charged by PayPal we will need to add approximately £1.50 to the entry fee, plus the cost of the return postage. In this case we will send a PayPal invoice for you to pay when the cost of return post is known.

We wish you every success in working towards the Award Scheme

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Wendy Stone wendy@roffeyonline.co.uk

Heather Thomas heather@associationofparchmentcrafters.co.uk

Videos to help you with the award can be found at -
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1af4pzBm7GY&t=7s>
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GxAwoz49mCo&t=7s>
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SExakABnhoQ&t=6s>
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=q0qLIWuRQSU&t=5s>

Or links can be found on www.kingfishercrafts.co.uk
Or www.associationofparchmentcrafters.co.uk