Author’s Guide

History Colorado’s Publications Department produces award-winning articles, books, and podcasts on history about the Centennial State. We are actively seeking authors and content producers with well-researched, unique stories that help readers and listeners better understand the place we call home. In particular, we are soliciting article pitches and book proposals.

The Colorado Magazine: Our nearly 100-year-old publication examines the state’s history from a relatively informal perspective while still maintaining the principles of sound research. We look for well-researched pitches from authors on topics that appeal to the casual student of Colorado history as well as the scholar. Emphasis is placed upon stories of broad appeal that will be well-organized, tightly written, and dramatic. Ideally, an article pitch will link the past to the present. We welcome stories that amplify diverse voices and untold (or underrepresented) stories. Although many of our writers are scholars, anyone interested in Colorado history is welcomed and encouraged to submit pitches.

Articles are published online and, occasionally, in print. These pieces seldom exceed 4,500 words and will go through a rigorous editing process. Even though articles rarely carry footnotes in the final published form, writers should submit full documentation and fact check materials. In addition—and often used in the final published article—authors should include a short bibliographic essay on sources. They should also include a brief biography of themselves with the submitted manuscript. Photographs, maps, and other illustrations are crucial to any article submitted to The Colorado Magazine, and authors are strongly urged to keep this in mind during research. A caption and source credit should be included with every photograph and images should be hi-res and no smaller than 1,000 pixels on each side.

Books: We accept unsolicited book proposals or scholarly manuscripts on any aspect of Colorado history, but please note that we are very limited in the number of books we can publish, thereby limiting the scope of unsolicited material we can consider. Promising manuscripts are reviewed initially by the editorial staff and forwarded to one or more reviewers. Review and evaluation time vary, but authors should anticipate at least three months. Before submitting a monograph—generally any work over one hundred typewritten pages—authors should query with a written description of the topic and its significance to Colorado history. Primary documents, such as personal reminiscences, diaries, and letters, have an important place in our program of scholarly publications and will be considered in the same manner as interpretive articles. However, authors’ introductions, as well as annotations, should be provided for historically significant diaries, letters, and reminiscences.

Thank you for your interest,

Natasha Gardner
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