

ICMH Newsletter, Issue 29

June 2018



With this Newsletter we want to keep you informed about the activities of the ICMH community. First of all, the President presents a mid-term evaluation of the activities of our Commission under his tenure. Of course, we also have the XLIV Congress which will be organized this year in Jerusalem (Israel). Besides that, we also want to keep you informed about our current and future activities. Finally, there is the Corvisier Prize, the grant from the Breidenthal-Snyder Foundation, some reports on conferences and the latest news on publications.

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A mid-term evaluation

Prof. Massimo de Leonardis – President

ICMH, unlike the United States, has no mid-term election which might influence the activities of the President and its administration. I may also assure the readers that my tenure has not be influenced at all by the perspective of possible re-candidature in 2020.

However, I think that, being in the second half of the current mandate, it is opportune to present a short evaluation of the activities performed in the period between September 2015 and June 2018.

I am not prone to self-indulgency, but I believe that the performance of the Executive Board has been quite positive. Any different and critical view will be carefully considered. First of all, a pre-requisite of a good performance is a friendly, frank, and cooperative attitude in the team; we have this inside the ExBoard. On the basis of my previous experience, I can also say that the Full Board was possibly consulted more than in the past, also thanks to the innovative procedure of telematics votes. Particularly in the last year, I frequently consulted the National Commissions and solicited their views.

The ExBoard worked hard to launch new initiatives or improve old ones within the domain of its powers: the reform of our Statute, the new Website, the new Newsletter, the new official gift, the Corvisier Prize. The activities of the Specialized Committees were followed with attention, providing support and incitement when required. The transition to a new leadership of the Bibliography Committee and the *International Journal of Military History and Historiography*, a not so easy step which required much attention, was successfully accomplished fully complying with the existing rules. The circulation of our *Newsletter* was more than doubled and was extended to scholars outside ICMH. We tried, albeit without success so far, to enlarge ICMH membership to new National Commissions.

We had to face the cancellation with a very short term of a Congress for unpredictable circumstances in 2016 and we had to find a solution for the location of the Congress in 2019, after the recall of a previous candidature. Again, the latter was a difficult decision; however, I hope that everybody would agree that the choice was made after a very wide consultation.

Talking of consultation, I would finally mention the debate we opened in 2016 and renewed in the last week in view of a discussion in Israel, on means to improve the scientific level and the attendance to our annual Congresses. Certainly the economic situation is worse than in the past and bears influence on the organization of our Congresses.

In conclusion, I can only invite all members of ICMH to express their views as

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frequently as they deem necessary. They will always find an attentive President and an attentive ExBoard.

Towards the XLIV ICMH Congress in Israel

Dr. Kris Quanten – Secretary General

The XLIV ICMH Congress will be hosted by the Israeli Commission in Jerusalem from Sunday 2 until Friday 7 September 2018. The central theme of the Congress is *'The creation of New States and the collapse of Old Empires in the XXth century'*. The year 2018 coincides with two important events: the 70th anniversary of the establishment of the State of Israel and the end of the WWI Centenary. This double anniversary offers a good opportunity to discuss both the end of WWI and the large number of new states which have been created afterwards as also the birth of new states in the context of wars of liberation and independence.

The Congress will take place in the Ye'arim Hotel which is situated near Jerusalem on one of the highest peaks fully immersed in nature's charm. For the accommodation of the participants, different types of rooms with different kinds of prices will be proposed. For the PhD candidates a special PhD-Workshop will be elaborated in cooperation with the Education Commission. Especially for these young historians, convenient accommodation opportunities at lower prices will be provided.



Besides the academic program, the Israeli Commission also proposes an attractive social program, which includes visits to the Old Jaffa, the Palmach Museum in Tel Aviv, the Dead Sea, Caesarea, the Latrun AFV Museum, Haifa, Acre, ...

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For those who want to discover more of Israel, there is the Pre-Congress Cultural Tour which starts on 28 August and takes until 31 August. The proposed itinerary is mainly concentrated around the historical and scenic Galilee Region with the Bahai Gardens-Haifa, Capernaum, the Sea of Galilee, Mary's Well Nazareth, the Kibutz Ramat Yochanan, ... Participants will finally return to their respective countries from Ben-Gurion International Airport.

Personal visa can be issued by the Israeli Commission upon request for delegates from countries without diplomatic relations with Israel.

We are looking forward to meeting you in Jerusalem!



The 2nd edition of the André Corvisier Prize

Prof. Massimo de Leonardis – President

The 2nd edition of the Corvisier Prize marked the growing success of this initiative, both in the number of candidatures and the quality of dissertations presented: 17 candidatures from 8 countries this year for theses approved in 2017, in comparison to 26 in the previous edition for theses approved in 2015 and 2016.

The Jury, the ExBoard plus Dr. Michael Olsansky, President of the Educational Committee, met in Milan on Friday 11th May. Each member of the Jury illustrated the theses he considered meritorious according to the agreed criteria listed in the Prize's

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announcement. It was also taken note of Dr. Michael Epkenhans', Secretary of the Educational Committee – who was unable to attend – evaluation.

After a detailed discussion, a vote was taken to have a shortlist of three candidates. A second vote was taken within this shortlist resulting in the unanimous choice of the winner: Dr. Maxime Petitjean for his thesis *Le combat de cavalerie dans le monde romain du Ier siècle a. C. au VIe siècle p. C. Tome 1*.

This is an excerpt of the motivation, the full text of which is published on the ICMH website:

The dissertation is a work of Military History, very impressive for its amplitude, depth of analysis and completeness of sources of different categories, coeval texts, epigraphy, papyrus and ostrakon, numismatic, archeological, and modern bibliography.

Following the teaching of Hans Delbrück, one of the founding fathers of scholarly Military History, with intellectual ambition, insatiable curiosity, and an elegant style, Mr. Petitjean demonstrates that ancient cavalry was a very relevant fighting force. Organizational and strategic issues are discussed, but the focus is mainly put on tactics and battle mechanics. The aim of this research is to account for the evolution of the art of war during the end of Antiquity by analyzing specifically the stakes involved in the development and use of cavalry. The growing importance of mounted troops in the imperial strategy marks an important change in the history of the Roman army, with a gradual shift from offensive warfare, pitched battle and heavy infantry towards deception, frontier warfare and mounted archery.

Report on the activities of the Archives Committee

Mr. Michael Steidel – President of the Archives Committee

The former President of the Archives Committee, Dr. Hans Pawlisch, and many members of the Archives Committee (CAM) agreed that the work of the CAM needs a new orientation.

In Plovdiv the members of the CAM discussed the possibilities for greater Committee presence on military archives issues. To achieve that, it was decided that we will publish our papers and presentations on the website of the ICMH and do not print our publications as a book or a newsletter like *Mars & Janus* any more. In particular, the possibilities of incorporating hyperlinks to the websites of military archives in the different countries on the ICMH website were examined.

The goal is an “Online Guide to Military Archives”, embedded in the ICMH website, to promote research in military history supported by a new Content Management System.

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The underlying data-template ask for structured information in twelve headings: "Archive name (English), Archive name (native), Country, Address, Organization affiliation, Website, E-Mail, Phone, Fax, General description of contents, Categories, Linear measurement, Period covered, Access conditions (opening hours), Conditions of use (legal conditions), Publications/Guides of the archive, finding aids accessible to the public (printed/electronic)".

The result would be a portal on the ICMH website with additional information and content of the committee work. This new Online Guide would be an extremely useful tool. In the order of the above-mentioned headings, it contains information on the national military archives and other institutions with address and communication data, as well as detailed information on the archival holdings relevant to military history. The particular value of these entries lies in the selection of the military-relevant data from the context of the worldwide archives.

The Archives Committee would like to thank Prof. Dr. Massimo de Leonardis for his support and encouragement for this initiative and also the web manager, Dr. Davide Borsani.

Report on the activities of the Bibliographical Committee

Dr. Marco Wyss – President of the Bibliographical Committee

Firstly, please allow me to thank the President and the Executive Board of the ICMH for their trust in supporting me as the President of the BC of the ICMH and appointing me as Editor-in-Chief of the IJMH. Secondly, I would like to express my gratitude to Col. Prof. Winfried Heinemann for his support and work as Secretary-General of the BC of ICMH and Board Member of the IJMH. Without him the transition from Dr Mauro Mantovani's to my editorship would certainly not have been as successful and smooth. Thirdly, I am grateful for the continued professionalism of our Book Reviews (and now Associate) Editor Dr Avinash Paliwal, who has carried on with his duties despite the uncertainties that surrounded our publication over the last year. Fourthly, I am glad that I can count on the support of the Board of the IJMH and the BC of the ICMH, which remain dedicated to the scientific mission of the IJMH. Fifthly, our esteemed Editorial Advisory Board remains a great asset by providing essential advice and additional credibility to the IJMH. Last but not least, our editor at Brill, Dr Kate Hammond, played a key role in helping to ensure the future of the journal as an internationally respected publication. In the following few lines, I will give you a brief update of our activities and successes since the transition to my editorship.

The transition to my presidency and editorship was, despite some difficulties, relatively smooth. This was, in addition to our perseverance and patience, rendered possible by the diligent support of the President, Treasurer, and Executive Board of the ICMH. Since the official handover at the end of December 2017, the IJMH Board has succeeded to establish an excellent working relationship with the ICMH, which

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provides the journal with the political and financial support it needs to help the commission achieve its academic ambitions. Consequently, from a 'political' and 'administrative' perspective, everything is working in perfect order.

I am delighted that the update on the IJMh itself is also positive. The material for the first issue of this year's volume was not only sent to Brill on time, but it also shows the journal's continued improvement in quality. In addition to a substantial and diverse book reviews section, it contains for the first time as many as four original research articles. Since half of these articles are from very promising early career scholars, this clearly illustrates the increasing success of the journal's Early Career Prize. Meanwhile, the preparations for the second issue of this year's volume are well under way. Under the guest editorship of Dr Kate Lemay (National Portrait Gallery, Smithsonian), a special issue of four articles on war cemeteries is currently being finalised. The journal's first special issue and qualitative move towards more original research articles this year does not mean, however, that we will neglect the book reviews section. The Book Reviews and Associate Editor is currently preparing, in cooperation with the BC of the ICMH, a large and diverse selection of book reviews.

The planning for next year's volume is also well under way. On the one hand, we already have a substantial number of original articles that made it through double-blind peer review, and that are earmarked for the first issue. On the other, Dr Sandra Dawson (Northern Illinois University) is currently preparing a selection of articles on women in the Second World War, which – after peer review – will be published as a special issue in the second half of next year. Moreover, we are expecting a number of commissioned historiographical articles by world-leading experts, such as two articles on Ancient Greek and Roman military history by Lee L. Brice (Western Illinois University). The historiographical and bibliographical mission of the journal remains key. Therefore, we not only count on the members of the BC of the ICMH to continue to contribute book reviews, but also rely on a wider network of reviewers to write for the journal. Finally, we are delighted that in cooperation with the President and the Executive Board of the ICMH, the IJMh will now also publish an article by the winner of the Corvisier Thesis Prize, starting with Caleb Karges of Concordia University Irvine.

In sum, the development of the journal into a leading publication in military history, and a major asset of the ICMH, is progressing very well. This would not have been possible, however, without the great team behind the journal, and the support of the leadership and community of the ICMH.

Report on the activities of the Educational Committee

Dr. Michael Olsansky – President of the Educational Committee

The last annual meeting of the Educational Committee of the International Commission of Military History took place on 3 September 2017 before the opening of the 43rd ICMH Congress in Douala. Fourteen colleagues accepted the invitation. It

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represents, so far, the highest number of participants at the annual meeting of the committee, which is still in its infancy.

In the first part of the meeting, it was discussed how military history is currently taught in Cameroon. Professors Vincent Ntuda Ebode and Issa Saibou explained core themes, opportunities and challenges of teaching military history at colleges and universities of the country to the participants. According to them, Cameroonian history students are very interested in military history, but the archives situation, in particular access to written sources, can be problematic. These remarks invoked the interest of the participants and represented the start of a longer discussion. The Educational Committee once again would like to thank their Cameroonian hosts for these informative insights.

The second part of the meeting was dedicated to the issue of “World War I and World War II in the Colonies – topics, scientific approaches, methodological approaches, ways and challenges for academic teaching”. The participants of the meeting briefly outlined the current state of this theme at their own institution as well as generally at institutions of higher education in their country. The many interesting inputs would have deserved a more in-depth discussion, however not for the first time it became obvious that having a thorough discussion of the according topic as part of the annual meeting is not possible due to time constraints. The President of the Committee is therefore working on a new setting in order to remedy this issue.

The PhD panels of the Congress at Douala adhered to the general topic of the congress and were dedicated to the themes “The two World Wars in Cameroon”, “Colonialism and War”, “Gender and War” and “Decolonisation”. The panels ran very smoothly. The contributions of the PhD students were generally of a high quality and the projects presented were on a satisfactory academic level. The discussion of the PhD projects was always very open, honest and led with the aim of helping the PhD students to improve their projects. The Committee once again would like to express its thanks to all participants.

At the beginning of this year, the Educational Committee issued a Call for Papers for the PhD panel of the next Congress in Jerusalem on the usual academic online platforms. Many submissions have already been received. Accordingly, the committee can contribute three to four PhD panels to the Congress of 2018. These will follow the more general theme of the conference (“The Creation of New States and Collapse of Old Empires”). More information on this can be found on <https://www.hsozkult.de/event/id/termine-36292>. The Educational Committee is looking forward to the forthcoming Congress in Jerusalem.

The IJM Early-Career Paper Prize 2018

The International Journal of Military History and Historiography invites submissions for

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its IJMH Early-Career Paper Prize. The IJMH has been continuously published (from 1978 to 2015 as the International Bibliography of Military History – IBMH), on behalf of the International Commission of Military History (ICMH), which can trace back its origins to 1938. Traditionally its main focus was on book reviews and review articles.

The Prize will be awarded to an academic article of outstanding quality in the field of international military history written by a graduate student or an early-career scholar, which will have been published in the 2018 volume (38) or the 2019 volume (39) of IJMH. The author of the winning article will be officially announced in the journal, and receive a €1,000 cash prize.

In line with IJMH's general guidelines, submissions should be an original contribution to the field of military history that is of interest to an international readership, e.g., a topic involving more than one nation and, preferably, based on multi-archival research. There is no chronological limitation. IJMH publishes articles ranging from antiquity to the contemporary period, provided that the subject is historical and the methodology fulfils academic standards.

The prize is open to graduate students who are currently registered at a higher education institute, or to those who have obtained their doctoral degree after January 1, 2013. Submissions for the 2018 prize are accepted on a rolling basis, but should be sent by 30 September 2018 by the latest. Articles should be submitted in PDF and Word Format, together with a short CV to the Editor-in-Chief, Dr Marco Wyss (m.wyss@lancaster.ac.uk).

Grant to ICMH from the Breidenthal-Snyder Foundation

Following a detailed application by the President of ICMH, with the support of the Treasurer, the Breidenthal-Snyder Foundation accorded a generous Grant of \$ 10,000, which will be mostly employed to finance the 2018 edition of the Corvisier Prize. Very special thanks are due to the Breidenthal-Snyder Foundation's President, Col. USAR (Ret.) JD. Willard B. Snyder, member of the ICMH Full Board.



Col. USAR (Ret.) JD. Willard B. Snyder

Various news

Acta of the Plovdiv and Douala Congresses

The Acta of the Plovdiv Congress of 2016, delayed by the Editor's death, will soon be ready in Pdf version on the ICMH website and printed copies will be presented at the Congress in Israel, where also the Acta of the Douala Congress will be presented.

Euro-Atlantic Conflict Studies Working Group, 18th Annual Conference

The Conflict Studies Working Group (CSWG) of the PfP Consortium of Defense Academies and Security Studies Institutes organized its 18th annual conference in Belgrade, Serbia, between April 16th and 20th, 2018. The conference was organized in partnership by the Strategic Research Institute, Serbian Ministry of Defence and the Austrian Military Museum. The topic of the conference was: "Alliance planning and coalition warfare: historical and contemporary approaches".

The event was attended by 44 participants (military historians, security experts, academics and researchers) from 21 countries, while 25 papers were presented. The conference volume will be published by the organizers.

Having in mind the needs of Nations who are increasingly choosing to conduct military operations alongside coalition partners, despite the fact that coalition warfare is extremely difficult to prosecute, the conference offered the ability to discuss about lessons learned from past and present coalitions that can better prepare soldiers and policymakers for multilateral military operations.



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The conference was completed by a cultural program that included visits to the Ethnographic and Historical Museums, the “Nikola Tesla” Museum and the Royal residence “White Castle”.

New appointments of the ICMH President

In January 2018 Prof. Massimo de Leonardis was appointed Scientific Advisor for the Humanities of the Italian Military Navy, and Dean Member (for life) of the Advisory Board of the Historical Office of the said Navy. He belonged to the Advisory Board since 2007.



Prof. de Leonardis being awarded the certificate of Scientific Advisor by Vice Admiral Paolo Treu, Deputy Chief of Staff of the Italian Military Navy.

Book presentation in Brussels

A scholarly and interesting book written by our colleague Prof. Dr. Dumitru Preda's (*La Roumanie et l'Entente 1916-1917*, Cavallioti, Bucharest 2017) was presented on 7th March 2018 in a hall of the European Parliament in Brussels.



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Being Prof. Preda a military and diplomatic historian, the panel appropriately included also the President and the Secretary General of the International Commission of History of International Relations, Prof. Dr. Hugues Tertrais, Université Paris 1 – Sorbonne, France, and Prof. Dr. Alfredo Canavero, University of Milan, Italy and the President of the International Commission of Military History, Prof. Dr. Massimo de Leonardis, Catholic University of the Sacred Heart, Milano, Italy. The book is being translated in other languages.

Newsletters on Military History

Every month we continue to receive the very fine Bulletin of *the Instituto de Investigaciones Histórico Aeronauticas de Chile* (<https://iihach.wixsite.com/historiaaeronautica>).

We received the excellent *Lettre d'Information* (nouvelle série, n° 11 – janvier 2018) published by the French Commission of Military History, with reports on the activities, including the ICMH Congress in Douala, articles, and many useful book reviews. The contact person is the rédacteur-en-chef José Maigre jose_maigre@yahoo.fr.

We also received a printed copy of the *Nouvelles de l'Association suisse d'histoire et de sciences militaires* (www.militariahelvetica.ch), with many interesting articles, books reviews and reports on the activities in French and German

News from the National Commissions

Dr. Kris Quanten – Secretary General

We were informed that Captain (Navy) Dr. Jörg Hillmann succeeded Col. Dr. Hans-Hubertus Mack in autumn 2017 as President of the German Commission.

Obituaries

We regret to inform that on 8th February 2018 General Jean Delmas passed away in Paris at the age of 92. Général de l'Armée de terre, docteur en histoire, Chef du Service historique de l'Armée de terre (in 1983), Président de la Commission française d'histoire militaire et vice-président de la Commission internationale d'histoire militaire (in 1991). He published widely on Napoleon, the Second World War and the War of Algeria and here we would like to mention in particular the volume *Officier et historien: études, articles et cours*, Paris, Commission française d'histoire militaire-Institut de stratégie comparée-Economica, 2001.

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We also regret to inform that Prof. Kostadin Grozev of the Department of History of Sofia University "St.Kliment Ohridsky" passed away. He participated to the Congress in Plovdiv in 2016 and was in charge of editing the Acta.