

The Templer Medal Book Competition

The Templer Medal was established by the Society for Army Historical Research in 1981 to commemorate the life and achievements of Field Marshal Sir Gerald Templer KG (1898–1979) and to mark his Presidency of the Society between 1965 and 1979. The award is made annually to the author of the book published that has made the most significant contribution to the history of the British Army, as defined in the Templer competition rules, set out here and in the Society's website www.sahr.co.uk.

It is customary that the Patron of the Society **Field Marshal HRH The Duke of Kent, KG** awards the silver medal to the winner. There is usually a cash award attached to the Medal.

Organisation

The organisation of the competition and recommendation of a winning title to the Society's Council will be in the hands of a five member Templer Medal sub-committee. The sub-committee chair will be a member of the Society's Council. The sub-committee may consist of up to three non Society members to obtain as wide a background of interests as possible.

The decision of the Council following the recommendation of the sub-committee, shall be final and no correspondence concerning the decision will be entered into with publishers, authors, editors or compilers in respect to the merits of particular candidate publications. It shall be permissible not to make an award in respect of any year if no book is of sufficient quality to merit it.

The sub-committee will 'call in' those books which it thinks most appropriate to consider for the competition. Unsolicited books received by the sub-committee will be examined for inclusion, but will not necessarily form part of the short list to be read for the competition. **Publishers are urged therefore to submit catalogues of appropriate material to the Chair of the sub-committee Dr John Peaty johnpeaty@aol.com**

The Society welcomes books from abroad and publishers are urged to bring potential candidates to the sub-committee's attention as soon as possible, as candidate titles qualify strictly by their year of publication and not from when they become known about and available in London.

Content

Candidate publications must be about the **History of the British Army** by which is understood any aspect of the Army and its activities, including its Reserve or Auxiliary formations/units (Militia, Yeomanry, Fencibles, Volunteers, Home Guard or other temporary and part time units) or the land forces of the Crown before 1660, or the 'Offices' and institutions which supported them. Candidates may also deal with the same material in respect of **the countries of the British Empire/ Commonwealth** including forces maintained by non-Crown bodies within the Empire (the Honourable East India Company) or forces allied to and forming an integral part of the land forces operating on behalf of the Crown (North America Indians, for example).

Time frames

The Templer Medal Award is an annual competition and the prize is awarded to the winner in the following April. Books are accepted for consideration based on the criteria that the book was published in that year. For example books published between 1 January 2014 and 31 December 2014 that also state the publication year as 2014 in the book are eligible for the 2014 prize.

Please note if the year of publication is a year earlier than that printed in the book, it will only be eligible for the later year. If the year of publication is a year later than that printed in the book, it will be only eligible for the year of publication

To be considered a copy of the book submitted must be received by each of the five reading judges by 31 December in the year for which it is entered. The Short List of titles will be closed at the end of December.

Criteria and Guidance

No restrictions are made concerning whether a work is authored, edited or compiled or as to whether one or several persons are responsible for its content.

Titles competing for the prize will normally have been produced by companies which are members of the Publishers Association of the UK or a similar body in their country of origin. Works produced in very limited runs by 'desk top publishing' methods will not normally be eligible for the competition. Notwithstanding the above, privately published books shall be eligible if 'called in' by the sub-committee. Works produced for private circulation that are not commercially available, are ineligible.

Works must be in conventional printed book format. Works produced exclusively in electronic format are not acceptable. Publishers may submit copies of proof form before publication date; the book must, however, be available through normal commercial outlets before 31 December of the year in which it is included in the competition. Publishers should advise the sub-committee chair as soon as possible if a title which has been submitted is not going to appear in the year of the competition for which it is being considered.

Works must be in the English language originally or by translation. In cases of translation, the English version shall be that upon which the judgement is based. The publication date of the English language version shall constitute the date of publication of the work for the purpose of the competition. Candidate works may be published anywhere in the world.

The work must make **a significant contribution to advancing knowledge and understanding** of the History of the Army, as defined above, broaching **new subjects or re-examining old ones by means of extensive, original research from primary sources.** Moreover the successful candidates shall:

- a) be accurate and thoroughly researched and shall include sufficiently full bibliographies and references to allow the judges to satisfy themselves that adequate sources have been used in the writing of the work.
- b) be written in such a manner that constant and detailed reference to other works on the subject is unnecessary; the narrative and arguments of the work must stand alone and be comprehensible to a well-informed reader of military literature.
- c) be sufficiently well written that the style of presentation does not, regardless of subject matter, obscure the message of the work.