

ICMH Newsletter, Issue 26

December 2016



With this Newsletter we want to keep you informed about the activities of the ICMH community. Last September we had our 42th International Congress on Military History. Initially it was planned in Istanbul, but due to internal problems in Turkey the Congress was cancelled in extremis. All those who paid the registration fee in advance have in the meanwhile been reimbursed by the Turkish Commission. We would particularly like to thank the President of the Turkish Commission, General Necdet Tuna, for his helpful cooperation. As the congress was cancelled, the Bulgarian Commission – once more – came up with an alternative solution and promptly proposed to host the Congress in Plovdiv. In less than a month, Professor Dimitar Minchev succeeded in organizing this which was a real exploit! Finally, more than 80 members participated in the Congress with 35 academic presentations. Congratulations to the Bulgarian Commission for this outstanding performance!

In this issue we also want to give you an overview of the upcoming congresses for the next years. The congresses for 2017 (Douala – Cameroon) and 2019 (Baltimore – USA) are already fixed, but for 2018 two candidates applied : Israel and Russia. In this number we give both the opportunity to present their candidacy.

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The XLII ICMH Congress in Plovdiv

Prof. Massimo de Leonardis – President

For sure the organization of the Congress in Plovdiv would have deserved the rating of excellent in any case; considering the exceptional circumstances, it must be described as outstanding. ICMH must be extremely grateful to the Bulgarian Commission of Military History, which organized its third ICMH International Congress in four years. Moreover, while the 2012 Congress in Sofia was normally scheduled, the Congress in Varna in 2014 replaced one which could not be organized, the XLII Congress took place in a real emergency at a very short notice: about forty days, after the cancellation of the event in Turkey. So the Bulgarian Commission has secured a very important place in ICMH history. Therefore, while we regretted not being in Istanbul we were quite happy to be in Plovdiv.

Also the Turkish Commission of Military History deserves a word of appreciation, for working in close and collaborative consultation with the ExBoard in preparing the Congress, taking the responsible decision to cancel it in face of a serious and unpredictable situation and offering its collaboration in managing the consequences of cancellation. All the best must be wished to our Turkish colleagues, military and civilian academics, actually to all intellectuals, expressing the hope that they will be able to continue their work in freedom and peace.

The General Theme was 'Regional Wars from 17th Century to the Present, and Their Global Impacts'. In fact in his History of the English-Speaking peoples Winston Churchill describes the Seven Years War of 1756-1763 as the first world war, fought in four continents, a judgement shared by professional historians. Actually most of the papers presented focused on the Contemporary Age and in particular on the XX and XXI centuries. We expect to have the Acta ready for the next Congress of 2017 and we are sure that it will be a volume finely printed as it is the Bulgarian tradition.

Looking ahead, I would express the hope that in future Congresses the papers presented will be more coherent with the general theme than in some cases in the recent past and that everybody performs his duty. Many members of the ICMH in their respective roles do a fine job and are very active. This is the correct attitude to be adopted: we are not here just to have a title in our business card. I may assure that the ExBoard and the Full Board will work hard in the next few months to implement the decisions which were taken in various fields and that were announced at the General Assembly.

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The cultural program in Plovdiv

Dr. Kris Quanten – Secretary General

Besides the academic program, the Bulgarian Commission proposed a very attractive cultural and social program. The Congress itself took place in the center of Plovdiv, the second largest city in Bulgaria which is considered as one of the oldest cities in the world. The city has historically developed around seven hills, some of which are 250 meters (or 820 feet) high. In the ancient center there are still many remains from antiquity such as the Roman theatre, the aqueduct, the stadium, and many others. It therefore came as no surprise to learn that Plovdiv was selected as the Bulgarian host of the European Capital of Culture for 2019.



Not only in Plovdiv, but also in the wider area around were plenty of interesting historical sites to visit, such as the Assenovgrad fortress, the Arapovo Monastery, the Shipka Memorial Church, the Rose Valley (with its famous rose oil, which was much appreciated by the ladies), the Valley of the Thracian Kings (with the impressive tomb of Kosmatka) and the magnificent cities of Karlovo and Hissar. In the evening we had the pleasure of discovering the excellent local cuisine and the exquisite Bulgarian wine. Also, this was the appropriate moment to deepen mutual contacts between the participants. On Tuesday evening we had the pleasure of being invited at an impressive spectacle: the celebration of the unification of Bulgaria followed by a magnificent firework.

In short, the cultural program was a successful outing, with a balanced historical, cultural and culinary program. Congratulations to the organizers.



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The XLIII ICMH Congress 2017 in Douala - Cameroon

Dr. Kris Quanten – Secretary General

The XLIII ICMH Congress will be hosted by the Cameroon Commission in Douala from Saturday 2nd until Friday 8th September 2017. The central theme of the Congress is '*World Wars and colonies in history*'. The Cameroon Commission already developed a website where you can find all the relevant information concerning the academic program, 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 link: <http://icmhdouala2017.cm/>

The Congress will take place in the great conference room of the Akwa Hotel. Those who present a paper must keep in mind that the deadline for the submission of the abstract is 15th April and the papers should be presented not later than 30th May 2017. The conference languages are English, French and Spanish.

For the accommodation of the participants, three hotels have been proposed by the organizers: the Akwa, the Pullman and Sawa Hotel. For the three hotels special prices are applicable which you can find on the website. 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 are provided (Hotel La Falaise Bonanjo).

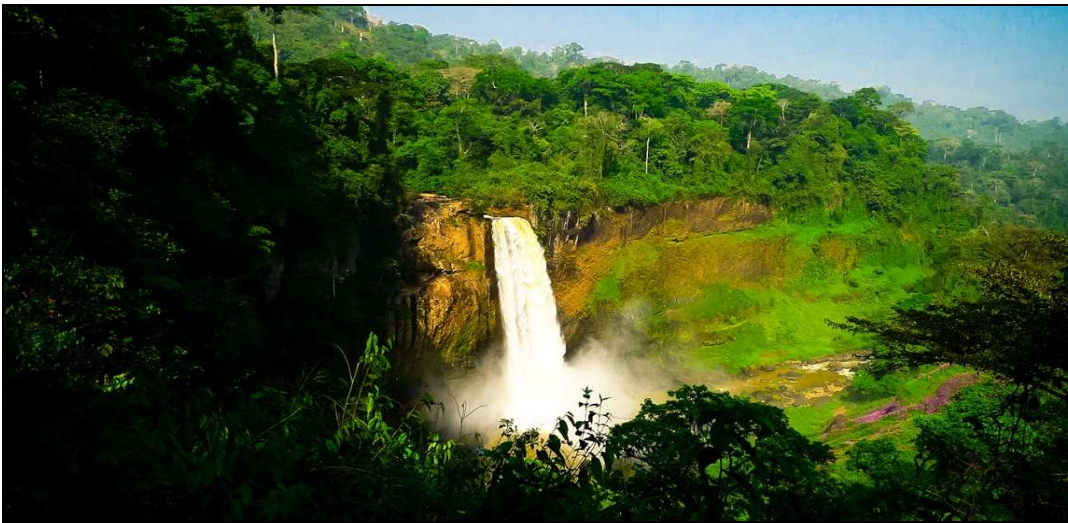
Besides the academic program, the Cameroon Commission also proposes a social program, which includes visits to the industrial fields of Mungo, the vestiges of the slave trade in Bimbia, the governor's palace in Buea, the church of Marienberg, the SONARA site ...

For those who want to discover more of the African culture and especially the local hospitality, there is the Post-Congress Cultural Tour which starts on Saturday 9th September and takes until Friday 15th September. The proposed itinerary is mainly concentrated around the Ekom Nkwam Waterfalls, the Chimpanzee Island, the Royal Palace of Bafoussam, the Royal Palace of Bandjoun, ... (a more detailed program is under construction in collaboration with the Cameroonian Ministry of Tourism and Culture). Participants will finally return to their respective countries from Douala International Airport.

As the Congress takes place in Africa, **specific sanitary prescriptions** are applicable. The vaccinations of yellow fever and meningitis are mandatory (compulsory in order to enter the country). For the recommended vaccinations, we advise you to consult your personal physician.

We are looking forward to meeting you in Douala under a splendid African sun!

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For the ICMH Congress 2018 the Board received TWO proposals :

Proposal 1 : ICMH Congress in Israel

Col. (res) Benny Michelsohn – President of the Israeli Commission

Proposed theme : The Birth and the Creation of New States

The year 2018 coincides with two important events:

- The 70th anniversary of the establishment of the State of Israel.
- The End of WW1 Centenary.

This double anniversary offers a wonderful opportunity to discuss both the end of WW1 and the large number of new states which had been created afterwards, and the birth of new states in the context of wars of liberation and independence.

The Israeli Commission of Military History can guarantee the following:

1. The full approval and support of the Israeli MOD.
2. Backing and support of the Israeli academic establishment.
3. An excellent location: Latrun AFV Museum and Armor Memorial complex – half way between Tel Aviv and Jerusalem.
4. Two nearby hotels in Tel Aviv – different levels and prices, and many more around the city.
5. Transportation from Tel Aviv to Latrun and back – around 40 minutes each direction.
6. The third day of the tour will be dedicated to a tour of Jerusalem and the Dead Sea.
7. Post congress tour to the historical and scenic Galilee region, including the Sea of Galilee. This beautiful area is packed with important sites of a large variety: historical, military, religious, and many more. From 1479 BCE until 1973, Pharaohs, Greeks, Romans and Jewish rebels, Crusaders, Mongols, Ottomans, Napoleon, Allenby and the IDF – have left a mark on the military history of the region. From Nazareth to Mount Tabor, from Capernaum to Tiberias, this is also the land of Jesus. A unique opportunity to enjoy one of the world most fascinating regions.



Latrun AFV Museum and Armor Memorial complex

Proposal 2 : ICMH Congress in Russia

We asked the Russian Commission to send us a brief presentation of their proposal. Secretary General Prof Victor Gavrilov informed us that they still haven't obtained the official approval of their Ministry of Defence yet, so their presentation will be published in the next Newsletter.

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ICMH Congress in Baltimore – 2019

Randy Papadopoulos – President of the US Commission

The Full Board and the General Assembly of the ICMH approved the USCMH proposal to host the 2019 ICMH conference in Baltimore, Maryland to be held from 1st to 7th September 2019. The proposed conference theme, "Beyond Versailles-War, War Termination and the Challenges of Making Peace in the 20th Century" will examine issues of war and peace that impacted not only Europe but also the rest of the world in the twentieth century. Subjects will include the last year of the war, the Paris Peace Conference, the collapse of empires, the creation of trust territories, the new nationalism, war reparations, and the continuing challenges of armament and disarmament during the interwar years. It will be the capstone event of the international centennial commemorations for the Great War.

Baltimore is the perfect city for the ICMH 2019 conference. As a transportation hub, it is easily accessed by air, road and rail transport. The Royal Sonesta Hotel, a five star hotel located in Baltimore's famous Inner Harbor, will serve as the main conference venue. Conference languages will be English and French with simultaneous translation provided for all academic sessions. Conference registration will include an Inner Harbor Pass allowing entry into the National Aquarium, the Maryland Science Center, the Top of the World Observation Level, the American Visionary Art museum, Port Discovery Children's Museum, the Sports Legends at Camden Yards Museum, and the Reginald F. Lewis Museum of African-American History and Culture. Other points of interest not included in the pass are the USS Constellation, the USS Torsk and the US Coast Guard Cutter Taney. All venues are accessible by water taxi from the conference hotel.

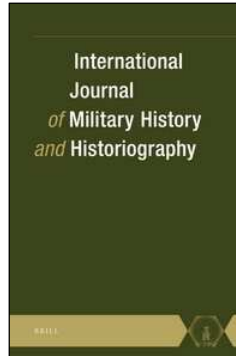
Baltimore offers an attractive variety of social venues for general receptions and accompanying persons' events. An opening tour will take place at Fort McHenry, the 1814 battle site which inspired Francis Scott Key to compose the American national anthem "The Star Spangled Banner". Thereafter participants will be transported to the Baltimore Museum of Art where an opening reception will allow a visit to the galleries that includes the famous Cone Collection of Impressionist and Modern European art. Refreshments will be provided accompanied by live jazz entertainment. On Wednesday, there will be a mid-week excursion to Annapolis visiting the state capital building followed by a tour and reception hosted by the US Naval Academy. Accompanying persons' venues include colonial venues such as the Hampton and Carroll Mansions, the B&O Museum and Evergreen House, the Walthers Art Gallery and the privately held Wallis Simpson Museum. A final banquet will take place at the Royal Sonesta Banquet Hall overlooking the Inner Harbor.

While there will be no post-conference tour, we hope that participants will join us at Camden Yards for a baseball game featuring our home team Baltimore Orioles. USCMH is confident in its ability to host this conference and looks forward to extending the finest hospitality Baltimore can offer.

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The International Bibliography of Military History (IBMH)

Dr. Mauro Mantovani, President of the Bibliographical Committee of the ICMH, Editor-in-Chief International Journal of Military History and Historiography



The major feature of the last twelve months has been the completion of the transformation of the “International Bibliography of Military history” (IBMH) into the “International Journal of Military History and Historiography” (IJMH), comprising all categories of scientific research: historiographical articles, review articles, original research articles, besides the traditional short reviews of a cross-section of scholarly books of major importance, provided by a number of members of the Bibliographical Committee (BC) as well as by national correspondents and external scholars.

That transformation aims to create a comprehensive and academically competitive publication in the field of military history. For that purpose, Brill Publishers, together with the Board of the Bibliographical Committee of ICMH had also agreed, in early 2015, to sponsor an “Early-career prize” for the best original research article of each annual volume. The 2015 prize was awarded to Dr. Kwong Chi Man, Assistant Professor at Hong Kong Baptist University, for his article “‘They Are a Little Afraid of the British Admiral’: The China Station of the Royal Navy during the First Sino-Japanese War, 1894-1895”, published in IBMH, vol. 35/2.

The annual BC meeting took place at Plovdiv on 4 September 2016: The present BC members took note of the progress report on the transformation, of the updated production statistics and the mid-term production planning, and supported the proposition to welcome Dr. Harold Raugh as member of the BC Board and likewise of the Editorial Committee of IJMH. The BC members further took note that Dr. Avinash Paliwal, Lecturer in Defence Studies at King’s College London Secondly, succeeded Dr. Hugo Meijers as our Book Review Editor. Please address Avinash, if you wish to discuss a book so he can provide you with a review copy: avinash.paliwal@kcl.ac.uk

Moreover, the creation of an Advisory Board to the IJMH was announced, consisting of university professors Nicola Labanca, Antonio Marquina Barrio, Sönke Neitzel, George-Henri Soutou, Hew Strachan and Geoffrey Wawro, representing the six biggest nations of the ICMH.

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After the first issue of IJMH – wrapped in a new cover design and an slightly adjusted layout – was published in summer, the second issue followed in December 2016 (see also our refurbished website: www.brill.com/international-bibliography-military-history). Hard copies of IJMH number 36 (2016), consisting of these two issues, have been received and will be sent out to those BC members who showed their interest, before Christmas.

The deadline for the contributions to Issue 37/1 (2017) is 31 January 2017.

Conference on the Great War in Bucharest: 19th -23rd October 2016 – Romania Prof. Massimo de Leonardis – President

The Institute for Political Studies of Defense and Military History of the Ministry of National Defence of Romania organized an International Conference on the theme The Year of 1916 and the impact on the World War dynamics. Romania and the beginning of the Great War. The Conference opened with the inaugural addresses by civilian and military authorities, including Maj. Gen. Dr. Mihail Ionescu, Director of the Institute, and the President of the ICMH, who also presented a paper, as Vice President Dr. Efpraxia S. Paschalidou and member of the Board Dr. Carmen Sorina Rijnoveanu. About 20 papers were presented by scholars from various countries. The Acta will be published in 2017. The Conference was completed by cultural visits of great interest: the National Museum of Romanian History, the Cotroceni Royal Palace, the War Memorial at Câmpulung Muscel, the Royal Court in Târgoviște, where was also visited the former Military Barracks where in December 1989 Nicolae Ceausescu was tried and executed.



Conference on the Great War in Italy in Trieste: 2nd-4th November 2016 – Italy

Prof. Massimo de Leonardis – President

The Ministry of Culture and the Italian Army organized a conference at the University of Trieste on the theme La guerra di Cadorna 1915-1917, dealing with the period during which General Luigi Cadorna was Chief of Staff. About 20 scholars from various countries presented papers; among them Prof. Gianluca Pastori, member of ICMH Committee of Bibliography.

Conference on the Great War in Rome : 6 - 7 December 2016 – Italy

Prof. Massimo de Leonardis – President

The Historical Office of the Defence Staff/Italian Commission of Military History organized on 6th and 7th December in Rome its annual conference. This year's general theme was 1916: Geopolitical, Tactical and Technical Evolution of an Enlarging Conflict. A general introduction was presented was the President of ICMH, Prof. Massimo de Leonardis, followed by 20 papers by Italian and foreign experts and a workshop by 4 younger scholars. Among the sponsors there were the historical offices of the Armed Forces and of the State's Military Corps and three mayor Italian universities. The Acta will be published during 2017.



Conference in Tartu : 23 – 24 March 2017 – Estonia

Prof. Massimo de Leonardis – President

The Baltic Defense College is organizing in Tartu on 23rd-24th March 2017 its 8th Annual Baltic Military History Conference on the general theme From Napoleon to NATO: 200 years of Russia versus the West, 1800-2020. Information may be found at <http://www.baltdefcol.org/milhistconf/>, or from the conference's organisers: Douglas Ford, douglas.ford@baltdefcol.org and Zdislaw Sliwa, zdzislaw.sliwa@baltdefcol.org.

The annual conference of the Conflict Studies Working Group of the PfP Consortium of Defense academies and Security Studies Institutes : May 29th – June 2nd 2017

Dr. Carmen Rijnoveanu, member of the Romanian Commission and member of the ICMH Board

Between May 29th and June 2nd 2017, the Conflict Studies Working Group (CSWG) of the PfP Consortium of Defense Academies and Security Studies Institutes will held its annual reunion in Bucharest, Romania. The event is organized jointly by Romania and Denmark through the Institute for Political Studies of Defense and Military History of the Romanian Ministry of National Defense and the Danish Royal Defense College. The topic of the conference is: *"The use of military forces in domestic affairs: Lessons of history, current issues and future developments"*.

The conference theme is shaped as to allow a broad and in-depth debate on a highly relevant issue. After a period characterized by expeditionary warfare and international missions, recent global events seem to underscore the domestic role of military forces. This is not only the case in terms of territorial defense but also in terms of combating terrorism and providing domestic security. Obviously, this is not a fully novel situation as history can provide relevant examples of how the armed forces changed their role and missions as to tackle domestic challenges. Nevertheless, the scope and urgency facing contemporary military forces today represents a break with last decades' developments. Furthermore, this contemporary use of armed forces in domestic affairs may present contemporary states operating under circumstances different from what characterized past centuries.

Sub-themes may include the following and other connected topics: the use of armed forces in a hybrid war environment; the impact of the European migrant crisis and the remilitarization of border control systems; redefining "enemies" and redefining "military tasks"; legal issues connected with the conference theme; national experiences as regards the role of the armed forces in domestic affairs; the role of the armed forces during civil wars and internal conflicts in the 20th and 21st centuries; the use of paramilitary and reserve organizations in civil disturbances; veterans as a public order force; counterinsurgency at home; the militarization of law enforcement

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organizations through history (for example gendarmerie type forces); national doctrine development and the impact on the development of weapons, capabilities and military equipment.

The deadline for conference paper proposals is Friday 24 February, 2017 and acceptance/decline of the proposed papers will be announced no later than by the end of March 2017. The conference volume is planned to be published in 2018. The deadline to submit a final version of the papers is November, 2017.

The CSWG, since its foundation in 2001, plays an important role in establishing, maintaining and enhancing regular, multilateral, and open exchanges of information, viewpoints, and ideas between official military history institutions throughout Europe and NATO, through annual thematic conferences that examine historical determinants of national military strategy, policy and objectives, as well as the historical context of current international and regional affairs. Also, the CSWG offers an open, inclusive, and transparent framework for dialogue and cooperation among historians and specialists on international relations, able to assist different nations in moving away from confrontation and towards a lasting peace and stability.

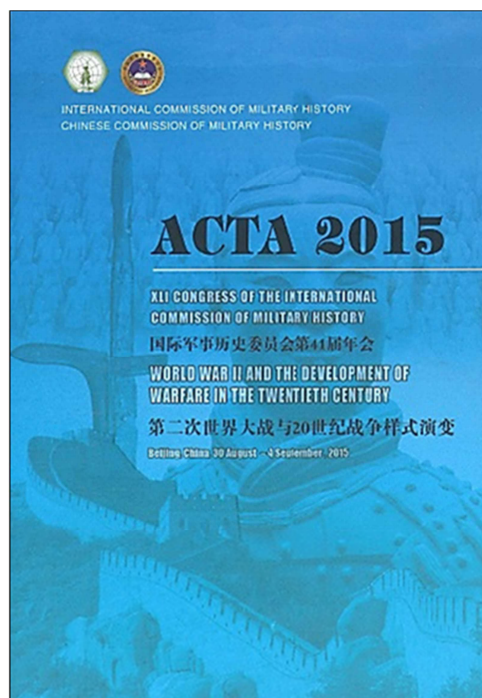
It will also foster common awareness and understanding for defense and security matters which affect regional security, and for ways to address them, by collecting, preserving, recording, studying, interpreting military history and, therefore, providing the historical background of common issues and practices.

The main coordinators of the 2017 CSWG annual conference are Dr. Niels Bo Poulsen from the Danish Royal Defense College (nipo@fak.dk), and Carmen Rijnoveanu from the Institute for Political Studies of Defense and Military History, Romanian Ministry of National Defense (carmen_sorina@yahoo.com).

Various News

Dr. Kris Quanten – Secretary General

During the General Assembly in Plovdiv the Bulgarian Commission presented the Acta of the XL Congress in Varna (608 pages) and the Chinese Commission the Acta of the XLI Congress in Beijing (900 pages). We are very pleased to present you both magnificent volumes. All the presidents of the national commissions will receive a copy (in Plovdiv the participating national presidents already received a copy from the Bulgarian Commission). Additional request by other members should be addressed to their national presidents, who can contact the publishing commissions.



As announced during the General Assembly, we are working on a new, more efficient website. According to the planning, the new site will be operational in the beginning of next year. We will keep the members informed about the evolution of this project.

Dr. Harold Raugh adapted the existing list of the 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 for inclusion in his list. Hopefully, additional input will permit this listing to become even more comprehensive and authoritative.

News from the National Commissions

Dr. Kris Quanten – Secretary General

The Israeli Commission informed us of the sad news that Professor Gichon passed away at the age of 94. **Mordechai Gichon** was Professor Emeritus of classic archaeology at Tel-Aviv University and researcher of military history. He was also a world-class expert on the Roman Limes Route in the Negev and Napoleon's campaign in the Land of Israel. He established the Association for the Study of Napoleon and his period in Palestine and has served as its president since its inception. For years he was active as the founder, member and chairman of the Israeli Society for Military History as well as in historic research associations and institutions in Israel and abroad. Professor Gichon served with the Jewish Brigade of the British Army during World War II and took part in the fighting against the Germans at the contact lines in northern Italy. He was among the founders of Israeli military intelligence during the first few years of IDF. During the war of Independence, he served as the intelligence officer of the IDF Etzioni Brigade in the battles over Jerusalem. Subsequently, as a lieutenant-colonel, he established and headed the first research/analysis branch within the IDF Intelligence Division. Professor Gichon published numerous papers and books on the archaeology and military history of the Land of Israel. He edited the military history volume of the Carta History of the Land of Israel Atlas, wrote the entry 'Napoleon in the Land of Israel' and participated in the writing of the book 'The Wars of the Bible'.

The Tunisian Commission informed us of the sad news that Professor **Abdessalem Ben Hamida** has passed away. Abdessalem Ben Hamida was the first Secretary-General of the Tunisian Commission of Military History and also member of the Council of the ICMH.

In the name of the ICMH community, we present our sincere condolences to the Israeli and Tunisian Commission as well as to the family of the deceased. Both leading academics will be commemorated at our next Congress in Cameroon.

On November 23, 2016, Carmen Sorina Rijnoveanu, member of the Romanian Commission of Military History and also a member of the ICMH Board, successfully presented her PhD thesis at the National University of Political Studies and Public Administration, Bucharest, with the following title: *"Indivisibility and Regionalization in the European Security during the post- Cold War era. Case Study: Central Europe"*.
