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THE FOUNDING OF THE SCANDINAVIAN ROLL OF ARMS IN 1963 AND THE SWEDISH REGISTER OF ARMS IN 2007: COMPARING TWO REVOLUTIONS IN THE PUBLICATION OF BURGHER ARMS IN SWEDEN

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When *Societas Heraldica Scandinavica* (SHS) was founded in 1959 the proposal to institute a Roll of Arms was soon put forward.¹ Agreement, however, on this could not be reached² and instead Jan Raneke together with Christer Bökwall founded the Scandinavian Roll of Arms (*Skandinavisk Vapenrulla*, SVR) as an independent entity (**Figure 1a**).³ SVR was launched in 1963 and quickly became a guiding reference for the assumption of burgher arms in the Nordic countries.⁴ SVR offered an opportunity to publish newly assumed arms that had been lacking, since no authority had this responsibility. SVR set a high standard both for the blazon and for heraldic art. With time a growing number of eligible arms were not submitted to SVR, mainly for financial reasons: the high fee for publication was a deterrent. In addition to the fee, a rendering of the arms of sufficiently high artistic merit had to be provided, adding to the cost.

After several years of preparation, the Swedish Heraldry Society, in collaboration with the Swedish National Committee for Genealogy and Heraldry, launched the Swedish Register of Arms (*Svenskt Vapenregister*, SV) in 2007.⁵ Thanks to the work of volunteers the fee could be set to a mere fraction of the SVR fee (less than 8%), including a standardized drawing of the arms in the price. This led to a revolutionary increase in the number of registered arms (Figure 1c). The number of arms registered yearly in SV varies between 3–8 times that of SVR (Figures 1d and 1e), despite the fact that SV is limited to Swedish arms only, whereas SVR is open to arms from all the Nordic countries.

In 2011 SVR was transferred to the SHS, as was the original intent, and the fee has subsequently been substantially reduced. Today, SV often serves as a quality assurance step before also applying to SVR, commissioning a heraldic artist only after the SV approval.

The Scandinavian Roll of Arms

Founded: 1963

Geographical scope: The Nordic countries

Scope of the kinds of arms registered: All

Number of arms registered (2021): 812

Run by:

1963–2010: Jan Raneke, Christer Bökwall and Tor Flensmarck (from 1983), under the name The Heraldic Publishing House (1963–1970); break 1971–1973.

The Scandinavian Roll of Arms Foundation (1974–2010).

2011–: *Societas Heraldica Scandinavica*, with Ronny Andersen as editor.

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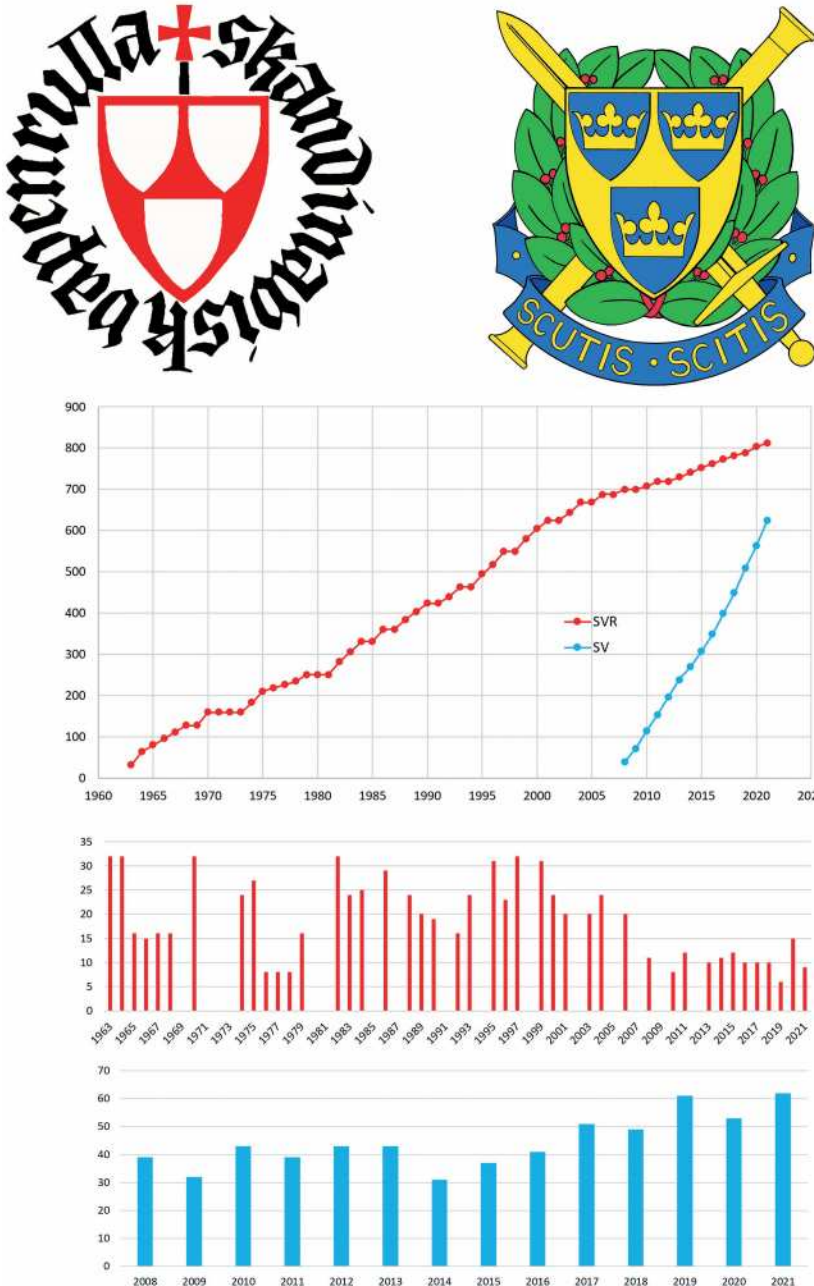


Figure 1: top left, 1a: coat of arms of the Scandinavian Roll of Arms, Artist: Jan Raneke; top right, 1b: coat of arms of the Swedish Collegium of Arms, Artist: Ronny Andersen; 1c: the accumulated number of arms in the registers; 1d: registrations per year in the Scandinavian Roll of Arms 1963–2021; 1e: registrations per year of the Swedish Register of Arms 2007–2021.

Who reviews and approves applications:

1963–2010: The editorial staff. During 1989–2010 a few people appointed to a heraldic council were also consulted.

2011-: The editorial staff, now a larger number of people than previously.

How are the arms published:

In booklets with 6–32 arms, printed annually or every second year (with some exceptions). The ten first booklets 1963–1970 had a format with two arms per page (Figure 2), since then the layout has been with one coat of arms per page (Figure 3). The scope of the publication is an artistic drawing of the arms, full blazon and a text explaining the background of the armiger and the arms.

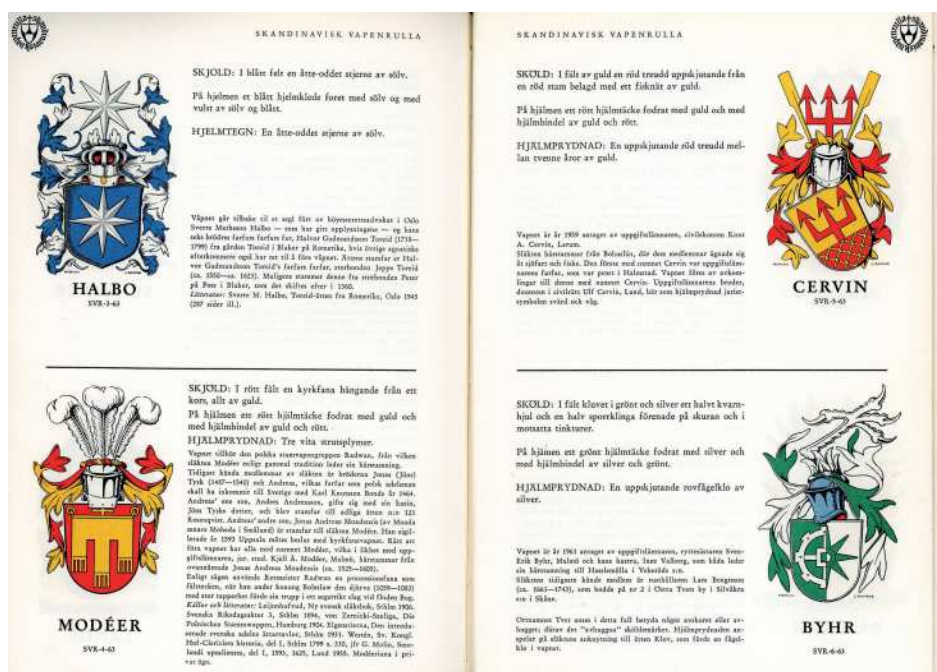


Figure 2: The original 1963 format of the Scandinavian Roll of Arms.

Application fee:

2003: 3850 SEK

2022: 1500 SEK

This does not include the cost of the mandatory artistic drawing of the arms.

Please refer to Appendix 1 for the original publication principles of SVR and to Appendix 2 for the current publication principles.

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Figure 3: The modern format of the Scandinavian Roll of Arms.

The Swedish Register of Arms

Founded: 2007

Geographical scope: Sweden

Scope of the kinds of arms registered: Burgher arms

Number of arms registered (2021): 624

Run by: The Swedish Heraldry Society in collaboration with the Swedish National Committee for Genealogy and Heraldry.

Who reviews and approves applications:

The Swedish Collegium of Arms (**Figure 1b**), a committee under the Swedish Heraldry Society. The general public is also invited to review and provide feedback on the arms about to be approved, as is The Swedish National Committee for Genealogy and Heraldry.

How are the arms published:

–When provisionally approved:

Online and in the biannual publication Announcements of the Swedish Collegium of Arms⁶ with a deadline for objections (**Figure 4a**). This includes the arms drawn in a template and the full blazon.

–When finally approved:

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Online (drawing and blazon, in both Swedish and English) and in Announcements of the Swedish Collegium of Arms (blazon only). Since 2018, in a series of hardback books,⁷ 200 arms at a time, with blazons in both Swedish and English (**Figure 4b**). In the books, all the template drawings as well as a selection of artistic drawings are included.

Application fee:

300 SEK

This includes the cost of a drawing of the arms, following a template and made to illustrate the blazon.

Please refer to Appendix 3 for the statutes of SV.

APPENDIX 1

Publication Principles of the Scandinavian Roll of Arms 1963⁸

1. With the Scandinavian Roll of Arms, the publishers want to create a forum for the registration and publication of both newly adopted and long-established family coats of arms belonging to persons or families residing in or originating from the Nordic countries.

In addition, the Scandinavian Roll of Arms aims to increase interest in heraldry and heraldic art, stimulate genealogical research, and strengthen the Nordic sense of belonging.

2. Publication of a coat of arms must be based on data communicated in a form established by the publishers and filled in and sworn to by the informant.

3. With the publication, the publishers guarantee no legal effect in the form of priority, exclusive right to arms, or any other type of legal protection for the professed armiger.

The publication only means a date for the announcement that a person, according to their own information, is de facto using a certain coat of arms.

4. The publishers are not responsible for the accuracy of the information provided beyond what can be checked in available sources. Obvious inaccuracies will not be published, and in doubtful cases great restrictiveness is applied.

5. What will not be published:

–Any newly adopted family coat of arms that is identical to, or confoundable with, a coat of arms to which another person or family, in the opinion of the publishers, has a better right.

–Arms that are in violation of applicable law and regulation or of generally accepted heraldic rules.

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JAN-ERIC OLSSON, Eksjö, ansökan 2014:35
 Sköld: I silver tre blå kollektivar, ordnade två över en, med vardera två röda skaft.
 Hjälmtäcke: Blått fodrat med silver.
 Hjälmprydnad: Två blå kollektivar med korslagda röda skaft.



MATTIAS ANDERSSON, Lomma, ansökan 2014:36
 Sköld: I rött ett på en stam byggt grekiskt tempel med sju pelare, däröver en upplysande örn, allt av silver.
 Hjälmtäcke: Rött fodrat med silver.
 Hjälmprydnad: En kärve av guld mellan två oxhuv, delade i rött och silver, vardera besatt med tre röda vinblad.



JOHAN LINDERS, Lund, ansökan 2014:41
 Sköld: Två gånger klaven och två gånger delad; börmärlan gröna och belagda med vardera ett lindblad av silver, mittfältet blått och belagt med en femuddig stjerna av silver samt de övriga fälten av silver.
 Hjälmtäcke: Blått fodrat med silver.
 Hjälmprydnad: En blå grip med drakvingar och med röd beväring, hållande med höger framben en grön palmkvist.



JAEËL MARIA AHLIN, Lidingsö, ansökan 2014:42
 Sköld: Två gånger klaven och två gånger delad i svart och silver; i mittfältet ett ljåkeors av guld.
 Claus K, Berman har inte deltagit i beslutet.



KAJ LINDOHE, Mora, ansökan 2014:44
 Sköld: I fält, medelst en vågskura delat i guld och blått, ett lejon av motsatta tinkturer och med röd krona och beväring, hållande en uppryckt lind, över vågskuran röd och därunder av guld.
 Hjälmtäcke: Blått fodrat med guld.
 Hjälmprydnad: En skorsten av guld varur en uppkommande skorstenfejare med ansikte och händer av silver och med svarta kläder och kurpis, hållande i höger hand en lina med krets, stänka och lod och i vänster hand en räffel, allt svart.
 Martin Sunneqvist har inte deltagit i beslutet.



ANTJE JACKELÉN, Uppsala, ansökan 2014:46
 Sköld: I guld tre gröna ekblad förenade i trefpass och däremellan tre röda mantuanska stickkors ordnade radiellt.

SLUTLIGT GODKÄNDA VAPEN INFÖRDA I SVENSKT VAPENREGISTER

Följande vapen har slutligt godkänts och förs in i Svenska Vapenregister. Vapnen har kungjorts såsom preliminärt godkända i Meddelanden från Svenska Vapenkollegiet nr 15 (Vapenbildn 092014). De anförs här med registreringsnummer, antagarens namn, ansökningsnummer samt blasoneringen med eventuell justering till följd av Svenska Nationalkommitténs för Genealogi och Heraldik (SNGH) yttrande och Svenska Vapenkollegiets förenade granskning.

SV-271 SIMON KARLSSON (2011:37). Sköld: I guld två stolpis ordnade flåkra svarta korpar.

Anm: SNGH har inställt att korpar inte bär vara flåkra, eftersom förvärfv kan ske med dem. SVK emmar att flåkr korpar har godkänts i SV-04 Karlsson. En annan sak är att skillnaden mellan korpar och örns inte todes vara tillräcklig för att förvärfvinst mellan i övrigt lika vapen ska anses utsluten.

Vårdare: Sagelind är en skiljaktig mening och motström med SNGH.

SV-272 LINUS KALLGREN (ansökan 2013:12). Sköld: I blått en balk av silver belagd med tre av vågskuror bildade blå strängar, åtföljd ovan av en örre och nedan av en ekgren med löv allt av guld. Hjälmtäcke: Blått fodrat med guld. Hjälmprydnad: En svart örre sittande inom en krans av fyra liljor och fyra uppställda ekblöv, varav tre liljor och två ekblöv synliga framifrån, allt av guld.

SV-273 ROLAND SPORRONG (2013:19). Sköld: I guld en svart bjälkevis ställd spore med sporrklinga riktad åt dexet, åtföljd nedan av en röd rupp. Hjälmtäcke: Rött fodrat med guld. Hjälmprydnad: Två korslagda svarta hamnare mellan två gröna ekblöv.

Anm: Sköldens utformning förändrad av antagaren i förhållande till preliminärt godkännande. Blasoneringen av sporrn protesterad på motstånd av SNGH.

SV-274 VICTOR CARLSON (2013:24). Sköld: I rött en grön balk avgränsad ovan och nedan av strängar av silver, åtföljd ovan av en stående knuten pansarnäve av



Figure 4: top, 4a: An example of a couple of pages of the printed Announcements of the Swedish Collegium of Arms, with announcements of provisionally approved arms on the left and a list of blazons of confirmed and finally approved arms on the right. Any adjustments to or special considerations concerning the approved blazons are commented on in the text. Rejections are also published and explained, but anonymized; bottom, 4b: The Swedish Register of Arms Volume 1 SV 1–200 (open) and Volume 2 SV 201–400 (standing).

APPENDIX 2

Current Publication Principles of the Scandinavian Roll of Arms⁹

1. The Scandinavian Roll of Arms (SVR) is published by Societas Heraldica Scandinavica.
2. SVR shall first and foremost be a forum for the publication of both newly adopted and long-established coats of arms, belonging to persons living in the Nordic countries, or connected to the Nordic countries, as well as institutions, authorities, private companies, etc. That are legal entities, residing in the Nordic countries.
3. SVR also aims to increase interest in heraldry and heraldic art, stimulate interest in genealogical research and strengthen the Nordic sense of community.
4. Publication of a coat of arms takes place at the armiger's own expense, and on the basis of information from the armiger. SVR's editorial staff decide which information is to be published and formulate the final text. The armiger is responsible for the correctness of the information provided, and claims of titles, nobility and holding of orders and other signs of dignity must be documented by the armiger. False and unofficial orders are not mentioned and must not be reproduced together with the drawing of the coat of arms.
5. SVR does not publish coats of arms that can be confused with existing coats of arms or that are against applicable law. A coat of arms must meet the criteria of good heraldic practice in order to be published. SVR's editors reserve the right to reject a coat of arms if it is deemed not to meet these criteria.
6. The armiger is himself responsible for submitting a heraldically correct drawing of the arms. SVR's editorial staff reserve the right to reject drawings that are deemed not to meet the criteria for good heraldic design. Digital drawings are published to the extent that they are original works of art. Plagiarism and clip-art are not accepted.
7. The publication of a coat of arms in SVR has no legal effect in terms of legal protection of the published coat of arms. The publication only states that, according to his own information, the armiger is using the coat of arms in question.

APPENDIX 3

Statutes of the Swedish Register of Arms 2007¹⁰

Organisational status

- § 1 The Swedish Register of Arms is a part of the Swedish Heraldry Society.
- § 2 The Swedish Register of Arms is run in cooperation with the Swedish National Committee of Genealogy and Heraldry and in participation with Heraldiska Samfundet.¹¹
- § 3 The Swedish Collegium of Arms is responsible for the administration of the register.

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- § 4 The Swedish Collegium of Arms is a committee of the Swedish Heraldry Society and its procedures are approved by the board of the Swedish Heraldry Society.
- § 5 The Swedish Collegium of Arms consists of at least five and at most seven members. One of the members is appointed by Heraldiska Samfundet and the rest by the board of the Swedish Heraldry Society.
- § 6 The board of the Swedish Heraldry Society appoints one of the members to be chairman of the collegium.

Purpose and scope

- § 7 The Swedish Register of Arms registers heraldic arms for Swedish private persons and Swedish legal persons.
- § 8 Shield, mantling and crest may be registered.
- § 9 Exempt from registration are those arms that belong to the state or state authorities, municipal arms and arms of the nobility.
- § 10 Requests to register arms or to have a certificate of registration issued are only accepted if the Swedish Collegium of Arms judges that the applicant has a strong enough claim to the arms.

Procedures

- § 11 Arms that are submitted for registration are examined by the Swedish Collegium of Arms.
- § 12 The examination by the Swedish Collegium of Arms shall consider: (a) Whether the arms conform to the rules of heraldic design and usage. (b) Whether the arms are unique and do not infringe on the rights of others.
- § 13 Preliminarily approved arms are made public, and objections may be made before the final approval is tried.
- § 14 The Swedish National Committee of Genealogy and Heraldry will have the opportunity to comment on the arms that the collegium plans to grant a final approval.
- § 15 Arms that are granted final approval are made public, are entered into the Swedish Register of Arms, and a certificate of registration is issued to the applicant.
- § 16 The collegium will also issue certificates of registration for arms that are already entered into the register, and in such cases the examination only concerns whether the applicant has the right to bear those arms.

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- § 17 Rejections shall be accompanied by a justification in writing.
- § 18 To clarify the position of the collegium, if the reasons for a decision are of a general interest, the justification shall be given in writing and made public.

Miscellaneous

- § 19 The Swedish Heraldry Society finances the register and the work of the Swedish Collegium of Arms in such a way as the board decides. Fees are credited to the Swedish Heraldry Society.
- § 20 These statutes are approved by the board of the Swedish Heraldry Society and the Swedish National Committee of Genealogy and Heraldry. They may be altered in the same way.
- § 21 If unresolvable disagreement between the Swedish Heraldry Society and the Swedish National Committee of Genealogy and Heraldry occurs, each of these parties has the unilateral right to withdraw from the register, and in such case these statutes are no longer in force.

Approved by the Swedish National Committee of Genealogy and Heraldry: 8 June 2006, and by the board of the Swedish Heraldry Society: 10 June 2006.

¹ Sven Tito Achen, *Et Register over Borgerlige Våbener* [A Register of Burgher Arms], *Heraldisk Tidsskrift*, Bind 1, nr 2, October 1960, p. 45–52.

² The archive of *Societas Heraldica Scania*, the local branch of *Societas Heraldica Scandinavica* in the south of Sweden.

³ Martin Sunnqvist, *Skandinavisk Vapenrullas uppkomst och utveckling* [The Origin and Development of the Scandinavian Roll of Arms], *Heraldisk Tidsskrift*, Bind 12, nr 120, October 2019, p. 694–706.

⁴ *Skandinavisk Vapenrulla* [Scandinavian Roll of Arms], 1963-.

⁵ *Statuter för Svenskt Vapenregister* [Statutes of the Swedish Register of Arms], *Vapenbilden* Nr 68, December 2006, p. 454–455; Martin Sunnqvist, *Svenska Vapenkollegiet – en presentation* [The Swedish Collegium of Arms – A Presentation], *ibid.* pp. 451–453; *Arbetsordning för Svenska Vapenkollegiet* [Rules of Procedure of the Swedish Collegium of Arms], *ibid.*, pp. 455, 458–459, 462.

⁶ *Meddelanden från Svenska Vapenkollegiet* [Announcements of the Swedish Collegium of Arms], in every second issue of *Vapenbilden* since Nr 71, September 2007. *Vapenbilden* is the journal of the Swedish Heraldry Society, published since 1976 and currently with four issues per year.

⁷ Jesper Wasling (editor), *The Swedish Register of Arms Volume 1 SV 1–200*, The Swedish Heraldry Society 2018; Henric Åsklund (editor), *The Swedish Register of Arms Volume 2 SV 201–400*, The Swedish Heraldry Society 2022.

⁸ Translated from Swedish by the author.

⁹ Translated from Danish by the author.

¹⁰ This is an official English translation from Swedish that is printed in *The Swedish Register of Arms* Volumes 1 and 2.

¹¹ *Heraldiska Samfundet* was a heraldry society based in Stockholm that since 12 July 2022 has been incorporated in the Swedish Heraldry Society. The statutes are currently being revised to reflect this change.