

How to Take Care of the Scroll You Just Received

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You just received an award along with a scroll. Hooray! What do you do now with the scroll that was just handed to you? While not all award scrolls are done with paint, the vast majority of them are done with watercolors or water soluble paints. Here are some quick pointers that might help you (or your friend) out the next time they receive an award scroll.

- 1) Keep the scroll flat. Do NOT roll it (unless otherwise instructed). Rolling the scroll will warp the paper and crack the paint.
- 2) See if there is a portfolio available for you to take your scroll home in. If you don't have a friend who has one, then ask the Signet Officer if there are any loaner portfolios available. You want to avoid it getting crushed on the drive home while also protecting it from the elements.
- 3) Don't store your scroll for a long period of time in something that has high acid touching it (like some cardboard). The acid will leach into the work and leave discoloring marks. Look for things that are archival or pH neutral to store the piece in.
- 4) Do not put your scroll where it will be in direct sunlight for long periods of time. The sun will cause the paint and ink to fade and discolor over time. It will also damage the paper. Other things that can affect the scroll include spot lights and high heat producing elements. Put the scroll where the light is going to be more defused and the art isn't going to get cooked!
- 5) Avoid getting the scroll wet, this includes rain, snow, tears of joy or even sweat from a hot Pennsic day. Majority of the scrolls given out in Aethelmearc are done with paints that will re-hydrate when wet.
- 6) If you intend on framing it but you are just waiting for that tax refund to come in, store the scroll in a safe place where it will not get crushed or wet. An empty drawer or a portfolio case would work just fine.
- 7) Avoid storing it in a high humidity area (like your basement) where it can get mold spots.
- 8) Please handle any scroll you receive with respect-- for the time, talent, and materials a scribe has put into creating it for you. I know of scribes who have seen pieces they poured themselves into treated like pre-printed programs: carelessly set aside or used as fans. It is more than discouraging; it can be downright heart breaking. Please bear in mind that the artist(s) who made it may be sitting next to or right behind you.