

# ICMH Newsletter, Issue 25

## June 2016

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With this first Newsletter of 2016, we would like to keep you informed about what's going on in the ICMH community. First of all, the Executive Board had a meeting on 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> May in Milan. The most important decisions taken during this reunion will be presented by the President. Of course we also have the XLII Congress which will be organized this year in Istanbul. For those who had not the time to have a look at the website of the Turkish Commission, we will briefly present the main characteristics. Finally, there are some major changes concerning our publications. The President of the Bibliographic Commission will elaborate on this in his article.

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### President's report

Prof. Massimo de Leonardis

The first months of the new Executive Board have been pretty busy. In spite of the fact that all members, with my only exception, had no previous experience in the Board, everybody was immediately performing his role with dedication and efficiency. The most important thing is that we are a very cohesive and collaborative team.

Three main topics required our immediate attention. The next Congress in Istanbul, which entailed frequent exchanges with the President of the Turkish Commission of Military History General Necdet Tuna, whose spirit of collaboration has to be highly appreciated. First of all the sub-themes of the Congress were agreed, then were dealt the logistic aspects, which had to comply with the law and regulations of the Republic of Turkey, with some inevitable delays, final step will be finalizing the scientific programme of the various sessions. On security issues the Turkish Commission gave full assurances that all possible steps will be taken.

One of the issues to which I devoted particular attention, also attending two meetings in Switzerland, was the *International Journal of Military History and Historiography* (new name). I am pretty satisfied of the results achieved in close collaboration with the Editor Dr. Mauro Mantovani (see his article) and the Publisher Brill.

It must also be mentioned that the last issue n. 93 of the *International Review of Military History* on *La presencia militar italiana en la milicia española* (see Navy Captain José Maria Blanco Nuñez's article) was presented in Madrid on 31<sup>st</sup> March and will be distributed in Istanbul. After the previous issues on the Irishmen and the Germans, the Spanish Commission is intending to complete the series with issues on the Swiss and the Flemish and must be congratulated for this well-coordinated and complete effort.

Another key issue was the transfer of the ICMH account from the bank in Switzerland to the one in the Netherlands. It was not a simple task and much gratitude for surmounting the many bureaucratic obstacles is due to the Treasurer/Assistant Secretary General Prof. Jan Hoffenaar and to the Treasurer of Honour Brigadier Prof. Fritz Stoeckli.

The Executive Board had a very productive meeting in Milan on 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> May. Many issues were considered and decisions taken, which will have to be ratified by the Full Board and the General Assembly, when required. On the future Congresses, we understand preparations are going on in Cameroon and the Secretary General was charged to follow some delicate problems. For the Congress of 2018 the Russian Commission has manifested a serious interest in organizing it in Moscow. In Istanbul the perspectives will be clearer. No problems are envisaged for the 2019 Congress in Baltimore 2019, while we are confident that the Congress of 2020 will be in Poland, in coordination with the Congress of the International Congress of Historical Sciences.

The website is a priority. Going on other social media (as Facebook) is to be considered carefully but not necessarily implemented. The current domain expires in September

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2016. In consideration of its cost and not very performing features, it will be changed to save money and have better performances.

The ExBoard agreed that in the 2017 budget a sum will be allocated to produce a new official ICMH gift, since the stock of current Delft plates is about to be consumed. The ExBoard approved the proposal of having a medal in bronze with the ICMH logo on the front and the name of the organization in English and French on the back, with the indication of the date of foundation (1938).

Under the suggestion of Vice President Dr. Pawlisch, the ExBoard agreed that a list and description of the main archives of interest for military history should be put on the new ICMH website and continuously updated. This would replace the *Mars & Janus* bulletin. Vice-President Dr. Pawlisch will supervise this operation in close consultation with leadership of the Archives Committee.

The ExBoard approved the President's proposal to create an ICMH annual prize to be awarded to the best PhD thesis in the field of Military History. The prize should bear the name of "ICMH André Corvisier prize *for PhD theses on Military History*". All details concerning the Prize will be decided in close consultation with the Educational Committee, a sum will be allocated in the next budget and the Prize should be launched in the first part of 2017.

The ExBoard welcomed the perspectives of Australia re-entering ICMH in the next future. The President reported on the efforts made through the President of the Spanish Commission to foster the formation of new National Commissions in Latin America. Uruguay has already asked information on the procedures to be followed to join and possibly a representative of that country will attend the Istanbul Congress. Also Chile had demonstrated interest. The Secretary General was tasked to engage the Baltic Defence College to explore the possibility for those countries to join ICMH.

Finally the ExBoard discussed and approved amendments to the current ICMH *Articles of Association* (to be renamed *Statute*). The proposal will follow the procedure provided by art. 32 of the current *Articles of Association*, which means that the new Statute will hopefully come into force after the 2017 General Assembly.

I am not prone to self-complacency, on the contrary I am rather inclined to self-criticism, but having experience of a number of other scientific associations both at national and international level I may say that ICMH is continuing to perform a fine job. Suggestions for amelioration are always welcomed; however it should be considered that the gap between suggestions and implementation is not always easy to fill for a complex organization as our own.

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### The XLII ICMH Congress in Istanbul

Dr. Kris Quanten – Secretary General

The XLII ICMH Congress will be hosted by the Turkish Commission in Istanbul from Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> until Friday 9<sup>th</sup> September 2016. The central theme of the Congress is '*Regional Wars from the XVII<sup>th</sup> Century to the Present and their Global Impacts*'. The Turkish Commission developed an attractive website where you can find all the relevant information *concerning* the academic programme, the venue, the hotels and the post-congress tour. All registration has to be done by this website which you can consult by clicking on the following links: [www.icmhistanbul2016.com](http://www.icmhistanbul2016.com) or [www.icmhistanbul2016.org](http://www.icmhistanbul2016.org)

The Congress will take place in the great conference room of the Conrad Istanbul Bosphorus hotel. Those who present a paper must keep in mind that the deadline for the submission of the abstracts is 15<sup>th</sup> June and for the papers to be presented 15<sup>th</sup> July 2016. The conference languages are Turkish, English and French.

For the accommodation of the participants, two hotels are proposed by the organizers: the Conrad Istanbul Bosphorus and the Hilton Parksa Istanbul hotel. For both hotels special prices are applicable which you can find on the website. For the PhD candidates a special PhD-Workshop has been elaborated in cooperation with the Education Commission. Especially for these young historians, convenient accommodation opportunities at low prices will be provided by the organizers.

Besides the academic programme, the Turkish Commission proposes also a tentative social programme, which includes visits to several historical places, museums and a day-long Istanbul Strait tour excursion.

For those who want to know and discover more of the beautiful country that is Turkey, there is the Post-Congress Cultural Tour which starts on Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> September and takes until Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> September. The proposed itinerary is mainly concentrated around the historical regions of Nevsehir (Cappadocia) and Antalya. During this five day trip the spectacular world heritage sites in Ürgüp, Göreme, Avanos, Kemer, Monavgat, Aspendos and Side will be visited. Participants will finally return to their respective countries from Antalya International Airport.

We are looking forward to meeting you in Istanbul!

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### **The International Bibliography of Military History (IBMH)**

Mauro Mantovani, President of the Bibliographical Committee of the ICMH, Editor-in-Chief

When the ICMH entered into a working relationship with Brill Publishers B.V., in 2010, it was with the intention to transform the Bibliography into an *academic* publication and, implicitly, to enter into a field of high competition.

The Bibliographical Committee (BC), as the body tasked with the implementation of the *Journal Editor Agreement* of 20 December 2010, took steps on this path and made significant headway: Ever since, the IBMH has appeared in two issues a year; the bibliographical reviews are of significantly higher quality; and our publication now also features a section with historiographical articles, selected by means of a double-blind peer-review process. Moreover, cooperation with Brill has allowed the Bibliography to go online, including a fully digitized backlist of all the issues of the Bibliography.

In its annual meetings in Torino and Beijing in 2014 and 2015, respectively, the BC agreed on the desirability to continue the transformation of the Bibliography including:

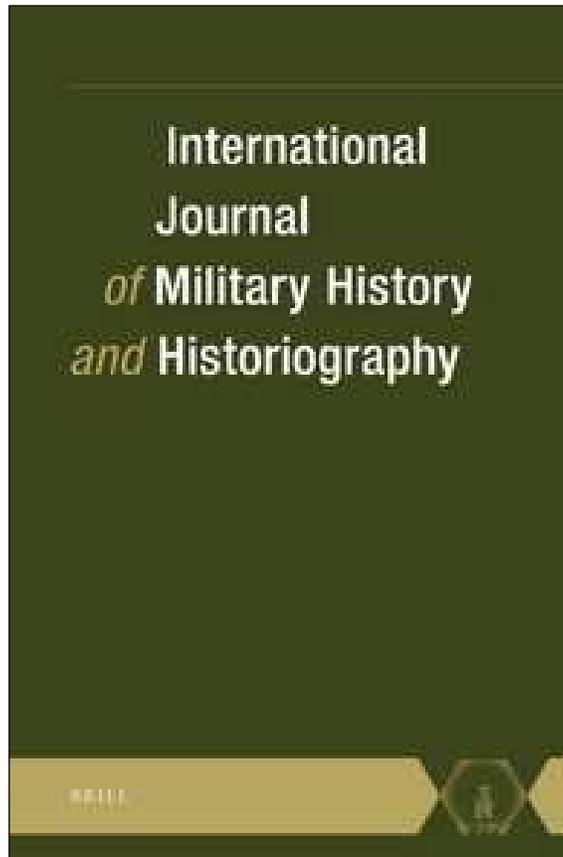
- The inclusion of original research articles, based on primary sources,
- the creation an “early-career prize” for the best original research article of each annual volume (sponsored together with Brill),
- the creation of the position of a Book Review Editor in charge of acquiring more reviews for the IBMH,
- the need to send out adapted calls for contributions,
- the need to adjust Brill’s website of the IBMH,
- a change of the IBMH’s title, in order to tally it with its more comprehensive content.

All these steps have been implemented since.

On 20 January, 2016, the annual meeting of the BC Board took place in Birmensdorf Switzerland. The meeting was held in an extended format, also including the new President of ICMH, Prof. Massimo de Leonardis, and Dr. Kate Hammond, Brill’s new Acquisition Manager, responsible for our Journal. At this meeting, there was an exchange of views on the achievements so far and a consensus on the most important next step: the creation of an Advisory Board for the Journal, in the course of 2016.

As of now, I am delighted to announce that on 4 July, 2016, the inaugural edition of the *International Journal of Military History and Historiography* (IJMH), wrapped in a completely new cover design and an slightly adjusted layout, is due to be published.

See also the refurbished website: [www.brill.com/international-bibliography-military-history](http://www.brill.com/international-bibliography-military-history)



**The International Review of Military History Nr 94 - The Italian Presence in the Spanish Military**

José Maria Blanco, Spanish Commission of Military History

The Spanish Commission of Military History (CEHISMI) decided to publish a series of studies dedicated to the presence of foreigners in the Spanish military. After the Irish presence (*International Review of Military History* # 92) and the Germanic presence (IRMH # 93), we now present the Italian units that, long before the great Italian nation was united, served under the banners of the Habsburgs and Spanish Bourbons in almost all conflicts of the Modern Age.

Prof. Massimo de Leonardis, President of the International Commission of Military History, has kindly written the introduction to this book, which starts with these illustrative words:

*In the XXVIII Congress of the International Commission of Military History that I had the honour to chair in Norfolk (Virginia), the cultural visit on Wednesday was to Yorktown, stage of the siege to the British forces and a decisive victory in the American War of Independence. Meanwhile, at the military museum, the first thing I saw was the flag of the Old Tercio of Lombardy, established in 1537 by an ordinance of King Charles I of Spain (V as Emperor of the Holy Roman Empire, or as commonly known in Spain, V of Germany). I felt moved, as Lombardy is my home region, but being a teacher of history of international relations I was not surprised, knowing well that the kingdoms of Spain and France were allies of the rebel colonies against Great Britain.*

And then ends:

*The International Commission of Military History, established in 1938, published the following year the first issue of this Review, which is therefore the oldest and most precious heritage of our activity. In recent years, the Spanish Commission of Military History has published three excellent numbers of the Review which, as President of the ICMH, I strongly welcome.*

We will now introduce the topic and the authors to the various sections:

Roberto Quirós Rosado starts with his "*Italian Coronelías in the Crown of Aragon. Segismundo Gonzaga and the Safeguard of Sardinia (1561-1577)*" fruit of his thorough research in the Archivo General de Simancas.

The complexity of the exhaustive study of Spanish-Italian military relations becomes obvious as we study the list of regiments of Italian infantry formed up in the eighteenth century, whose details are reported by Davide Maffi: "*The survival of a military tradition. Italians in Bourbon armies (1714-1808)*" and, once again, Roberto Quirós: "*The different regiments which, recruited in Milan and Naples, were sent to Spain to serve under the archduke/king/emperor Charles of Austria between 1705 and 1713*".

Those regiments of the Spanish Army were also closely related to the newly born (1717) Spanish Royal Navy, in a century of constant maritime expeditions, and were

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named as follows: Augusta, Basilicata, Sardinia, Corsica, Royal Fusiliers of Milan, Mecina (Messina), Milan, Naples, Palermo, Parma, Sicily, Tuscany and Vadenoti or Valdemoni.

Roberto Quirós has also tried to identify the troops offered by the various Italian states to the Archduke armies in Catalonia. The regiments created, their jurisdictional ties, the Board, later to become Council, of War and their leaders. This constitutes a new and important contribution to the historiography of the War of the Spanish Succession.

Also included in this book are the Spanish Navy officers of the Eighteenth century born on Italian territory, and even some born in Spain but to truly Italian families, who entered the Royal Company of Midshipmen of Cadiz, after its creation by the Spanish Bourbons in 1717, or the three companies that coexisted after 1777 (Cadiz, moved to the near Isle of Leon, Ferrol and Cartagena). Therefore, the study of the Italian "impact" in the Spanish Royal Navy during the Eighteenth and early Nineteenth centuries, has had to be conducted "individually", as there have been no ships or marine infantry or artillery units armed or trained in Italy, so we have analysed the careers of 126 midshipmen of Italian origin who served the King in the Spanish Royal Navy.

Not covered in this issue of the Review is the great influence of the Italian military engineers in the Spanish military history because, as previously mentioned, we have only studied military units organized at the service of the Spanish Crown, with the one exception made in the case of the Spanish Navy.

Lucas Molina Franco studies the Italians serving on either side during the Spanish civil war (1936-1939). To do this, he considers the integration of Italian antifascists in the International Brigades (it is worth to remember that Salvador de Madariaga defined this war as the war of the "anti-s", i.e. anti-fascists against anti-communists) and the performance of the 13<sup>th</sup> Brigade during the war. With respect to those who supported the rebels, he renders a detailed study of the land, sea and air forces that participated and the campaigns in which they were involved, and includes for the first time a study on the Italian participation in the Training Academies of the Mobilization, Instruction and Recovery Command.

Also included in the Review are the sources, an essential bibliography, colour illustrations, an analytical index and a glossary of acronyms.

We hope this issue follows the path opened by the two precedents and serve as the beginning, not the end, to the military studies on the intensive and extensive military relations between Italy and Spain.

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### Various News

Dr. Harold Raugh adapted the existing list of forthcoming military conferences around the world. You can consult this updated list on our website under the section 'News'. Any National Commission, who wants to organize a military history conference in the future, can send the necessary information to Dr. Raugh ([INFFAOHER7@aol.com](mailto:INFFAOHER7@aol.com)) for inclusion in his list. Hopefully, additional input will permit this listing to become more comprehensive and authoritative.

The Chinese Commission informed us that the Acta of the XLI Congress in Beijing will be published in July 2016 and that some hard copies will be taken to the Istanbul Congress to be presented there.

This year the Tunisian Commission published its Volume 5 of the *Revue Tunisienne d'Histoire Militaire*.

From 29<sup>th</sup> May to 4<sup>th</sup> June the Israeli Commission of Military History organized a cultural tour in Northern Italy which included visits to well-known artistic places and various battlefields of the Italian Campaign (1943-1945) in the Second World War. In particular a ceremony took place at the War Cemetery in Ravenna, where are buried 33 men of the Jewish Infantry Brigade Group which was formed in September 1944, chiefly by volunteers from Palestine.

The Italian Commission of Military History/Historical Office of the Defence Staff participated with its own stand to the International Book Fair in Turin. Among the various books presented, there was the volume *Le donne nel primo conflitto italiano: dalle linee avanzate al fronte interno* (Women in the First World War: from the forward lines to the internal front). The panel presenting the book, which numbers more than 500 pages, was chaired by the President of the ICMH, Prof. Massimo de Leonardis.



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### News from the National Commissions

We were informed of the following changes in the composition of the various National Commissions:

French Commission  
President  
Général **Yves de Guigné**

Moroccan Commission  
Vice-President  
Colonel-Major **Abdennasser Sinnate**

Tunisian Commission  
Secretary General  
Lieutenant-Colonel **Samir Chemi**