

Society for Military History
Policies and Procedures
Vandervort Awards

Purpose. To explain Vandervort Prize Committee Task and Procedures

Description of Award. The Vandervort Prizes (an engraved plaque and \$200) are awarded to at least two of the best articles published in *The Journal of Military History* during the previous calendar year, as well as up to two articles published outside of the journal. The winners are recognized at the awards dinner during the annual meeting.

Committee Composition. A chair and three additional members, who serve for three years. Committee members' terms should be staggered to provide continuity.

Committee Responsibilities. The chair must be contacting the committee in January or February of a given year to alert the committee to its tasks for the coming year. Doing so this early permits the committee to space out the reviewing of the issues without causing an undue burden on the members. In addition to organizing and leading your committee, the chair is responsible for transmitting the award decisions, including citation, to the SMH Executive Director. The decisions must be approved by the SMH officers and trustees, and time is required to process the award plaques to present in April.

Selection Procedures. Each member selects the top article, and a second choice, with rationale, from each issue. Members should review each issue upon receipt.

- The deadline for submitting the selection(s) and rationale to the group is as follows. Email is appropriate. This division of the work will reduce the burden on committee members by distributing the load across the year.
 - January issue: March 15
 - April issue: June 15
 - July issue: September 15
 - October issue: December 15
- The Committee Chair will facilitate the discussion for each issue's selections if, in the view of the committee, a clear winner is not immediately apparent.
- The committee will reach a final decision on a winner in each issue.
- The committee will write a citation for each selection for submission to the Society.
- The committee will review and approve the final submission by February 1 of the award year.

Selection Criteria. The articles, either published in the JMH or elsewhere, must have appeared in the prize year under consideration. The notification by February 2016, for example, would be for the winners in the four issues in Volume 79 (2015).

- Those printed contributions categorized as “book reviews,” “review essays,” status reports,” “historiographical notes,” and the like are not the focus of the award.
- The George C. Marshall Lecture in Military History, if published in the Journal, is not eligible.
- A potential winning article must exhibit characteristics that set it apart from the other articles in the issue by virtue of:
 - the novelty *and* significance of the topic and conclusions to the field; or
 - innovative use of new or under-utilized source materials, including in languages other than English; or
 - notable and effective inclusion of perspectives, sources, and/or methodologies from multiple historical fields besides military history (broadly defined); or
 - remarkable and effective integration of perspectives, sources, and/or methodologies from other scholarly disciplines beyond history.