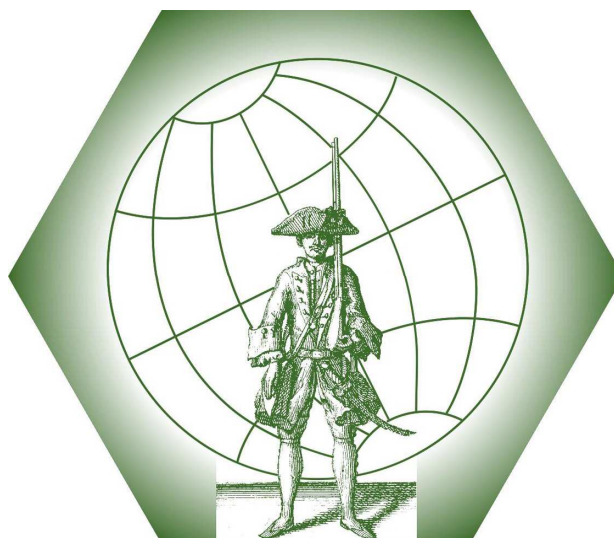


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International Commission of Military History

Newsletter



Issue 18: Spring - Summer 2012

Welcome to the ICMH Newsletter!

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ICMH Newsletter, Issue 18: Spring - Summer 2012

The Road to Sofia!

Piet Kamphuis
President, ICMH

The annual highlight in the calendar of the International Commission of Military History is the International Military History Congress, organized by one of our active national commissions. Where the relaxing and sultry sounds of samba enlivened the atmosphere at last year's congress in Brazil, the call of panpipes is now luring us to the capital city of Bulgaria, fulfilling the long-held dream of Dr. Dimitar Minchev, the Chairman of the Bulgarian Commission. For many years, Dr. Minchev has been a fervent ambassador of Bulgaria's rich military history and is now making huge efforts to make the 38th Congress a success. He faces enormous challenges, as the financial crisis also has Bulgaria in its grip. His determination and drive command a great deal of respect and this is just one of the reasons why I hope that large numbers of you will make your way to Sofia!

The first outlines of the programme look promising. The theme of the Congress "Technology and Warfare" is an attractive one and offers many of our colleagues the opportunity to present the results of their recent research. At least six young doctoral candidates will share their new-found knowledge with us. A panel on "the Representation of Technology and Warfare in Museum", led by Piet de Gryse, Chairman of the International Committee of Museums and Collections of Arms and Military History (ICOMAM), will be a novelty at the congress. This panel is the first result of a discussion we held concerning our mutual wish for strengthening the bonds between our two organizations.

Much work has been done, and still has to be done, between the congresses of Rio and Sofia. Many national commissions keep our Secretary-General, Dr. Erwin A. Schmidl, and me abreast of their activities via newsletters and e-mails. Although all national commissions have their own programmes for events throughout the year, I am constantly struck by how richly varied their activities are. For that reason, the wish to renew and allow more interactivity on our ICMH website is high on the list of the Secretary-General's priorities. We must make full use of the possibilities for improving information exchange regarding important developments in our field of expertise. In addition, some commissions are developing initiatives that may be worth pursuing in other countries.

Communication is and remains crucial. Certainly when – in the light of changing circumstances – changes have to be made. Such was the case with the International Bibliography of Military History, where the familiar self-managed publication of the Bibliography was replaced by a digital publication, in cooperation with Brill Publishers. This demanded a new way of working with a new team and involved a large number of

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changes that had to be made simultaneously. And, almost inevitably, what often happens in rapid change processes did not leave us untouched: here and there, friction arose. A comprehensive explanation of (the motivation behind) the changes was helpful in clearing the air. With the publication of the ‘new-style bibliography’, the new team, led by Dr. Mauro Mantovani, has, incidentally, made an immediate impression. His efforts in transforming our bibliography into the ultimate military history aid for researchers deserves support from everyone – and don’t forget that book reviews in all official languages are always welcome.

As a native of the Netherlands, I am used to sudden and unexpected changes from rain to shine and back again. Within the ICMH, there have also been rapid swings between joyous and sad news. I was particularly affected by the announcement of the death of Hervé Coutau-Bégarie, eminent historian and Honorary Chairman of the French Commission of Military History. I had the privilege of working closely with him for a number of years. His erudition, openmindedness, passion, and qualities for building bridges between Mars and Clio are engraved on my memory – his loss is a great blow to the international military history community.

The congress in Sofia may prove important in terms of decision-making. The year 2013 marks the 75th anniversary of the ICMH, which is an excellent opportunity to bring our mission and activities to centre stage within academic and military circles. We should make full use of this opportunity and will therefore present a proposal how to do that in Sofia.

The big question is: where will the 75th anniversary congress be held? In the past weeks, many national commissions have asked about the location. Unfortunately, I do not yet have a clear answer. Of the potential candidates that put themselves forward last year, just one is left. Vice Chairman Massimo de Leonardis deserves a great deal of respect for the way he supports this commission in its decision-making. The financial crisis, however, does not make the process any easier. I hope that we can come to an agreement regarding this matter during the Executive Board meeting in Sofia. The alternative – an important anniversary without a congress – does not seem an attractive one. I therefore request those of us with constructive ideas on this matter to get in touch!

We look forward to seeing you in Sofia!

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The 38th ICMH Congress, Sofia, Bulgaria

Dimitar Minchev, *President, Bulgarian Commission of Military History, and*
Pat Harahan, *Vice-president, ICMH*

The Bulgarian Commission of Military History invites the ICMH's national commissions and their members to participate in the 38th Congress of Military History, which will be held from 25 until 31 August 2012 in Sofia, Bulgaria, under the aegis of the Minister of Defence of the Republic of Bulgaria. The forum will be hosted by the Bulgarian Defence Academy. The Bulgarian Commission of Military History is delighted to welcome the Congress in Bulgaria for the first time in the history of the ICMH.

The main theme of the Congress will be: *"Technology and Warfare"*. The working languages for the event will be English and French. The Congress will be located and organized in the five-star Kempinski Hotel Zografski – an excellent hotel for accommodations. Sofia, the capital of Bulgaria has 1.3 million inhabitants. It is an ancient city, with museums, streets, and undergrounds that have historical tracks from the Thracian, Hellenic, Roman, Slav, Bulgarian, and Ottoman periods. The participants in the Congress will visit some of these sites during the social events. We invite you to come to Sofia in 2012, to participate in an exciting and stimulating ICMH Congress.

General and Topical Information:

There is an excellent website for general and topical information. Please consult www.BCMHLL38.com for information on the congress' program schedule, thematic topics, call for papers, registration, social events, post-congress tours, hotel and tour booking, and a way, if you have questions, to contact conference organizers.

Report on the Congress, as of June 2012:

In early June, the ICMH Executive Board met in Sofia at the Kempinski Hotel. They met with Dimitar Minchev, President Bulgarian Commission of Military History. Following a tour of the hotel and the meeting halls, they discussed the facilities available for registration, committees, and special roundtables. The opening session, translation services and media representation were reviewed. During the two-day session, ICMH President Kamphuis, Vice President De Leonardis, and Professor Minchev met with representatives of Bulgarian National Television and the Bulgarian Military Magazine. They were interviewed by the media concerning the ICMH Congress in August.

As of mid June, the Congress' Scientific program had paper proposals from military historians representing many national commissions, including Brazil, Bulgaria, Cyprus, Denmark, Finland, France, Greece, Indonesia, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Morocco, The Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Senegal, Slovakia, South Africa, South Korea, Spain, Turkey, the United Arab Emirates, and the United States of America. More than fifty-five

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(55) papers will be presented. This year, for the first time, there will be historians speaking on military and technology from Serbia and the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia. The ultimate deadline to propose papers is 30 June.

The scientific program will have four special panels that explore a single topic, related to the Congress' theme, "Technology and Warfare." Each of these panels will be designated as a "roundtable" in the program. One special panel will address issues of the "Representation of War and Technology in Museums". It will be led by Piet de Gryse, Chairman of the International Committee of Museums and Collections of Arms and Military History (ICOMAM). In this panel Drs. M. Willemsen, secretary general of ICOMAM, will present a paper.

During the international congress, there will be a workshop for PhD candidates. Organized by Professor Rudolf Jaun and Professor Kostandin Grozev, this workshop has seven graduate students. Each student will present a paper explaining their topics, the research and analysis.

Schedule (Please note: the detailed program is already available on the Internet!):

Saturday 25 August

13:00-18:00	Meeting of the Executive Board of the ICMH	Varna Room
15:00-18:00	Registration of participants and accompanying persons	Congress lobby

Sunday 26 August

09:00-20:00	Registration of participants and accompanying persons	Main hall
09:00-12:30	Meeting of the Executive Board of the ICMH	Varna Room
09:00-12:30	Meeting of the Bibliographical Committee	Elena Room
09:00-12:30	Meeting of the Military Archives Committee	Veliko Turnovo Room
09:00-12:30	Meeting of the Educational Committee	Melnik Room
14:00-14:30	Transport by bus to the City Centre	
14:30-16:00	Visit, on foot, of the archaeological and architectural centre of Sofia	
16:00-16:30	Laying flowers on the Grave of the Unknown Hero	Executive Board 
17:00-17:30	Religious Blessing Ceremony in Al. Nevski Cathedral	
18:00-20:30	Welcome Party hosted by the Chief of G. S. Rakovski Defense and Staff College at the Rakovski Defence and Staff College	
20:30-21:00	Transport by bus to the Kempinski Hotel	

Monday 27 August

09:00-10:30	Opening Session	Sofia Hall 2 
10:30-11:00	Coffee / Tea	Congress lobby
10:30-16:00	Registration of participants and accompanying persons	Congress lobby
11:00-12:30	Working Session 1	Sofia Hall
12:30-14:00	Lunch at the Conference Venue	
14:00-15:30	Working Session 2	Sofia Hall
15:30-16:00	Coffee / Tea	Congress lobby
16:00-17:30	Working Session 3	Sofia Hall
18:40-19:00	Transport by bus to the "Lozenets" Governmental Residence	
19:00-21:00	Reception in "Lozenets" Governmental Residence	
21:00-21:30	Transport by bus to the Kempinski Hotel	

Congresses: Portugal 2009 * Netherlands 2010 * Brazil 2011 * Bulgaria 2012 * ? 2013 * France 2014

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Tuesday 28 August

09:00-12:30	Meeting of the Full Board of the ICMH	Varna Room
09:00-10:30	Working Session 4	Sofia Hall
10:30-11:00	Coffee / Tea	Congress lobby
11:00-12:30	Working Session 5	Sofia Hall
12:30-14:00	Lunch at the Conference Venue	
14:00-15:30	Working Session 6	Sofia Hall
14:00-17:30	Workshop for PhD Candidates	Kyoto Hall
15:30-16:00	Coffee / Tea	Congress lobby
16:00-17:30	Working Session 7	Sofia Hall
17:45-18:15	Transport by bus to the Military History Museum	
18:15-20:00	Visit of the Military History Museum	
20:00-20:30	Transport by bus to the Kempinski Hotel	

09:00-18:00 *Accompanying persons program; Trip to Plovdiv city*



Wednesday 29 August

09:00-10:30	Working Session 8	Sofia Hall
09:00-10:30	Round Table 1: Technological Development and Innovations during the Balkan Wars and WWI	Kyoto Hall
10:30-11:00	Coffee / Tea	Congress lobby
11:00-12:30	Working Session 9	Sofia Hall
11:00-12:30	Round Table 2: New Technologies and their Implementation in Warfare after the Cold War	Kyoto Hall
12:30-14:00	Lunch at the Conference Venue	
14:00-15:30	Working Session 10	Sofia Hall
14:00-15:30	Round Table 2: New Technologies, and their Implementation in Warfare after the Cold War	Kyoto Hall
15:30-16:00	Coffee / Tea	Congress lobby
16:00-17:30	Special panel: 'The Representation of War and Technology in Museums', Moderator: Piet De Gryse, President of ICOMAM	Sofia Hall
16:00-17:30	Round Table on innovative books (Pat Harahan)	Kyoto Hall
17:30	Free evening	

09:00-16:00 *Accompanying persons, trip to Koprivshtitsa town*



Thursday 30 August

09:00-18:00 *All day trip to Rila Monastery
(participants and accompanying persons)*



Friday 31 August

09:00-10:30	Working Session 11	Sofia Hall
09:00-10:30	Presidents' Meeting	Elena Room
10:30-11:00	Coffee / Tea	Congress lobby
11:00-12:30	Working Session 12	Sofia Hall
12:30-14:00	Lunch at the Conference Venue	
14:00-16:00	General Assembly	Sofia Hall 2
16:00-16:30	Plenary Closing Session by Prof. Dr. Luc de Vos	Sofia Hall 2

Congresses: Portugal 2009 * Netherlands 2010 * Brazil 2011 * Bulgaria 2012 * ? 2013 * France 2014

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18:00-18:30	Transport by bus to the National History Museum	
18:30-20:00	Visit of the National History Museum	
20:00-23:00	Farewell Dinner at the Sunny Hall in the National History Museum hosted by the Deputy Minister of Defence, Mr. Valentin Radev	
23:00-23:30	Transport by bus to the Kempinski Hotel	

Suggested dress:

-  Casual
-  Business casual
-  Lounge suit. For military personnel: Service dress

“Business Casual” (no. 2) is recommended unless mentioned otherwise!

Congress Registration:

All participants are kindly asked to register by making the necessary payment of the fee by bank transfer or credit card by sending the completed Registration Form. See the website for specific information: www.BCMHLL38.com. Payment of the registration fee can be settled in cash (350.- Euro) at the Registration desk, in Kempinski Hotel Zografski, upon arrival. The Registration desk will be located in the congress lobby of Kempinski Hotel Zografski. It will open on 25 August 2012, and it will operate until the end of the Congress.

Hotel & Tour Booking:

Rooms at preferential prices are booked for the participants in Kempinski Hotel, the venue of the Congress. Hotel bookings should be made by consulting the Congress website. Located in the heart of Sofia, the Kempinski Hotel Zografski is recognized as one of the city's grandest hotels. With 420 rooms in 19 floors, the Kempinski Hotel has excellent meeting halls, committee rooms, and five (5) restaurants. The hotel offers a blend of lush gardens, serene ponds, and benches located next to fountains, with an exceptional view of the Vitosha Mountain. All of the rooms are furnished in classic style and feature: individual air conditioning control, direct dial telephone, satellite and pay television, radio, mini bar, safe (in the deluxe rooms), high speed Internet access WLAN, and 24-hour security. The hotel has an excellent congress centre, a number of restaurants and bars, an indoor pool, and a fitness centre.

About Bulgaria: Bulgaria is a part of the Balkan Peninsula in South Eastern Europe. The state of Bulgaria was first founded in 681 AD and since then has had a long and varied history. Its capital, Sofia, has a history that is over 7,000 years old. Today, it is a modern city which testifies to the country's eternal bond between past and present. Monuments to its rich Thracian, Roman, Bulgarian and Ottoman history rub shoulders with modern-day edifices of cosmopolitan city life. Over 250 historic landmarks and architectural monuments blend in with the city's modern skyline.

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Please note that the city of Sofia is constructing an underground metro system. It is a large-scale project. Consequently, traffic can be delayed and disrupted. Please allow addition time for travelling from the airport to the hotel.

Contacts:

For information on the scientific program, paper submission and registration please contact:

Bulgarian Commission of Military History, Prof. Dimitar Minchev

Tel: + 359 896 826 836. E-mail: bcmhll@yahoo.com.

For information on hotel booking, post-congress tour and transfers, please contact:

Company for International Meetings (CIM Ltd.) - Event manager, Denitza Yonkova

(e-mail: denitza@cim.bg; tel. + 359 2 988 80 35; fax: + 359 2 980 60 74; e-mail: cim@cim.bg).

Report from the Secretary General

Erwin A. Schmidl

Secretary General, ICMH

Among the many ambitious projects which this Board has embarked on was the aim to establish an independent website, which will function independently from the present domain (which is currently hosted courtesy of our President, Piet Kamphuis, by his Institute, and the Netherlands Armed Forces).

This new website will also offer links to the three special committees, to the various national commissions, and to other important websites, and will also allow access to the Commission's own documents (such as our Statutes) as well as to our publications (such as the Newsletter) and other texts. It should therefore become an important tool for easing communication within the Commission and its different organs.

With a bit of luck, we should be able to say a bit more about this project in Sofia.

The ICMH Bibliography

Mauro Mantovani

President, Bibliographical Committee of the ICMH

Editor-in-Chief, International Bibliography of Military History

The first half year of 2012 was dedicated to the preparations of the next issue of the ICMH Bibliography, which is supposed to be a landmark in the transformation process. That process was triggered by the Bibliographical Committee's 2010 contract with our new publishing house, Brill, Leiden and Boston, as described in our Newsletter 2/2011. In its core, the process entails a significant rise of the quality standards for the contributions in both form and substance.

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I am proud to say that many distinguished colleagues of the Committee, along with their national correspondents, made an extra effort and provided excellent notices on newly published scholarly books, which shall be incorporated in the next issue. That issue, due to come out prior to our Congress in Sofia, will also contain two historiographical articles, written by eminent scholars in their field. One article is on “American Ways of War since 1945”, the other on “The Military Revolution as seen by Contemporaries” (from medieval to modern age). Both contributions fit in perfectly with the topic of our Sofia Congress “Technology and Warfare”. The issue will also include a contribution by a distinguished French scholar entitled “Les grandes tendances de l’historiographie militaire en France (2005-2010)”, resuming a longstanding tradition in our Bibliography of reports on the “state of the art” of military history in individual ICMH member countries.

I am fairly confident that the next issue of our Bibliography will be received favourably in our community. Our secretary-general, Dr. Marco Wyss, who did a great job in the preparations of this issue, and I, however, would like to encourage comments of all kind, fully aware of the fact that transformation is an ongoing process. Indeed, what we have achieved thus far and the way ahead of our Bibliography will also be the predominant agenda item of the annual meeting of the Bibliographical Committee in Sofia, on 26 August. The aim is to establish a mid-term production planning which, of course, involves many questions. A formal invitation with all agenda items will be sent to all members of the Committee well in advance. Proposals for agenda items are welcome up until 26 June (according to our statutes).

One final remark concerns Mr. Julian Deahl, the “man-in-charge” for our Bibliography at Brill’s, who will also be in Sofia and organize a meet-the-editor-session at the Congress. The Bibliographical Committee will welcome him most warmly.

The “Meet the new Editor” panels will take place in Elena Room:
27 August, 2 to 3 p.m., and 28 August, 10 to 1030 a.m.

I am looking forward to interesting discussions and many friendly encounters in Sofia!

ICMH Committee on Archives (CAM)

Hans Pawlisch

President, Archives Committee of the ICMH

The Military Archives Committee (CAM) will hold its meeting during the 38th International Congress of Military History to be held in Sofia, Bulgaria on Sunday 26 August 2012 in the Kempinski Hotel. Meeting room location and times will be provided later. Three of our committee’s members have agreed to speak. Presentations will be made in English.

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Mrs. Rumiana Atanasova, Deputy Chairperson of the Bulgarian State Archival Agency at the Council of Ministers, will deliver a paper discussing the state of openness, the declassification process, and the various projects to digitize Bulgarian Military Archives.

Mr. Michael Steidel, Chief of the German Military Archives (Freiburg/Breisgau) will give a presentation on German archives with special emphasis on classified documents and the special organization of the military files.

Dr. Warren Sinclair, Canadian Military Archives, will discuss the role of Native Indian code talkers in the Canadian Armed Forces during World War II.

Please communicate directly with me any other items of interest for the meeting and I will include them in our business agenda. Please contact me by e-mail or phone: hanspawlsch@msn.com or (+1) 410-669-2381 (U.S. number).

ICMH Military Education Committee

Rudolf Jaun

President, Military Educational Committee of the ICMH

New PhD Panel: Starting with the 2012 ICMH Congress, the Educational Committee will assist in organizing and conducting the PhD-candidate sessions. At the beginning of November there was a call for papers to the National Military History Commissions and the Institutes of History of the Universities. One paper per national commission was to be accepted. The historian presenting the paper must use English. An enlarged Board of the Educational Committee made the first selection in February, another board in March, and then the final selection was made in May. Then, their decision was reconfirmed by the National Commissions concerned. Seven PhD candidates were selected.

The following guidelines have been established for graduate students submitting proposals for papers: The length should be between two and three pages, including a description of the topic, an explanation of methodical and theoretical approaches, perspectives and issues and agenda; and a short CV of the student.

Prof. Dr. Michael Epkenhans has been appointed as the new Secretary General of the ICMH Military Educational Committee. Epkenhans is Honorary Professor at the University of Hamburg and head of the *Forschungsabteilung of the Militärgeschichtliches Forschungsamt* (Military History Research Institute) of the Bundeswehr in Potsdam. His email is: MichaelEpkenhans@bundeswehr.org.

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Future Conferences and Announcements:

The Constitution of Peace: Current Debates and Future Perspectives.

Zentrumstage 11-13 October 2012

Center for Conflict Studies, Marburg, Germany

It has become commonplace in academic scholarship to regard peace as an ontologically suspicious concept, as troubling in its own way as war, to use Jean Bethke Elshtain's words. It is thus surprising that despite recent scholarship the term still remains largely under-studied and under-theorized. If we follow contemporary criticism regarding the prevailing conceptualization of peace—that it is firmly embedded in liberal thought, for example—the question arises whether it is possible to consider alternative ways of thinking peace. Moreover, since practices of building peace have come under severe criticism from both an empirical and a conceptual perspective, it is time to consider new approaches. The conference seeks to push the debate forward by proposing and discussing alternative ways of understanding peace. This may take conceptual and/or empirical forms.

The objective of the conference is therefore twofold. First, it seeks to review current criticism of the prevailing conceptualization of peace and to envisage alternative forms which respond to these critiques. Inter alia, the conference seeks to analyze the liberal peace paradigm from various perspectives including post-structuralism, feminism and post-colonialism. Second, from an empirical perspective, it aims at investigating current peace-building practices to highlight their strengths and weaknesses regarding the conceptualization and implementation of peace (building) programs, and the relationship between global peace-builders and local people affected by violence (and peace) among other perspectives.

Abstracts should be submitted by June 2012 and not exceed 600 words. Please send your abstracts and a 200 word bio to constitutionpeace@staff.uni-marburg.de. You will be notified by July 2012 if your abstract has been accepted. Papers and presentations may be in German or English.

If you have further questions please contact Susanne Buckley-Zistel, Annika Henrizi or Julia Viebach. at the Center for Conflict Studies, Philipps-Universität Marburg, Ketzerbach 11, 32035 Marburg, Germany.

<http://www.uni-marburg.de/konfliktforschung/events/zentrumstage>
constitutionpeace@staff.uni-marburg.de

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The Balkan Wars 1912/13: Experience, Perception, Remembrance,

Istanbul, Turkey. International Conference on the occasion of the 100th Anniversary, 11-13 October, 2012. Center for Balkan and Black Sea Studies, Yildiz Technical University, Istanbul.

Organized by the Center for Balkan and Black Sea Studies, Yildiz Technical University, Istanbul, and the University of Regensburg, Germany. Coordinators are Katrin Boeckh, Mehmet Hacısalihoğlu, Heike Karge, Sabine Rutar.

The conference aims to explore the two Balkan Wars of 1912/13 from the perspective of New Military History. We call for cross-disciplinary proposals approaching the Balkan Wars through a triple lens as experienced, perceived and/or remembered. Proposals should aim at scrutinizing these two wars on the basis of their manifold interconnections. We invite scholars to reflect on Koselleck's Semantics of Historical Time(s) in order to approach the two wars as an integral part of the history of European wars in the 20th century. We wish to explore the potential entanglements between the wars of 1912/13 and the wars that followed. In addition to scholars of the Balkan Wars, therefore, we encourage scholars of the "other" European wars of the 20th century – the First and the Second World War as well as the Yugoslav wars of the 1990s – to submit proposals. Their contributions will foster a discussion that integrates the Balkan Wars into the perspectives put forth by the New Military History.

Potential topics include the social history of the military; war technology / modern warfare / war operations; front and homeland; physical violence; population movements; propaganda and censorship; life worlds of peace and war; symbols, imagery, (changing) discourses; illness, death, and health care; gendered perspectives; economy of the wars; diplomacy; remembrance. The conference language is English. Proposals must be no longer than 300 words. Please include also a short biographic note and your institutional affiliation, as well as your contact details. Contact: PD Dr. Katrin Boeckh, (boeckh@osteuropa-institut.de).

Conference on Political Violence in Interwar Europe

Cardiff University, 19 – 21, September 2012

Keynote speaker: Prof. Sven Reichardt (Universität Konstanz)

From confrontations during strikes to the street battles of extremist groups, violence was a feature of interwar European politics. As countries entered an age of mass politics, governments searched for ways to integrate their peoples into the political system. Yet violence as a means of political expression and engagement persisted, even in democratic nations. Violent political conflict preceded the establishment of fascist regimes in Italy and Germany, and civil war in Spain. In Eastern Europe, the collapse of empire and the founding of new nation-states gave rise to violent political struggle. In France and Britain, street fighting and rioting raised fears over the breakdown of order in the western

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democracies. State authorities could respond with implicit approval directed at enemies or with force themselves, especially in colonial territories. Groups that resorted to violence were often part of broader international political phenomenon and organizations such as Communism and Fascism. The development of the ideas and practices of such groups was subject to transfers across national boundaries. Yet most existing histories tend to focus on particular national contexts or countries where extremist governments came to power. Furthermore, accounts take either the left or the right as their subject, but say little about common practices and attitudes.

This conference will examine multiple aspects of interwar European political violence, broadly defined. Were understandings of acceptable conduct common to the left and the right? What rules, explicit and unspoken, governed behavior during violence? What significance did violence have in the daily life of contemporaries? Was violence a component of political competition in interwar democratic societies? What role did the State play in setting the parameters of political violence? Were aspects of violent cultures transferred across national boundaries? Did colonial violence in the French and British Empires act as a 'safety valve' for violence in these countries? We invite the submission of twenty minute papers that explore these questions and others in any European country or colonial territory. Send a 300 word abstract and short CV to Chris Millington: millingtoncd@cardiff.ac.uk. For and on behalf of the conference organizers: Chris Millington and Kevin Passmore.

Conference on Cuban Missile Crisis

25-27 October 2012, Wales, United Kingdom

Call for Papers and delegate registration. This autumn sees the fiftieth anniversary of the Cuban Missile Crisis, the quintessential Cold War crisis which Arthur Schlesinger, Jr. termed 'the most dangerous moment in human history'. In order to mark this seminal event the Centre for Intelligence and International Security Studies (CISS) at Aberystwyth University and the Cambridge Intelligence Group (seminar), University of Cambridge are hosting a major international conference at Gregynog Hall (<http://www.wales.ac.uk/en/UniversityConferenceCentre/GregynogHall.aspx>) in the idyllic setting of rural Wales. The conference will seek to address the legacies and lessons of the Cuban Missile Crisis by means of a number of papers and roundtable discussions. The conference will feature contributions from a number of the most eminent international scholars of nuclear history, intelligence, espionage, political science and the Cold War. The continuing relevance of the lessons of 1962 cannot be overstated and this multidisciplinary conference will be of interest to intelligence professionals, historians, political scientists, sociologists, and policymakers.

Speakers include:

- Professor Christopher Andrew (University of Cambridge, official historian of MI5)
- Professor Len Scott (CISS, Aberystwyth University)
- Dr. Michael S. Goodman (King's College London, Official Historian of the UK JIC)

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- H. Keith Melton (Intelligence specialist)
- Professor Don Munton (University of Northern British Columbia)

Contact: David Gioe (dvg21@cam.ac.uk) Cambridge Intelligence Seminar, University of Cambridge, or Dr. Kris Stoddart (kds@aber.ac.uk) Centre for Intelligence and International Security Studies, Aberystwyth University, Email: rbh@aber.ac.uk
Visit the website at <http://www.aber.ac.uk/en/interpol/research/research-centres-and->

ASTRIDE TWO AGES: TECHNOLOGY AND THE CIVIL WAR, A Sesquicentennial Symposium on the American Civil War 9-11 November 2012, United States, Washington DC

Proposals are sought for a symposium on technology and the American Civil War, as part of the Smithsonian Institution's contribution to the war's sesquicentennial commemoration. It will be hosted by the National Museum of American History in Washington, DC, 9-11 November 2012.

Military technology narrowly defined - weapons, equipment, accoutrements - will form a key part of the symposium. We are particularly interested in the way new or newly improved weapons affected the conduct of war at all levels. But that was only part of the story. Technological changes remote from the battlefield also shaped the conduct of war. Agricultural mechanization permitted larger armies to be fed; growing industries provided them with arms and supplies; steam-powered transport helped deploy and sustain them. The beginnings of mass production in some industries, notably small arms and clothing, made an appearance, as did new techniques of food preservation. So too did photography, telegraphy and various signal devices using flags and lamps, and aerial observation from fixed balloons. We seek proposals for papers to be presented in six broad areas: (1) small arms and tactics; (2) artillery and fortifications; (3) naval technology; (4) logistics and communications; (5) science and medicine; and (6) industry and agriculture. Proposals related to (1) and (6) are especially welcome. In general we prefer broader topics to narrower; attention to continuity as well as novelty; and comparative approaches emphasizing historiography over narrative. We expect to publish a book based on the conference that may serve as a comprehensive introduction to the topic of technology and the American Civil War.

Conference presentations will be limited to 20 minutes each, but authors will have ample opportunity to revise and expand their short presentations for publication. Your proposal should include two elements: (1) an abstract of 200-400 words. Abstracts should include the author's name and email address, a short descriptive title, a concise statement of the thesis, a brief discussion of the sources, and a summary of the major conclusions; and (2) a 1-page CV or résumé including educational history, professional employment history, and a list of significant publications and/or presentations. You may include other relevant information in the CV, as long as you do not exceed the 1-page limit. The deadline for

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proposals is 30 June 2012. Contact Barton C. Hacker, National Museum of American History-4013, Smithsonian Institution, Washington, DC 20560-0620.

Encounters of Empires, Inter-imperial Transfers and Imperial Manifestations, ca. 1870-1950

January 16 – 18, 2013 and is co-organized by Morphomata Center for Advanced Studies, University of Cologne.

Concept of conference: For several decades empires have been a central topic of international research; the attempts to grasp both the unique character of every single empire and their functional similarities are legion. Most studies are concerned and struggle with a comprehensive definition of exercising imperial power. After all, the term empire does not only refer to the formation of hierarchical power structures but also comprises the coexistence of different practices and specific regimes of imperial rule. However, this coexistence of separate imperial formations was also significantly characterized by cooperation, inasmuch as for example scientific conferences, diplomatic relations and other forms of exchanging colonial practices represented fields of mutual willingness to learn from each other.

Encounters of empires will investigate three major problems. First, inter-imperial fields of action quite obviously define spaces of cooperation between competing entities. Recent research hints more and more frequently at trans-imperial alliances. A historical focus on inter-imperial encounters will allow us to probe the paradigm of trans-nationality on the scale of empires. This leads, secondly, to a different perspective on imperialism. For quite some time global history studies repeatedly tried to conceptualize the essential constitution of empires in order to enable systematic comparisons. In establishing general criteria of ideal-typed empires one risk is to assume that contemporaries equally disposed of a clear-cut notion of imperial power relations. Instead, reconstructing cross-border connections between imperial protagonists will help to explain how widely accepted and applied tools of empires were continuously established and re-established in day-to-day practice. Finally, focusing on specific fields of imperial rule and their definitions as well as delimitations through inter-imperial exchanges helps explicate the elaboration of analytical tools of governance which were soon to characterize imperialism.

We suggest a focus on the following topics:

- Science (i.e. anthropology, medicine, hygiene, botany etc.) and their relationship to different scientific formats (museums, exhibitions, expeditions etc.)
- Administration (i.e. citizenship; statistics; demographic engineering etc.)
- Agriculture and labor (i.e. repartition of farm lands; questions of workforce including slavery and serfdom; commercialization of agricultural products; irrigation etc.)
- Communications (i.e. material infrastructures; techniques of information exchange etc.)

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- War (i.e. Crimean War, Boxer Rebellion etc.) and military (organization, transport, disciplining of troops etc.)

An initial evening lecture will be followed by two days with 3-4 panels each including a comment. The publication of the conference proceedings is foreseen. Abstracts of approximately 500 words and a short CV should be submitted. Please direct submissions and questions to Volker Barth or Roland Cvetkovski, Department of History, University of Cologne, volker.barth@uni-koeln.de; roland.cvetkovski@uni-koeln.de

International conference: “China and Africa in A Crucible of Multi-Level Co-Operation for Development”

University of Cape Coast, Cape Coast, Ghana, June 27 - 29, 2013.

Papers presented at the conference will be put through the mill of rigorous peer review and will be published as a part of a new series of conference-derived anthologies, in particular, for African universities that tend to experience book famine.

Co-sponsored by the Department of History, University of Cape Coast; the Department of African Studies, University of Cape Coast; the Institute of African Studies, University of Ghana, Legon; the Department of History, Shippensburg University, Pennsylvania, USA; the Department of Social Sciences, Catholic University of Eastern Africa, Nairobi, Kenya; and the Institute of Afro-Asian Studies, Peking University, Beijing, China.

THEMATIC SCOPE: In many ways, the emergence of China as a great power in global politics and economy in the late 20th-century continues to reshape the political and economic configurations of the contemporary world. China has succeeded in fostering economic and political influences in Africa. Some on-going Chinese activities in Africa satisfy China's quest for Africa's resources, including its vast raw materials. Untapped African markets serve as a magnet for Chinese manufactured goods. Also African countries serve as rich terrains for the re/investment of Chinese capital, for example, in infrastructural projects. For their part, African countries see the Chinese presence as an opportunity to re/build their stagnant economies, indeed, some nations hope to use it as a lever to weaken the economic grip of the former European colonial powers and the ubiquitous international financial institutions. Overall, the Chinese presence has generated diverse responses worldwide. The major actors on the global stage are scrambling for new policies, at one level, to counter the ever-growing Chinese economic and political influence in Africa, and at another level, to woo China as a partner that can positively enhance the re/entrenchment of good governance in Africa.

Thus, we seek theoretical and empirical papers on the nature, impact, and trajectory of Chinese economic, political, and social activities in Africa, written from multidisciplinary perspectives, including history, economics, political science, sociology, media and communications, and cultural studies.

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DEADLINE: Abstracts of approximately 300 words should be submitted by July 15, 2012, and for full papers by December 15, 2012. Please, address all submissions, queries, etc. to the following: Dr. Kwabena Akurang-Parry, Department of History, Shippensburg University, Shippensburg, PA, USA 17257, Email: kaparr@ship.edu; Phone 717 477 1286; Fax 717 477 4062; or Dr. Kwabena Adu-Boahen, Department of History, University of Cape Coast, Cape Coast, Ghana, Email: obrimpono@gmail.com

International Conference: Perspectives on the 'Great' War / Rückblick auf den Ersten Weltkrieg

August 1- 4, 2014, Queen Mary, University of London, Great Britain

Sponsored by the School of Languages Linguistics and Film; School of History; the Leo Baeck Institute; the Centre for Anglo-German Cultural Relations; and the German Department.

Keynote speakers will include:

- Professor Christopher Clark (Cambridge)
- Professor Jonathan Steinberg (Pennsylvania);
- Professor Samuel Williamson (Sewanee History Project).

It is intended that the conference be truly international and interdisciplinary.

Subject sections will include political, military and social history; historiography; colonialism; discourse analysis and cultural history. We welcome all suggestions for the conference as well as offers to chair sections and round-table discussions.

Please address all initial enquiries to: Professor Felicity Rash
f.j.rash@qmul.ac.uk or Dr Falco Pfalzgraf, f.pfalzgraf@qmul.ac.uk

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Final Announcement

Pat Harahan

Newsletter editor

The objective of the ICMH Newsletter is to communicate information concerning the National Commissions and the ICMH's officers, board, committees, and congresses to all of the commissions. The newsletter is a way of communicating information in three languages, English, French and German, across five continents to the officers and members of 41 national commissions.

We need your help. The presidents and secretary-generals of the National Commissions are encouraged to send the newsletter editor information regarding forthcoming international congresses and conferences. If your National Commission is sponsoring a military history conference, museum exhibition, or planning a special exhibition of a military archive, please send the editor a brief communiqué. Your announcements and communiqués will be published in the ICMH Newsletter. Please send the information to Pat Harahan, ICMH Newsletter editor at the e-mail address, harahan@verizon.net.