

Society for Military History  
Policies and Procedures  
Samuel Eliot Morison Prize and Edwin H. Simmons Award

**Purpose.** To explain the procedures for nominating and electing awardees for the Samuel Eliot Morison Prize and Edwin H. Simmons Award.

**Background.** The **Samuel Eliot Morison Prize** recognizes not any one specific achievement, but a body of contributions in the field of military history, extending over time and reflecting a spectrum of scholarly activity contributing significantly to the field. The **Edwin H. Simmons Award** honors distinguished and particularly outstanding service to the Society for Military History. Past prize and award winners are listed on the SMH website under Awards. Each winner receives a plaque and \$1000.00, which is presented at the Annual Meeting prior to the keynote address. Winners are also recognized at the SMH Awards Dinner.

**Process.** Upon notification from the SMH President, the Executive Director solicits award nominations from the membership to be received no later than 31 December. Nominations, which can come in any form, are submitted with a formal statement of the nominees' relevant achievements to the particular award. Nominations are subsequently reviewed by the President, Vice President, and Executive Director to ensure the nomination fits the parameters of the award. The Executive Director then prepares a ballot of the nominees for a vote by the Council Voting and selection should be completed no later than the end of February to allow sufficient time to order the plaques.

Should no nominee receive a majority of the votes, then the Executive Director will look at the vote totals to see if there is a clear break that distinguishes the top nominees from the rest. If so, then the Council will vote on those nominees until a majority of votes is achieved. Should no clear break in the vote totals be apparent, then the Council will be notified and a subsequent vote will be taken until either a clear majority is achieved, or a clear break can be determined between nominees.

After notification by the President, the Executive Director contacts the award winners and invites them to the awards dinner at the annual meeting, and also to the Keynote Address, where they will accept their awards in person. The Executive Director arranges for preparation of the award plaques and checks. SMH operating funds are used to purchase the plaques and fund the monetary awards. Award winners are responsible for their own travel to and expenses associated with the Annual Meeting.