

Getting Started

The dos and don'ts.

-Keep in contact with the Signet Clerk. It is not the responsibility of the Signet to chase you down. If you want to work for the kingdom you need to let the Signet Clerk of the Kingdom know this, probably more than once.

- Keep in touch with the Signet Clerk, especially if you have been assigned work. It is always good to let the Signet know that you have completed the assignment on time and where you sent it (if it was mailed) or gave it to (if it was hand delivered). Ultimately it is the responsibility of the Signet Clerk to make sure that all awards have scrolls to go with them in a timely fashion. It really sucks if the scrolls get lost and have to be redone. So keep track of your work.

- If you are working on backlogged scrolls be aware that after six months if you have not contacted the Signet to them know if you are still active and working on the assignments they may be reassigned. It is your job to keep in touch with the Kingdom Signet Clerk in these matters.

- Secrecy. A scroll assignment is to be kept confidential with no exception. Should you break this confidentiality it is very likely that , no matter how good of a scribe you are you will not be asked to work for the kingdom again. Spoiling the surprise is a bad thing!

-Be professional about your work.

-Do not eat or drink next to your work. Grease stains and coffee drips are really hard to get out and they look very bad. Remember that this piece of work you produce is also a reflection on you.

-Mistakes are 'period' and more often than not they can be fixed, so don't panic.(We'll talk about this later)

-Do keep copies of your work. These copies serve several purposes.

A: They show you how far you have progressed from your first scroll to your most recent. You'll be surprised at the difference.

B: Your copies help to build a portfolio, who knows maybe one day this hobby will turn into a paying job. It has happened.

C:A portfolio is a nice thing to have on hand to show off at demos, or local events and help generate interest in the arts.

-Look at the real thing if you get the chance. All the books and slides and copies in the world do not compare to the real thing.

Colours and size are often misleading in reproductions, as well as the finest of lines and pen marks which are also often not to be seen.

-Check out what your peers are doing, visit web sites from other kingdoms, look at Scribes' personal web sites. While we can learn a lot from the examples of the past we can also learn a great deal from our fellow scribes. If you get the opportunity to gather with other scribes at large and small events do so. It is amazing how much information can be shared when you meet face to face with others.

-Have fun. This is something that is done on a volunteer basis, often with little thanks or recognition. If you are not having fun or you find doing scribal work has become a chore then stop and take a break.

-Examine your reasons for wanting to be a scribe. There are good reasons and not so good reasons.

-Do you wish to step into the scribal world in the SCA because you think you can make a difference, serve your kingdom and wish to have fun as well as learn a wonderful skill or perhaps better a skill you already have, if this is so then you are doing it for the right reasons.

-If you think that by being as scribe you will achieve acclaim, win awards and be showered with appreciation then stop now and re think your motives. As a general rule, scribes are under appreciated and seldom noticed or recognized. Scribes do not usually receive any compensation for their work either in the way of gifts or payment and also do not often receive much in the way of a thank-you either. This is not written here to scare you off from being a scribe but to save you from disappointment.

-Remember that you are greatly appreciated by your signet clerk, your work is valuable and some body somewhere will delight in something that you have made.