

## ***OMSA CONVENTION EXHIBITION REGULATIONS (2016)***

### ***PURPOSE***

The primary purpose of entering an exhibit 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 that might otherwise never come to the attention of those who view the exhibit. Everyone is enriched by this process. Convention exhibit competition seeks to promote interest in and to share knowledge of orders, decorations, and medals, by encouraging members to exhibit high quality displays that are interesting and educational as well as attractive to the eye.

Awards given to exhibitors are a secondary but important consideration. They represent recognition by the exhibitors' peers and reward the exhibitors' efforts. The criteria for OMSA's competitive awards are comprehensive, 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 OMSA 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 OMSA Convention.
- C. Material exhibited for competition must be orders, decorations, or medals (ODM), or material directly pertaining to ODM, 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 or Chief 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. Competitors may 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 Regulations will result in the entire exhibit being disqualified.

### ***CATEGORIES OF COMPETITION***

- A. **COMPETITIVE CATEGORY** – Primary competition category for OMSA members who wish to enter. There are no competitive themes within this category, such as by country or medal type.
- B. **NON-COMPETITIVE CATEGORY** – Category for OMSA members who wish to display an exhibit for the benefit of the convention attendees without having to enter the **COMPETITIVE CATEGORY**.
- C. **THE VICE PRESIDENT'S AWARD CATEGORY** - Intended to stimulate the imagination and encourage new collectors to compete, this award is for the best exhibit of authentic ODM, or material directly pertaining to ODM, with a monetary value of under US\$250.00 in the current market. In case of any question of eligibility, the decision of the Chief Judge will be final.

- D. **SPECIAL CONVENTION THEME CATEGORY** – Special designated award(s) given by the Convention Chairman supplementing the **COMPETITIVE CATEGORY** to stimulate more exhibits being brought to the convention.
- E. There are no limits on the number of competitive exhibits any member may enter, subject to space limitations and the conditions set forth above.

#### ***EXHIBIT IDENTIFICATION***

The Exhibit Chairman will assign a unique numeric identifier for each individual exhibit that will be placed on the exhibit tables. This number will be referenced on the OMSA JUDGING FORM.

#### ***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 OMSA Convention Committee. No member may serve as Chief Judge who has not previously served as an Exhibition Judge.
- B. There will be three Exhibition Judges, all of whom shall be appointed by the Chief Judge before the OMSA Convention convenes.
- C. Exhibition Judges will be provided with the following information as soon as possible after their selection. This information is also available to all on the OMSA Website (omsa.org).
  - 1. A copy of the OMSA Convention Exhibition Regulations from the Membership Handbook.
  - 2. A copy of the OMSA JUDGING FORM.
- A. In selecting the Exhibition Judges, an effort should be made to choose individuals who have an in-depth knowledge and expertise in one or more areas such as United States, British/Commonwealth and world orders, medals and decorations.
- B. In order to provide expert opinion to the Chief Judge and Exhibition Judges, the Chief Judge may, as needed, recruit a *subject matter expert* to provide technical information on request to any judge requesting such information. All communications between the *subject matter expert* and the judges shall remain strictly private.
- C. Training for new candidates to become Exhibition Judges at future conventions shall be conducted as needed in conjunction with the OMSA Convention. Training shall 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 in accordance with the criteria set forth under the *JUDGING CRITERIA* section. Their initial results shall be recorded on the OMSA JUDGING FORM.
- B. After the Exhibition Judges complete their initial judging evaluation, they will meet in private. The Chief Judge will consolidate all the judging results into one OMSA JUDGING FORM, resolving any significant discrepancies in discussions with the Exhibition Judges. Once the results are consolidated, all four judges will rank the order of all exhibits using the *JUDGING CRITERIA* results. The Chief Judge has final discretion in determining the final overall rankings.
- C. The Best of Show exhibit will be determined by the highest-ranking exhibit of all the exhibits entered in the **COMPETITIVE CATEGORY**. In the event of a tie, the Chief Judge will determine the winner.
- D. The Vice President's Award will be determined by the highest-ranking exhibit in the **COMPETITIVE CATEGORY** that qualifies for the Vice President's Award. In the event of a tie, the Vice President will determine the winner.
- 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. SPECIAL CONVENTION THEME awards will be determined by 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 judging results of the COMPETITIVE CATEGORY at the OMSA Convention banquet. The Chief Judge will provide feedback to exhibitors in this category if so requested. The Vice President will announce the winner of his award following the COMPETITIVE CATEGORY. In his absence, the award will be given out by the Chief Judge. The winner of any SPECIAL CONVENTION THEME CATEGORY will be given by the Convention Chairman. The Chief Judge will also provide a copy of the completed award winners list to the OMSA President and the Convention Chairman.

### **JUDGING CRITERIA**

The Chief Judge and each Exhibition Judge will judge every exhibit in accordance with the guidelines set forth in the 12 judging criteria line items below. Judgement is solely based on each exhibit meeting or exceeding all judging criteria expectations.

1. **Statement of Purpose** - The purpose of this criteria is to motivate the exhibitor to clearly convey the purpose of the exhibit to the viewer. While the *ideal flow* of the exhibit should achieve this, the title as well as a concise statement of intent placed at the beginning of the exhibit may help facilitate exceeding the criteria.
2. **General Historical Background** - The exhibit 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.
3. **Criteria for Award** - The exhibit should identify the requirements for the award(s) displayed and any criteria and/or process used to determine when and why 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, documents and/or general orders regarding the award as well as distinguishing awards that must be purchased by the honoree as opposed to those who receive the ODM at no charge.
4. **Specific Non-Numismatic Information** – 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 the number of awards made, typical circumstances of incidents that resulted in awards of the ODM, how awards of the ODM were perceived by the public, etc.
5. **Numismatics** - This section contains the technical information on the exhibited ODM 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.
6. **Supporting Materials** - Supporting materials encompass all of the elements of an exhibit, other than the exhibited ODM or materials pertaining thereto, including, for example, photographs, documents, and related memorabilia which contribute to the overall educational value of the exhibit.
7. **Rarity** - All numismatically-oriented hobbyists appreciate rare material and this section rewards the exhibitor who displays rare and/or unique ODM or materials pertaining thereto. Examples of rarity are a U.S. Navy Sampson Medal to the Commanding Officer of a ship, or 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 exhibit.
8. **Completeness** - This segment evaluates the extent to which the exhibitor accomplishes the **Statement of Purpose** criteria of the exhibit, including sufficient examples of ODM or materials pertaining thereto to support such 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 could be downgraded, especially if the title of the exhibit and/or the **Statement of Purpose** implied that the exhibit was complete.
9. **Spatial Arrangement** - 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.

10. **Captions and Titles** - Captions and titles should concisely identify all relevant elements of an exhibit. The viewer's eye should flow naturally to an identification caption without having to search for it.
11. **Condition** – This criterion evaluates the numismatic condition of the exhibited ODM or materials pertaining thereto, and the overall condition of the other elements of the exhibit. Credit is given if the exhibited ODM or materials pertaining thereto is in very fine or better condition unless a specific specimen (single example or in a group) is rare. The age of the award or the condition imposed by the wearer may be considered.
12. **Originality** - Originality rewards the exhibitor who uses imagination and innovation in both what is displayed and how it is displayed. An innovative manner of exhibiting ODM or materials pertaining thereto, a display of material rarely exhibited, or supporting material that clearly calls attention to the exhibit can help to meet or exceed this judging criterion.

### ***AWARDS***

Exhibit awards shall be given to reward exhibitors for their efforts based on the following criteria.

- A. All **COMPETITIVE CATEGORY** exhibits shall be ranked in the order of meeting or exceeding the *JUDGING CRITERIA*. The OMSA *JUDGING FORM* shall be used to help facilitate ranking the exhibits.
- B. The **COMPETITIVE CATEGORY** awards shall be the OMSA Exhibit Medals in Gold, Silver and Bronze.
- C. "Qualification Guidelines" for the **COMPETITIVE CATEGORY** awards are:
 

Gold Medal	15% of exhibits
Silver Medal	30% of exhibits
Bronze Medal	45% of exhibits
No Medal	10% of exhibits
- D. The Chief Judge may exercise discretion in case of any tie which exceeds the medal percentages outlined in C. above. exceed the discretionary power to round up or down the total number and type of **COMPETITIVE CATEGORY** awards based on the number of exhibits as well as upgrading any exhibit(s) that deserves to be bumped into a higher medal bracket.
- D. 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.
- E. 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.
- F. Once an exhibit has won a Silver or Bronze Medal, it may not be entered competitively again for a minimum of two years, and then only if it has changed significantly in content or format.

