

The background of the top half of the cover is a detailed, light-colored illustration of the coat of arms of Paris. It features a central shield with a cross, flanked by two lions holding a shield. Above the shield is a crown with a fleur-de-lis on top. The entire emblem is surrounded by ornate, swirling flourishes and a banner at the bottom.

Archives of the Masters of Arms of Paris

Henri Daressy

Les Archives des Maîtres d'Armes de Paris

Peek inside

Contents

Introduction	ix
The Corporation	ix
Henry Daressy	xi
The Text	xi
The Translation	xiii
References	xiv
Preface	3
Historical Overview	5
Notes on the Historical Overview	13
Ordinances and Statutes of the Master Players and Sword Fencers of the City of Paris for the Regulation of the Said Fencing	23
Ordinances of the Masters of Deeds of Arms of the City of Paris	27
Statutes and Rules made by the Masters of Deeds of Arms of the Town and Suburbs of Paris for the Support of their Privileges granted by Kings	33
Letters Patent	43
(December 1567)	43
(December 1585)	44
(March 1635)	47
(September 1643)	50
(May 1656)	55
(December 1758)	58

Judgement Against Vincent Banvarelle	61
Judgements Against the Master of Arms Called <i>Ferrailleurs</i>	63
(18 December 1685)	63
(18 December 1685)	64
(23 June 1724)	64
(14 June 1765)	65
Court Injunctions Concerning Colleges and Boarding Houses	65
Masters of Arms of Paris (1556–1850)	67
List of the Masters of Arms	71
List of Masters of the Royal School of Arms of the City of Paris who have made a Patriotic Offering of their Swords	78
Nineteenth Century	81
Principle Masters of Arms of Some Towns of France	84
Nineteenth Century	85
Fencing and Fencers (1556–1850)	87
Sale by Mathieu Gossu to Jean Gossu	87
Letter of Permission for Mathieu De Lor	87
Warrant Accorded to Laurent Fontaine	88
Receptions of Masters and Elections of <i>Jurés</i>	88
Cavalcabo	90
Jacques Ferron	91
Essay on the Marvels of Nature	92
The Use of Arms	92
A Fencing Competition at Toulouse	97
The Master of Arms by Bonnart	97
Pierre Daniel	98
Bertrand Teillagorry	98
Declaration of Cens	98
Dorcy	98
Lefebvre, His Provost Warrant Annulled	99
Guillaume Danet	99
La Boëssière, senior	100
The Noble Death Of Prince Léopold of Brunswick . .	101
Preface	101
The Cry of Vengeance on the Breaking of the Peace and the Infamy of the English Ministers	104
The Knight Saint-George	105
Account of Musicians Used in Spectacles for the Ser- vice of Monseigneur	107

Augustin Rousseau	108
Letter addressed to Citizen Antoine, the Pavillion be- fore Orléans, 21 rue de Union, at Versailles.	110
Three Masters of Arms become Marshals of France	111
Bouting in the Gardens of the Palais-Royale	112
Charlemagne	112
Jean Daressy	112
La Boëssière, junior	114
Lafaugère	115
Jean-Louis	119
Bertrand	120
Assault of Arms in 1814	121
Pierre Daressy	123
Academy of Arms (1886)	126
Duels and Letters of Remission	127
Duel between François de Vivonne, Lord of Chateigneraie and Guy Chabot, Baron of Jarnac	127
The Coup de Jarnac	129
The Duel of a Seventeen-Year-Old Page (1540)	131
The Duel of Des Bordes against d'Ivoy-Genlis (1560)	131
Letter of Challenge from Lord Castel-Bayart	131
Letter Addressed to the Tribunal of the Marshals of France	132
Admonition Obtained by the Baron of Gourgue	132
Letter of Pardon Accorded to Etienne de Clugny of Praslay, Councillor in the Court of the Parliament of Dijon	133
	139

Ordinances of the Masters of Deeds of Arms of the City of Paris

(10 July 1633)

We, Masters of Deeds of Arms undersigned, see the abuses which happen daily in our Community concerning the reception of Masters who have been received against the injunctions of the Court and the former ordinances that we have on this subject. The principal cause of this disorder has only come from the too great a charity and accommodation by us all towards⁶⁰ those who have been presented to the Mastery, who have been preferred to the detriment and reputation of those who with pain and work have acquired this status, which must only be conferred on those judged, seeing its importance, by the *Jurés* and Elders as capable people and [as] those who know the misfortune which could occur.

We, desiring to continue the former discipline that we had here in the past, have been advised to make an agreement together that we promise and swear to observe, point by point, even if previously we made some deviations, in order to endeavour to maintain for us that which nevertheless we had contravened.

We have elected a perpetual Trustee to whom we give power and authority to enforce⁶¹ this present agreement and ordinances. Submitting and obliging voluntarily to pay a fine of 12 *livre paris* in the case that we fail in what we promise now, we give power to the said Trustee to constrain us by any means possible in the case we contravene it in any way and manner that may be.

⁶⁰ à l'endroit de

⁶¹ de faire observer

A Fencing Competition at Toulouse

Under the reign of Louis XIII, the masters of arms of Toulouse, with the aim of inspiring emulation among their students, resolved to meet these latter in an annual conference and to determine the prize to two victors of this tourney.

A gilded silver¹⁷⁴ sword was the recompense for the first. The second received a silver sword. A little later, the chief magistrates¹⁷⁵ and the body of the city supported the expense of these prizes in the town of Toulouse, with which the weapons were engraved on the sword blades.

They agreed further, to those who merited them, free entry to the spectacle and the right to be presented with the sword at the town hall.

He should be of a noble or honourable family in order to take part in this competition which took place at same moment as that of the *Jeux Floraux*.¹⁷⁶

M. de Montandier, lawyer and chief magistrate under Louis XIV, revived this custom which had begun to fall into disuse.

In 1754, the eldest master of arms of Toulouse was Plate, whose father, grandfather and great-grandfather had taught fencing.

The great-grandfather had even been one of the promoters of the establishment of the prize.

The Master of Arms by Bonnard

An engraving by Bonnard,¹⁷⁷ who lived under Louis XIV, shows a master of arms in the costume of the period. At the bottom of the engraving is the following quatrain:

Rather than one knowing how without shame
The least touches to endure,
This master, in stuffing himself,
Finds his honour and his score.

¹⁷⁴ *vermeil*

¹⁷⁵ *les capitouls* – the twelve chief magistrates of the city

¹⁷⁶ A poetry and minstrelsy festival and competition revived in Toulouse in 1324 and lasting until 1790. It was re-established in 1806 and continues to the present day

¹⁷⁷ This image is not reproduced in the original book

The Duel of a Seventeen-Year-Old Page (1540)

In the course of January 1540, King François I received at Chantilly Emperor Charles V. During this stay, a squire of the king's daughters named René de Sajault, aged around seventeen years, and a king's guard having met in the courtyard of the château and began joking. The joking became insults and soon a quarrel so acrimonious to the point that they challenged each other. They went to fight in the corner of a park a little distance from the château.

“They unsheathed their swords together from which they hurled several strikes one on the other so that the said suppliant (René de Sajault) was injured by the said deceased in two places in the face and the said deceased with a cutting strike to the hamstring in which he had some nerves cut.”

The guard died about a month after “without lacking for good treatment, good regimen, government or otherwise.”

King François I absolved René de Sajault in favour of his youth and accorded him a Letter of Remission given at Paris in the month of July 1540.

The Duel of Des Bordes against d'Ivoy-Genlis (1560)

In 1560, a nephew of the Marshall of Bourdillon, named Des Bordes, battled in a duel near the park of Saint-Germain-en-Laye with d'Ivoy-Genlis. Des Bordes had a hamstring cut but he didn't die of it. He was killed two years later in the battle of Dreux.

Letter of Challenge from Lord Castel-Bayart

(XVI century)

Monsieur, you are such a little thing that were it not for the insolence of your words I would never have remembered you.