**Guide to the *Pas d’armes* database**

Welcome to this database produced by members of the *Pas d’armes* and Late Medieval Chivalry research network! This database provides access to thirty-nine *pas d’armes* that took place in Europe between *c*.1420 and *c.*1520. It includes key information for each *pas* – i.e. dates, locations, formalities, festivities, types of combat and weapons, known material infrastructure, and the nature of audiences – as well as biographical details of those in attendance, such as *entrepreneurs*, challengers, defenders, heralds, high-ranking guests, judges, prize givers, prize winners, role-playing characters, scribes and sponsors.

The main function of the database is to serve as a research tool for those interested in or researching the *pas d’armes*. It is designed to supply users with a general overview of each event rather than a complete account of each *pas d’armes* since a full understanding can only be obtained by consulting the original primary sources (to which references have been provided). The database can be searched via **Events**, **People**, **Locations** and **Sources** all of which are accessible at the following links. For more information on how to use the database, please consult the guide below.

All of the information in this database is gathered from a large corpus of primary sources. Only precise dates, e.g. the year of someone’s birth or death, have been given where available; otherwise, they have not been included. Sources used for creating the record of each *pas d’armes* can be found by accessing the Database via **Sources**.

If you become aware of archival or published sources that are not mentioned here, or if you have additional information that would allow us to make a more precise identification of participants, please contact one of the two editors of the database.

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**Using the Database**

**Events**

The default view of the Events displays the name, location, date, and *entrepreneur* (organiser) of each *pas d’armes*. Select a column heading to sort the data alphabetically or chronologically. Select an event to bring up further information, including any important occasion linked to the event (such as marriage, baptism or Joyous Entry), pre-event formalities, types of combat and weapons, known material infrastructure, the nature of the audience and the presence of any role-playing characters, e.g. dwarfs or giants. Note that for these more detailed categories, information is only recorded if it is explicitly mentioned in the sources. For example, although there may have been barriers at the 1445 *Pas de Nancy*, there is no reference to them in accounts of the event and so they do not appear in the database. Select any underlined keyword to bring up every other appearance of that term in the database. For example, selecting ‘chapters of arms’ under ‘Formalities’ will display every *pas d’armes* with associated chapters of arms that are recorded in the sources.

Further sections on notable events, extra information and anonymous persons are used for data that fall outside the parameters of these categories. ‘Notable events’ include particularly noteworthy moments of a *pas d’armes*, such as injury or death during combat. ‘Extra information’ presents other points of interest that members of the research network have felt useful or important to include, as well as information relating to participants whom we have not been able to fully identify. ‘Anonymous persons’ summarises the presence of anyone at the *pas d’armes* whose name is not recorded. This includes heralds, role-playing characters (such as the otherwise anonymous goddess on a cart at the 1428 *Paso de la Fuerte Ventura*), and anonymous combatants.

When you scroll further down, you will find a list of all named persons present at a particular *pas d’armes*. See below under **People** for an explanation of how we dealt with converting the names found in the sources into more modern spellings. Other information includes roles occupied by those present at the *pas*, the names of any role-playing character they may have portrayed, and details of any lordships, offices, noble or knightly title that they held at the time of the specific *pas*. People with more than one role, such as ‘challenger’ *and* ‘prize winner’, are recorded multiple times in order to reflect this.

To search the database from a dropdown menu, click on the red ‘Search Database’ button. Searching for people via this button provides a list of every *pas d’armes* at which they were present.

**People**

When you access the database via **People**, you will find a complete list of those persons present at the thirty-nine *pas d’armes* listed under **Events**. The default view displays full names listed in alphabetical order, as well as places of origin, birth dates, and death dates when these are known from primary and secondary sources. First names of all historical figures originating from predominantly French-speaking lands have been given in modern French with a standardised spelling (e.g. Antoine, Hervé, Jacques, Jean). The same also applies to most of their family names (e.g. Louis de Hédouville, Jacques de Lalaing) except for those of people belonging to the highest social ranks for whom a conventional anglicised form exists (e.g. Margaret of Austria). The names of those persons from other parts of Europe have been rendered in a modern spelling appropriate to the language of their country of origin (e.g. Johann of Cleves, Jan van Halewijn, Suero Quiñones, Pedro Vásquez de Saavedra). Original spellings of names in the primary sources have been supplied so as to allow the user of the database to check our identification. To sort the data alphabetically or chronologically, select the related heading.

There are many persons in the database who are only identified by either their title or role. This is most evident in the case of heralds or role-playing characters. Such persons are, by necessity, named in different ways from those for whom we have full names. Those who can be partially identified, such as heralds, have the last name of ‘Herald’ and their territorial or lordly association as the first name. Sometimes it has only been possible to identify persons by their family name.

Only anonymous persons of interest, such as significant role-playing characters, have their own entries in the database. For example, the Lady of the Enchanted Column (‘La Dame du Perron Fée’) at the 1463 *Pas du Perron Fée* has her own entry, whereas the Wild Men at the same *pas* do not. Other anonymous persons for whom no descriptors are available can be found in the ‘Unnamed Persons’ section under **Events**, such as the aforementioned Wild Men, or the twenty-four knights who accompanied King Juan II of Castile to the 1428 *Paso de la Fuerte Ventura*.

To search the database from a dropdown menu, click on the red ‘Search Database’ button.

**Location**

When you access the database via ‘Locations’, a map will pop up which is generated by the data in the database. It shows the places where *pas d’armes* were held. Select a location on the map (you have to hover the cursor over the small black square) to view the data for the *pas d’armes* which took place there. When there is more than one *pas* held in that particular location, you can subsequently select the *pas* in which you are interested.