

## **Submitting a Book Proposal to Helion**

If you have a title to propose as a possible Helion publication, it is best to do so at a fairly early stage in the development process: ideally once the bulk of your research is complete but before you have begun to work on your manuscript. We would rather work with you on an idea for a book that might be delivered in a couple of years' time than to receive a completed manuscript that might well require some revision to be suitable for publication and which, in any case, would have to wait many months for a slot to become free in our publication schedule. By making contact with us at an early stage, our editors will be able to offer feedback on your proposal and help you refine your ideas into something that will do justice to your goals as an author but which will also be a viable commercial proposition for us as a publisher.

At the same time, though, we do need a reasonable amount of detail in order to be able to make a judgement on whether it would be a viable title for us to publish. We would therefore ask you to think about, and respond to, each of the numbered points below. There is no need to provide vast amounts of detail at this stage; the response to the main proposal, points 1-4 below, need only cover a side or so of A4.

Please submit your completed proposal and any supporting material to the relevant contact as per the list below:

For general military history, topics pre-1450, and topics 1939-1945: Duncan Rogers:

[jeromeatoz@googlemail.com](mailto:jeromeatoz@googlemail.com)

For topics c.1450-1721: Charles Singleton: [charlesjsingleton@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:charlesjsingleton@yahoo.co.uk)

For topics 1721-1815: Dr Andrew Bamford: [andrewbamford18@gmail.com](mailto:andrewbamford18@gmail.com)

For topics 1816-1914: Dr Christopher Brice: [chrismbrice@yahoo.com](mailto:chrismbrice@yahoo.com)

For topics 1914-1939: Dr Michael LoCicero: [thirdypres@hotmail.com](mailto:thirdypres@hotmail.com)

For topics post-1945: Tom Cooper: [tom@acig.info](mailto:tom@acig.info) and Andy Miles:

[helionandym@gmail.com](mailto:helionandym@gmail.com)

## **1. Summary**

In the most basic sense, what is the book about? Provide a descriptive summary, such as you might expect to see on the back cover or dust-jacket of the finished book. Please emphasise any new research that has gone into the book, and any new, interesting, or controversial conclusions being presented.

If you see this title as falling into one of the specific series within the Helion brand, please indicate this (and submit to the appropriate editor, as above). Similarly, please indicate whether you envisage your title as being a conventional monograph (i.e. primarily text, with supporting illustrations, maps, etc., as necessary) or whether you see it as better fitting one of our illustrated formats with more artwork/photographs.

## **2. Specifications**

A key thing for us to know is how long you expect the book to be. We realise that at this stage this is going to be an estimate, but if you have put together a sample chapter (see below) then this should enable you to make it a reasonably educated estimate. We need a word-count rather a number of pages.

Most of our books contain images as well as text. Even a book that is primarily textual will very likely need supporting images, reproduced in black and white alongside the text, and the

vast majority of our titles require maps. Other than colour artwork in certain titles (see below), these are your responsibility to source, although for maps we can provide the services of one of our cartographers to work with you at our cost. Please provide an estimate of the number of black and white illustrations that you anticipate needing, and of the number of maps.

Some of our titles also contain colour inserts. This primarily applies to our illustrated 'Falconet' titles in the 'From Retinue to Regiment', 'Century of the Soldier', and 'From Reason to Revolution' series. For these titles, a budget will be available to either commission or reproduce colour artwork but it is necessary for you to indicate at this point what you expect your requirements in this area to be. Other titles may include colour inserts if there is a particular need; if you think that your proposed title falls into this category, please explain why you think that this is the case, what artwork you would like to see reproduced in colour, and an estimate of the costs.

### **3. Content and Sources**

Please provide an outline of the main sources that you plan to use in your book. Is it compiled primarily from archival material? Eyewitness accounts? Study of objects (e.g. museum artefacts)? Existing printed material? From where do you plan to source the necessary images to go with the text? See also under 7., below.

### **4. Market Analysis**

What do you see as the main selling points of your proposed title? Please provide a list of three-four selling points that you would expect us to use in marketing the finished book. Do you see it having a particular geographical or other focussed area of appeal?

Are you aware of any competing titles? If so, how is your proposed book different to/better than existing literature on the topic? It is important that advise us if you have previously written on this subject, or any closely related subject, on a professional or amateur basis in any format (including but not limited to; writing for academic purposes, private or self-publication, a website or blog). If you have previously written on this subject what makes this proposed work different to your previous work on the same subject?

## **5. About You**

Please provide a short CV, with a focus on what qualifies you to write the book that you are proposing. This should include an outline of previous publications, if any (including work for journals, magazines, and websites if relevant).

## **6. Sample Chapter**

If you have not written for us before, we would generally expect to see a sample piece of your writing so that we can see for ourselves your style and fluency of language. Ideally this should be a draft chapter or section of the book that is being proposed. Please remember to treat this proposal as a professional piece of writing, and to use appropriate spelling, punctuation and grammar. You will need to be able to demonstrate that you can write English to a reasonable level of competency and make appropriate use of English language vocabulary relating to your subject.

## **7. Bibliography**

In order to expand on the summary requested under 3., above, please provide a draft bibliography listing the sources used in compiling the book. This should include both archival

and published sources, listed separately (please see Helion Style Guide for bibliographical conventions and ensure that your draft bibliography conforms to this).

### **Additional Questions for Edited Collections**

If your book is an edited collection (i.e. multi-authored chapters by different contributors) you should also address the following points:

- Is the book of a consistent academic quality?
- Are the chapters structured logically and integrated around a coherent central theme?
- Will you be providing a detailed introductory chapter and a conclusion?

### **What Happens Next**

You should get an email reply acknowledging the submission of your proposal. It will then be considered carefully by the relevant series or commissioning editor, who may need to discuss aspects of it with you to obtain more detail and/or suggest changes in order to ensure that the book is commercially viable. The editor will consider such points as:

- Is the content of this book of a high standard?
- Is there a market for a high quality book on this subject?
- If there is a gap in the market, is this the right book to fill it?
- Will the book sell internationally?
- Are your English language writing skills of a professional standard?

If the editor is satisfied at this stage, the proposal will be passed on to our Director, Duncan Rogers, for final approval and, if this is forthcoming, a contract will be issued to you. Our Author Guide to the Publishing Process explains how the process continues from that point.