

STANDARD OMSA EXHIBITION REGULATIONS (as of July 2005)

PURPOSE

The prime purpose of entering a display at the **OMSA** convention is to share information. By focusing these efforts in the form of an attractive and informative display, the exhibitors make available the fruits of their collecting and research in a form that might otherwise never come to the attention of those who view the exhibit. Everyone is enriched by this process. The annual competition seeks to promote interest in and to share knowledge of orders, decorations, and medal, by encouraging members to exhibit high quality displays that are interesting and educational as well as attractive to the eye.

The prizes awarded to exhibitors are a secondary but important consideration. They represent recognition by the exhibitor's peers and reward the exhibitor's efforts. The criteria for **OMSA's** competitive awards are demanding, and every effort has been made to ensure that the process is free of bias. It is in this spirit that the following regulations for exhibits, judges, and awards are promulgated.

EXHIBIT RULES

All members who enter a competitive exhibit at the annual convention agree to and are bound by the following rules:

- A. The exhibitor must be an **OMSA** member in good standing.
- B. The exhibitor must register for the convention.
- C. Material exhibited for competition must be orders, decorations, or medals, or material directly pertaining to orders, decorations, or medals, all of which are the personal property of the exhibitor. Combined exhibits by two or more individuals or items that belong to institutions will not be accepted for competitive exhibition.
- D. No exhibit may contain the name of the exhibitor. Any item in the exhibit that bears the exhibitor's name must be modified so that the exhibitor's name is hidden from view. However, if an exhibitor displays an item bearing the name of a different individual of the same name, the other individual's name need not be masked.
- E. No competitive exhibitor may also serve as an exhibition judge at the same convention.
- F. All copies, specimens, replicas, castings, and/or non-original (or questionable) material of any kind must be labeled as such. Failure to do so will disqualify the exhibit from competition.
- G. All competitive exhibits are limited to a maximum of five (5) standard exhibit cases. If competitors provide their own custom cases, the exhibit is limited to a total length of 180 inches or two (2) tables provided by the committee, whichever is greater.
- H. When pre-registering for the convention, an exhibitor must indicate the number of cases and/or the amount of table space needed. If an exhibitor has special needs, such as wall space or proximity to an electric outlet, this should be indicated along with the registration so that the Exhibit Chairman can try to comply with the request. Exhibitors who are not pre-registered will be assigned space on an "as (and if) available" basis.
- I. All decisions of the Exhibit Chairman and Chief Judge are final.
- J. Failure to comply with any of these Exhibit Rules will result in the entire exhibit being disqualified.

CATEGORIES OF COMPETITION

- A. There are no categories of competition.
- B. Each exhibit will be judged on its own merits and without respect to any other exhibition.
- C. There are no limits on the number of competitive exhibits any member may enter, subject to space limitations and the conditions set forth above.
- D. **THE VICE PRESIDENT'S AWARD.** Intended to stimulate the imagination and encourage new collectors to compete, this award is for the best exhibit of authentic orders, medals, or decorations, or material directly pertaining to orders, medals, or decorations, with a monetary value of under US\$200.00 in the current market. In case of any question of eligibility, the decision of the Chief Judge will be final.

EXHIBIT IDENTIFICATION

The Exhibition Chairman will assign a unique numeric identifier beginning with the letter C and a two digit number indicating the year, followed by another number indicating the exhibit number that particular year (for example, the designation C 98-50 would identify the 50th competitive exhibit, entered in the 1998 competition).

JUDGES

- A. The Chief Judge shall be selected by the President at least six (6) months prior to the convention. The individual selected should not be on the convention committee. No member may serve as Chief Judge who has not previously served as an Exhibition Judge for a minimum of two years.
- B. There will be three Exhibition Judges, all of who shall be appointed by the Chief Judge at least five (5) months prior to the convention.
- C. Exhibition judges will be provided with the following as soon as possible after their selection:
 - 1. A copy of the standard **OMSA** exhibition regulations from the Membership Handbook.
 - 2. A copy of the standard **OMSA** judging form.
 - 3. A letter of transmittal with whatever additional information the Chief Judge feels is appropriate.
- A. In selecting the Exhibition Judges, an effort should be made to select individuals who have an in depth knowledge of several major countries or who have expertise in one or more areas such as United States medals and decorations, British and Commonwealth medals and decorations, and orders of knighthood and chivalry.
- B. No individual should serve as an Exhibition Judge for more than five consecutive years at one time.
- C. In order to provide expert opinion to the Chief Judge and Exhibition Judges, the Chief Judge shall, whenever possible, recruit an expert in each of three recognized major areas of interest (U.S., British Commonwealth, and orders of knighthood and chivalry) to provide technical information on request to any judge requesting such information. All communications between the designated expert and the judges shall remain strictly private.
- D. Formal training for new judges and candidates to become Exhibition Judges at future conventions shall be conducted as needed in conjunction with the OMSA convention. Training will be arranged by the Chief Judge, or his designated representative. Training may consist of a seminar, trainee accompaniment of experienced Exhibition Judges during the judging process, and/or such other methods as may be deemed appropriate by the Chief Judge.

JUDGING PROCEDURES

- A. The Chief Judge and each Exhibition Judge will judge every exhibit according to the criteria set forth under "Judging Standards.
- B. After the Exhibition Judges complete their judging forms, they will meet in private. The Chief Judge will examine each of the four judging forms for each exhibit and discard the form with the lowest point total, marking it with the word "Discarded." The remaining three judging forms will be added and averaged, the average being the numerical score for the exhibit. The Chief Judge will attempt to resolve any obvious significant discrepancies between judging forms to ensure there are no errors or omissions.
- C. The Best of Show exhibit will be the one that scores the highest number of points (but in no case will an exhibit be designated as Best of Show unless it scores a minimum score of 93 points). In the case of a tie, Best of Show will be determined by voting among the judges.
- D. The Vice President will be the sole judge for the Vice President's Award. In his absence that duty will be assumed by the Chief Judge.
- E. Judging will take place no earlier than 11:00 A.M. Friday and must be completed no later than Saturday afternoon.
- F. No change will be made to any competitive exhibit after 11:00 A.M. on Friday.
- G. Judging for theme or special prizes will be determined by the sponsor of the award in consultation with the Convention Chairman or his designated representative and the Chief Judge who shall make sure each such award meets all **OMSA** exhibit rules.
- H. The Chief Judge will announce the results at the annual banquet. Once the results are announced, the Chief Judge will provide the judging sheets, including the one marked "Discarded," to all exhibitors. The Chief Judge will also provide a copy of the completed prizewinners list, including winners of theme or special prizes, to the **OMSA** President and the Convention Chairman. The winner of theme or special prizes shall be announced by the sponsor of the award, or a designated representative.

JUDGING STANDARDS

Each exhibit will be judged on its own merits in meeting the standards in each of the three areas set forth below. Each area has a range of possible points based on its importance in relation to the other areas. The highest possible point total is one hundred.

A. Overall Educational Value (60 points)

The purpose of the OMSA Exhibition Program is to share information and educate the viewer. This section is where the exhibitor has the greatest opportunity to do so. For most exhibits, this section of the Standard evaluates both major segments of the written text and the exhibited orders, decorations, or medals or materials pertaining thereto.

1. Statement of Purpose (5 points)

The purpose of this section is to give the exhibitor the opportunity to focus the viewer clearly upon the major thrust of the exhibit. A concise statement of intent or purpose in one or two sentences is sufficient to earn most points allocated to this area. While the statement of purpose need not be lengthy, it must be in writing, separate from the exhibit title.

2. Educational Information (35 points)

a. General Historical Background (15 points)

The display should identify the country of origin of the displayed ODM, and/or the period in which the relevant ODM was established, and/or why/how it has been awarded in subsequent years.

b. Criteria for Award (10 points)

The display should identify the requirements for the award(s) displayed and any mechanisms used to determine when an award would be made. This could include such things as eligibility requirements and dates, means of application for awards, documents required for recommendation or application, award approval methods, as well as presenting documents and/or general orders regarding the award. It is important to distinguish awards that must be purchased by the honoree as opposed to those who receive the ODM at no charge.

c. Specific Non-Numismatic Information (10 points)

If the recipient of the displayed ODM is the focus of the exhibit, biographical information regarding the recipient should be provided, such as details about specific incidents or circumstances that led to the award, when the award was made, to whom (the recipient, next of kin), etc.

If the recipient of the displayed ODM is not the focus of the exhibit, specific historical information regarding the ODM should be provided, such as, for example, the number of awards made, typical circumstances of incidents that resulted in awards of that ODM, how awards of that ODM were perceived by the public, etc.

3. Numismatics (10 points)

This section contains the technical information on the exhibited orders, decorations, or medals or materials pertaining thereto. Information may include a classical numismatic description of the elements of the award, explanations of symbolism used in the design, differences in the classes of insignia shown, numismatic variations of a specific award, and other such information of a numismatic nature that may be appropriate. Remember that while many knowledgeable members will be familiar with some information in this section, many others will not.

4. Supporting Materials (10 points)

Supporting materials encompass all of the elements of an exhibit, other than the exhibited orders, decorations, or medals or materials pertaining thereto, including, for example, photographs, documents, and related memorabilia which contribute to the overall educational value of the display.

B. **Rarity and Completeness** (15 points)

These categories award exhibitors for displaying seldom seen material and for fulfilling the stated purpose of the display.

1. **Rarity** (5 points)

All numismatically oriented hobbyists appreciate rare material and this section rewards and exhibitor who displays seldom see or unique orders, decorations, or materials or materials pertaining thereto. A U.S. Navy Sampson Medal to the Commanding Officer of a ship is rarely seen, as is a U.S. Navy Distinguished Flying Cross for the Battle of Midway. Other examples abound. However, it is the exhibitor's responsibility to inform the viewer and the judge of such special and/or unique elements of their display.

2. **Completeness** (10 points)

This segment evaluates the extent to which the exhibitor accomplishes the stated purpose of the display, including sufficient examples of the orders, decorations, or materials or materials pertaining thereto to support the purpose. For example, an exhibit featuring varieties of the British Long and Meritorious Service Medals without an example of a Queen Victoria with Veiled Head obverse would be severely downgraded. Similarly, an exhibit of a nine class Chinese order missing the eighth and ninth class awards would have to be downgraded even though these classes are very difficult to obtain.

C. **Quality of Presentation** (25 points)

Quality of presentation evaluated the cosmetic components of the display and encourages the exhibitor to present his material to the viewer in an aesthetic, visually pleasing manner.

1. **Spatial Arrangement** (5 points)

This section rewards an exhibitor for carefully placing items in the exhibit, both within and outside of the case, in a well-organized, harmonious manner. Good material can be enhanced by proper positioning. Be careful not to overcrowd a section of a case with too much material.

2. **Captions and Titles** (5 points)

Captions and titles reward an exhibitor for cosmetic titles and the concise identification of all elements of an exhibit. The viewer's eye should flow naturally to an identification caption without having to search for it.

3. **Condition** (10 points)

Condition evaluates the numismatic condition of the exhibited orders, decorations, or materials or materials pertaining thereto, and the overall condition of the other elements of the exhibit. It is expected that the condition of the exhibited orders, decorations, or materials or materials pertaining thereto will be very fine or better unless a specific specimen is very rare, or a component of a group of medals awarded to a single person or a designated, well defined group.

4. **Originality** (5 points)

Originality rewards the exhibitor who uses imagination and innovation in both what is displayed and how it is displayed. A seldom seen manner of exhibiting orders, decorations, or materials or materials pertaining thereto, a display of material rarely exhibited, supporting material that clearly calls attention to the display, can earn the exhibitor the points for this section.

AWARDS

The exhibit awards (except as noted below) shall be Gold, Silver and Bronze Medals.

A. Qualification for Exhibit Medals is as follows:

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|---------------|------------------|
| Gold Medal | 93 to 100 points |
| Silver Medal. | 85 to 92 points |
| Bronze Medal | 75 to 84 points |

B. The Vice President's Award shall consist of a distinctive medal or other suitable award as may, from time to time, be determined by the Board of Directors of OMSA.

MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS

- A. Once an exhibit has won Best of Show or a Gold Medal it may not be entered competitively again for a minimum of five years, and then only if it has changed significantly in content or format.
- B. Once an exhibit has won a Silver or Bronze Medal, it may not be entered co competitively again for a minimum of two years, and then only if it has changed significantly in content or format.

