



# Gentlemen's Blood: A History of Dueling

*Barbara Holland*

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## **Gentlemen's Blood: A History of Dueling** Barbara Holland

The medieval justice of trial by combat evolved into the private duel by sword and pistol, with thousands of honorable men-and not-so-honorable women-giving lives and limbs to wipe out an insult or prove a point. The duel was essential to private, public, and political life, and those who followed the elaborate codes of procedure were seldom prosecuted and rarely convicted-for, in fact, they were obeying a grand old tradition.

Based on her fascinating 1997 Smithsonian article, Barbara Holland's *Gentlemen's Blood* is the first trade book to trace the remarkable, often gruesome, sometimes comical history of the Western tradition of defending one's honor.

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