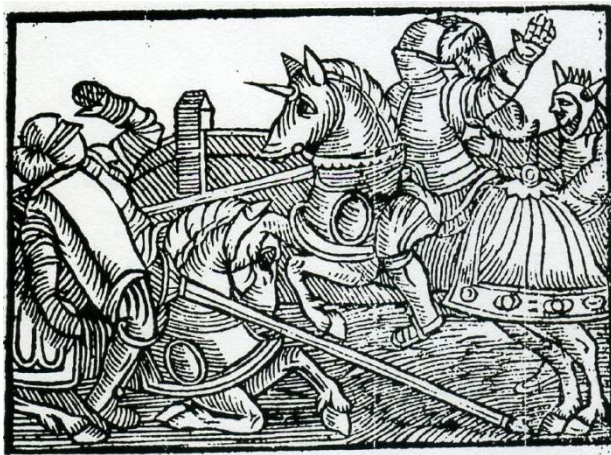


Deeds of Arms: Armored Competitions Beyond Tourney and Melees



Lord Cyriac Grymsdale (Kevin C. Towery)
Squire to Duke Lucius Aurelius Valharic



Class Outline

- Differences between Deed of Arms and Pas d'armes
- Discuss how to conduct a Deed of Arms in the SCA
- Questions?





Duke Ragnar announces to the field Lord Cyriac has challenged Count (now Duke) Valharic to a pass of 3 counted blows.

Deeds/Feats of Arms

- Historically, formal conflicts fought by prearrangement and within agreed-upon rules and limitations.
- Held between individuals and also between groups.
- Encompasses different types of combat, such as festive jousts, “tournaments”, and judicial combat.



Cyriac vs. Valharic to 3 counted blows

Deeds/Feats of Arms

- Combat of the Thirty in 1351 started popularity of combat on foot as a worthy deed of arms.
- Early historical deeds did not mention “judges”, but later became customary and expected.
- In the 15th century it became acceptable to challenge subjects of friendly sovereigns.

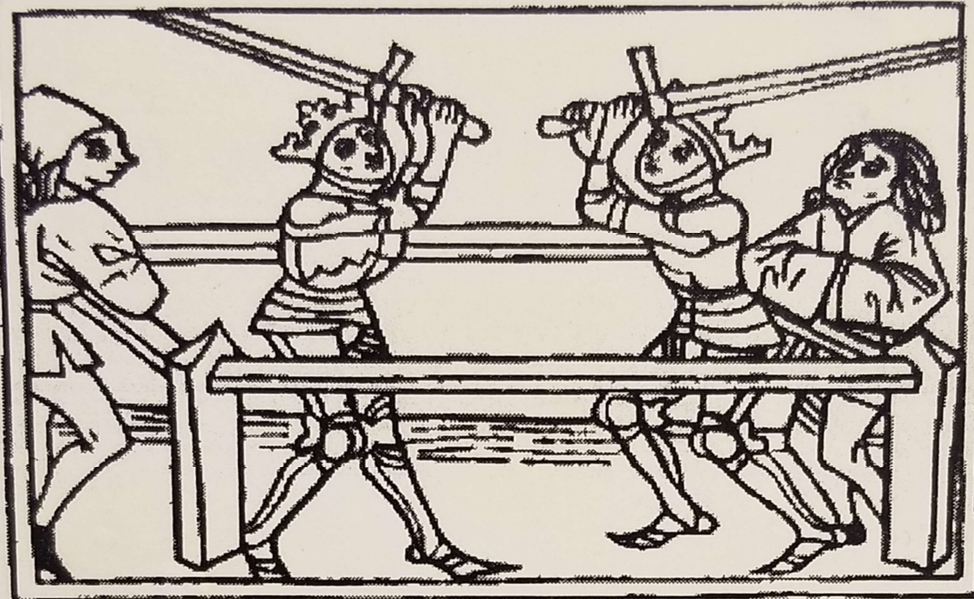
Pas d'armes

- Specific format for deeds of arms held at a particular location on a particular day.
- Involved a specified number of defenders (tenans) agreeing to meet all challengers (venans).
- In the SCA they are often held as formal tournaments focused on pageantry, heraldry, and may have a theme.

Le pas d'armes de l'Arbre d'or (Tournament of the Golden Tree) invitation

Let it be known that on the eleventh day of Novemer, Anno Societatis Forty One, the Canton of Elvegast in the Kingdom of Atlantia will host a Pas d'Armes in celebration of the marriage of Margaret of York to Charles the Bold, Duke of Burgundy, for such a day of pageantry, chivalry, and celebration shall not soon be repeated.

Armored combatants who should wish to take the field may seek counsel from Mastra Callistus Gill regarding the day's combat. Those of gentler talents may find advice from Lady Rosalind Delamare who shall serve as the day's minister of the arts and science.



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**Le pas d'armes de l'Arbre d'or
(Tournament of the Golden Tree)
Windmaster's Hill, Atlantia
November 2006**

Why should I do a Deed of Arms?

- Are you a Champion?
- Want to mark a significant event?
 - Celebrate years of marriage or an engagement
 - Birthday milestone
 - Years fighting milestone
- Have a vow you wish to be relieved of?
- Looking for an opportunity to gain renown?



How formal does it need to be?

- Formal can be as simple as time/date and place.
- Do you want a “King of Arms” to help conduct the deed?
- Does it require a specific kit?
- Will it require accessories (i.e. list field barrier)?





**The Lady in Death's Tower
Great Northern Eastern War
Provence of Malegentia, East Kingdom 2018**

Duke Maynard of Aethelmearc rescues the "Lady in Death's Tower"

How should I conduct a Deed of Arms?

- Issue a challenge!
- Common terms to decide:
 - Weapons form allowed
 - Number of blows allowed to determine winner?
 - Any special conventions (i.e. leg blows don't count or not acted out)
 - In the field, at the barrier, at vespers, etc.
 - What event to hold the deed at?
- Typically, challenges are made upwards or laterally (i.e. squire to knight, knight to knight, etc.)

Example of Personal Challenge

To all and singular comes greetings from <Your name>, who sends <his/her/etc.> most <brotherly/sisterly/etc.> defiance. <Your name>, who declares <himself/herself/etc.> the sworn vassal of his Dread King, the most puissant and wise <King's name>, and also the liege-man of his Prince of the Blood Royal, <Prince's name>, stands before you with great happiness in <his/her/etc.> heart, since this day <he/she/etc.> has been given a rare opportunity to advance the cause of chivalry and knightly grace and virtue.

Hail to the Royals, may God and his angels lead you to high honors and to victory over those who oppose you! In the presence of all who witness this day I issue challenge to <Challenged's name>, <lord/lady/knight/etc.> strenuous, for I do desire a deed of arms against this most famous and warlike <lord/lady/knight/etc.>. I do request a contest of arms, in the English fashion, meaning all on foot and with rebated arms.

I do issue this challenge not out of any desire for vainglory, or to accomplish anything but learn at the hands at those whom the Lord, in his great largesse, has given the most talent in swordplay and valiant Prowess.

On bended knee I ask for this deed of arms against the noble <Challenged's name>, and let all of the glory from this -our deed- be <his/hers/etc.>.

May Queen <Queen's name of your kingdom>, and her heir the Princess <Princess's name> claim the honor of this day, and of this tourney, since they are the spring from which all inspiration and holy prowess flows.

Thanks be to all who have heard this.

How should I conduct a Deed of Arms?

- Once a time/date is picked, make sure to coordinate with the marshals to let them know.
- Announce the challenge on various lists to build up excitement!
- Consider “hiring” a herald to help announce the deed at the event occurring at or event in advance at other events.
- Deed of arms are not limited to the 14th century! Consider what your persona may have done.

Example of 10th Century Challenge

One noble combatant will be chosen. The combatant shall be dressed in appropriate armor and finery fitting a warrior of the Heroic Age (7th to 10th century). The warrior shall have brandished before him a worthy banner bearing his mark. He should have with him a worthy sword that is named, a sturdy shield, a short spear and great axe. The combatant will bring with him three other great warriors, men of renown and fame. The warrior will boast of his deeds and lineage and introduce his companions, extolling their deeds as well. Just as Sigurd did when he courted Brunhilda. The warrior will then put on a display of his martial talent by challenging each of his companions in order, fighting one with sword and shield, the next with short spear and the last with the great axe. After the combat, the warrior should bestow on his companions noble gifts fitting his station. All of this will be done in plain sight and with an assembled throng to watch and judge the man. Sir Gunnar or Sir Vitus along with other nobles will then judge the warriors efforts. If they are worthy, the warrior will reap a harvest of renown and treasure of name-fame as well as gifts from the hands of great men.

Tips/Suggestions

- If the terms are complex (i.e. multiple weapons forms), ask a friend to act as a second to help out.
- If holding a deed of arms for a personal event, consider having a token to give to each challenger.
- Most important thing – Have fun!

Questions



DEEDS OF ARMS

Steven Muhlberger



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