

the internet, thereby establishing an ongoing dialogue. By using modern software and platforms, the individual chapters are being created by small core groups of 2-5 researchers, exchanging their work and ideas on a regular basis. This approach enables the researchers to make available their individual expertise to their colleagues in order to create fast results while constantly being peer-reviewed to live up to the highest scientific standards. To firmly establish collaborative writing as a means of working together in historical research is another aim of the project.

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# History of Heraldry in Europe (12th-18th c.)

A Collaborative Book Project



## The History of Heralds

The history of heralds is concerned with a pan-European office connected to nobility and aristocratic culture, traceable for a period of almost eight centuries. Due to an abundance of surviving sources – both external and created by the heralds themselves – light can be shed on an office related to persons, deeds, the culture and perception of society's upper strata, with regard to areas of life as diverse as tournaments, courtly ceremonies, warfare, diplomacy, espionage or even literature and antiquarianism.

Despite the outstanding potential of the topic, the history of heralds is a largely understudied one. The majority of the studies on heralds published so far are limited to certain restricted regions and periods of time, hence mostly offering rather unrelated case studies. A general overview covering the phenomena related to the office comprehensively (both transepoachally and transgeographically) has not been published yet, which is all the more surprising, since the history of heralds offers insights into various interrelated areas of historical research.

## The Objective of the Book

The objective of the book project is therefore to bring together and to combine the participants'

diverse expertise (geographically, chronologically and thematically) in order to establish a new research perspective, thus creating a seminal introduction to the office of arms and its history in the *longue durée*. Consequently, for the first time, a scholarly publication dealing with the history of heralds will not be restricted to either the Middle Ages or the Early Modern period. Furthermore, the diversity and openness of this topic, the wide range of different approaches eligible for covering it as well as the aforementioned potential it holds for other fields of research will be discussed. In doing so, open questions in this field and the potential avenues for further (comparative) research will also be addressed.

## Format of the Chapters

The book will consist of six chapters (including an introduction and outlook), each composed of an introductory text and a number of short case studies in the form of spotlights. By juxtaposing different sources in the light of conflicting theories, the substantial variety of the history of heralds shall be demonstrated so as to pose further research questions.

## Table of Contents

Chapter 1:	Introduction
Chapter 2:	The ‚Story‘ of Heralds. Development of the Office (from 12th to 18th c.)
Chapter 3:	Particularities of the Office and its History
Chapter 4:	Functions, Missions, Responsibilities
Chapter 5:	The Writings by Heralds
Chapter 6:	Conclusion and Outlook

## Collaborative Writing

The book project 'History of Heralds' is being created as a conceptually closed work, bringing together the expertise of Europe's leading specialists in the field. However, they do not write individual contributions in the form of articles but write the book collaboratively as a single coherent text in the style of a monography, while still including diverse perspectives and focuses. After having attended two workshops in Muenster, the collaborators have taken to communicating via