



***I.O.L.I Proficiency Program
for Lacemaking***

General Information

Ver 3.0, September 2009

Introduction

The *International Old Lacers, Inc. Proficiency Program for Lacemaking* provides guidelines for I.O.L.I. members wishing to pursue recognition for their lacemaking skills. The journal-based program is designed to challenge the participant to demonstrate knowledge and proficiency of lacemaking techniques for a specific family of laces. The program has also been expanded to recognize advanced studies of lace topics proposed by the registrant. Participants who pursue the program are invited to submit their work for critique by an Assessment Committee. Successful completion of the program will be recognized with a certificate and pin.

Please note that this program is not intended as a certification of teaching credentials.

Glossary

Assessor(s) – individual(s) who serve on an Assessment Committee to evaluate the work of candidates and provide feedback.

Assessment Committee – a team of individuals appointed by the chair of the Proficiency Program Committee to assess portfolios submitted by candidates. Assessment Committees report their findings to the chair of the Proficiency Program Committee who then relays information to the candidate.

Candidate – program registrant who has submitted a portfolio for assessment and has paid the required assessment fee.

Construction Technique – a method of doing a specific technique in lace. Example: Corners – sharp corner, rounded corner.

Design element – the individual arrangement of threads that produce a specific effect. I.e.: spider, roseground, etc. (Other terms to reflect the different laces will be included in the specific journals).

Proficiency Program Committee – a group of individuals appointed by the Board of the I.O.L.I. to oversee specific activities pertaining to the I.O.L.I. Proficiency Program for Lacemaking.

Journal – the document that describes the criteria and requirements for participation in the proficiency program.

Portfolio – a candidate's completed project including written work and lace samples.

Proposal – a document which outlines, in detail, a proposed project for advanced study.

Registrant – an individual who has paid the required journal registration fee and has received the requested journal.

General Information

1. As a participant in the *I.O.L.I. Proficiency Program for Lacemaking*, you must do your own research, lacemaking, and portfolio preparation; however you are strongly encouraged to network with other lacemakers and teachers to seek answers to questions and solutions to problems encountered along the way.
2. There is no time limit for completion of your portfolio; you should establish an individual time frame that will allow you to do your best work.
3. Lace samples are required for most of the journals. The exception is the Advanced Study of Lace which may be based on other work.
 - a. Except for specific samples where thread size is indicated in the instructions, appropriate thread size for the designs must be determined by the lacemaker. The choice will be evaluated by the Assessment Committee.
 - b. A variety of thread fiber types including linen, cotton, and silk may be used. All samples should be worked in white or ecru unless use of color is indicated in the instructions for the sample.
 - c. Use of color in your project is permitted where indicated in the sample instructions. Evaluation of the success of your use and choice of color will be part of the assessment.
 - d. Starting points are not usually indicated on the prickings. Start where you feel is most appropriate for the lace. The start does not have to be straight across
 - e. Samples do not have to be worked in the order presented in this Journal; however, they must be presented in sample number order in your portfolio. If you choose to work the samples out of order, you are encouraged to document your progression. The information may help the assessors to better understand your work.
 - f. All prickings in the Journal should be worked as actual lace by the participating lacemaker. Samples should be the length of the pricking provided unless other instructions are given.
4. Written documentation must accompany lace samples included in the portfolio. "Instructions for Lace Sample Documentation" are provided in the Journal.

5. All assessments will be conducted based on the most recent version of the Journal. You are required to verify the current journal version with the Proficiency Program Committee before submitting your work for assessment.

Portfolio Submission

1. As a preliminary exercise, you may submit two or three pieces of your most recent work for a pre-assessment. This preliminary assessment is the only area where photocopies or photos of the lace are acceptable. Lace pieces with mistakes are acceptable, but candidates are encouraged to submit an explanation of any obvious errors in the pieces submitted. This preliminary assessment will not be included in the final results of the program and is viewed only as a guidance tool for both the candidate and the assessors. If you wish to submit preliminary samples, contact the current chair of the Proficiency Program Committee by April 1st prior to the Convention where pre-assessment will be done.
2. Prior to submission of your portfolio for assessment, **you must notify the chairman of the Proficiency Program Committee of your intent to submit.** The deadline for notification is generally April 1st prior to the Convention where assessments will be conducted. The date will be published in the winter issue of *The I.O.L.I. Bulletin*.
3. Written materials should be bound in notebook or portfolio style.
4. Actual pieces of lace must be submitted for final assessment; photocopies or photos of the lace are NOT acceptable at this stage. Except for certain samples as indicated in the instructions, lace sample pieces should NOT be mounted or attached to fabric or other materials. Lace samples must be viewable from both front and back. Clear plastic sheet protectors are recommended to minimize handling of the lace pieces. The use of glue or Fray Check on samples will not be acceptable.
5. Lace pieces with mistakes are acceptable to a degree, but candidates must submit an explanation of any obvious errors in the pieces submitted. Remember in dealing with mistakes that the purpose of the Journal is to demonstrate proficiency. A number of mistakes in your lace reflect poorly on your work. Consider reworking pieces with mistakes to achieve the highest quality.
6. No candidate identification by name should appear on any of the lace or documentation submitted in the portfolio. Please use your unique identification number provided by the Proficiency Program Committee on all parts of your portfolio in order to ensure anonymity during assessment. Your identification number can be found on your I.O.L.I. Lacemaking Proficiency Program registration receipt.

7. Portfolios will be accepted only in final form; all work must be present, and the evaluation fee must be paid in full when the portfolio is submitted.
8. The contents of the portfolio must be in the order specified in the Journal.

Portfolio Evaluation

Submitted portfolios will be evaluated by an Assessment Committee selected by the chair of the Proficiency Program Committee for their expertise and experience in the specific area of lace to be evaluated. The assessors will examine the submissions and a written critique will be provided to the candidate.

Evaluation criteria are specified in the Journal. Some possible criteria include, but are not limited to:

- a. overall presentation of the portfolio.
- b. thoroughness and quality of written work.
- c. the following for lace samples:
 - 1) overall appearance
 - 2) suitability of thread type and size to gauge of pattern
 - 3) appropriate use of construction techniques
 - 4) consistent tension
 - 5) neat and tidy joining if applicable
 - 6) successful use of color
 - 7) very inconspicuous changing of threads when required due to knots or breaks in the thread
 - 8) smooth, even cloth-stitch stitch and half-stitch elements
 - 9) movement of threads from solid design areas to ground areas

Following assessment, comments from the Assessment Committee will be sent with the returned portfolio. An explanation of any deficiencies identified at assessment will be included. You will be allowed to resubmit any written work or lace pieces that do not meet minimum criteria for successful assessment. A fee may be required for reassessment.

When you successfully complete the program, in recognition of your accomplishment, your work will be featured in *The I.O.L.I. Bulletin*. Please note a piece that you would like to have photographed for *The Bulletin* on your Candidate Cover Page. We will consult with you on the best method to accomplish this celebration of your success.

For further questions related to the I.O.L.I. Lacemaking Proficiency Program please contact the current chair of the Proficiency Program Committee at proficiency.ioli@gmail.com.