CALL FOR PAPERS

Tenth Annual Symposium of the Social History of Military Technology

Annual Meeting of the International Congress of the History of Technology

Tel Aviv, Israel, 16–21 August 2015

Proposals are sought for papers to be presented in the Tenth Annual Symposium of the Social History of Military Technology, scheduled as part of the program for the annual meeting of the International Congress of the History of Technology (ICOHTEC), Tel Aviv, Israel, 15–21 August 2015. The general theme selected for the 2015 ICOHTEC meeting is: *History of High-Technologies and their Socio-Cultural Contexts.* In submitting a proposal for the symposium, you are encouraged to address the ICOHTEC themes, but that is not required. For more information about the 2015 ICOHTEC conference as a whole, including subthemes, travel grants, and this year’s co-organizer, a branch of the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE), see:  [http://www.icohtec.org/annual-meeting-2015.html/](%20http://www.icohtec.org/annual-meeting-2015.html/).

The history of military technology usually centers on weaponry, warships, fortifications, or other physical manifestations of warfare, emphasizing how they were made or how they worked. Historians have also tended to assume a strictly utilitarian and rational basis for military technological invention and innovation. However necessary they may be, such approaches largely ignore some very important questions. What are the contexts of social values, attitudes, and interests, non-military as well as military, that shape and support (or oppose) these technologies? What are the consequences of gender, race, class, and other aspects of the social order for the nature and use of military technology? Or, more generally: How do social and cultural environments within the military itself or in the larger society affect military technological change? And the indispensable corollary: How does changing military technology affect other aspects of society and culture? In brief, this symposium will address military technology as both agent and object of social change, taking a very broad view that encompasses not only the production, distribution, use, and replacement of weapons and weapon systems, but also communications, logistics, medicine, and other technologies of military relevance as well as sciences of military interest.

We seek papers about: (1) representations of weapons as well as weapons themselves, about ideas as well as hardware, about organization as well as materiel; (2) ways in which social class, race, gender, culture, economics, or other extra-military factors have influenced and been influenced by the invention, r&d, diffusion, or use of weapons or other military technologies; (3) the roles that military technologies play in shaping and reshaping the relationships of soldiers to other soldiers; soldiers to military, political, and social institutions; and military institutions to other social institutions, most notably political and economic; and/or (4) historiographical or museological topics that discuss how military technology has been analyzed, interpreted, and understood in other fields, other cultures, and other times. Pre-modern and non-Western topics are particularly welcome.

Although papers may be presented in English, French, German, Russian, or Spanish, ICOHTEC will not provide simultaneous translation. **All proposals must be submitted in English** and should include three elements:

(1) A short descriptive title.

(2) An abstract of at least 200 words but no more than 350. It should include (a) your name and email address, (b) a concise statement of the thesis, (c) a brief discussion of the sources, and (d) a summary of major conclusions. **Please do not include notes or bibliography.**

(3) A 1-page CV or résumé with your educational and professional employment histories, plus 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. **Be sure to specify your present institutional affiliation (or independent status).**

Please keep in mind that conference presentations are not complete research papers. You will be allotted no more than 20 minutes to speak, and possibly as little as 16 minutes. Precise times available to speakers will be determined after the program is complete. All participants are encouraged to submit the full, annotated versions of their papers as articles to *Vulcan: The International Journal of the Social History of Military Technology.* Articles should be submitted to Editor-in-chief Bart Hacker at: [hacker@si.edu](mailto:hacker@si.edu).

Do not send your proposal to ICOHTEC. The symposium is being co-organized by Bart Hacker and Ciro Paoletti. Send your proposal to Bart Hacker at: <[hackerb@si.edu](mailto:hackerb@si.edu)>, no later than 25 **January 2015,** but earlier is better. He will assemble and submit the complete symposium. Please feel free to distribute this CFP to anyone you believe may be interested and qualified.