

Společnost pro výzkum dějin vojenství, z.s.
Czech Society for Military Historical Research



Společnost pro výzkum dějin vojenství, z. s. (SVDV)
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ACTIVITY REPORT
IN 2020-2023

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SVDV aims and activities

The Společnost pro výzkum dějin vojenství, z.s. (hereafter SVDV) is now an international scholarly society, established at its constituent general assembly in Terezín on 28 October 2019. It was subsequently registered at the beginning of 2020.

The SVDV unites active researchers, educators, students, and scholars engaged in the field of the historiography of warfare. Its focus is on conceptual reflection, particularly in the domains of the new cultural history of war, gender studies, oral history, historical anthropology, historical sociology, archaeology, military studies, ethnology, art history, and related disciplines. At the time of writing (September 2024), the Society has 23 members from the Czech Republic, Poland, and the USA, and four prospective members currently in the process of applying for membership (from the Czech Republic, Austria, Poland, and Germany).

The SVDV operates publicly primarily through the organisation of conferences, seminars, lectures and other events for both professional and general audiences, in addition to collaboration with analogous associations within the Czech Republic and abroad. Furthermore, the SVDV seeks to disseminate periodical and non-periodical peer-reviewed publications, in addition to popular science and other materials. Additionally, the SVDV aims to recognise and honour exemplary university theses within the domain of military history.

Members of the SVDV have current affiliations with the following academic and scholarly research and teaching institutions:

- Academy of Sciences of the Czech Republic, Institute of History
- Academy of Sciences of the Czech Republic, Masaryk Institute and Archives of the CAS
- Academy of Sciences of the Czech Republic, Institute for Contemporary History
- University of South Bohemia in České Budějovice, Faculty of Arts
- Museum of East Bohemia
- National Museum
- The University of Alabama, College of Arts and Sciences
- University of Hradec Králové, Faculty of Arts
- J. E. Purkyně University in Ústí nad Labem, Faculty of Philosophy
- Charles University, Faculty of Arts
- Charles University, Faculty of Humanities
- Palacký University in Olomouc, Faculty of Science
- University of Pardubice, Faculty of Arts
- Military Historical Institute Prague
- Department of Sociology, University of Warsaw

The aim of the SVDV is mainly to keep the domestic historiography of the military in lively contact with the global development of the discipline and developments in the field of historiography and the humanities and social sciences. In this context, the SVDV strives above all for the further development of the concepts reflected in the field of historiography of the military and their ethical and theoretically-methodologically anchored application.

Members of the SVDV are committed to excellence in their professional, scholarly, and academic-pedagogical endeavours. This is exemplified by the fact that, during the period spanning 2022 to 2024, SVDV members have been bestowed with some of the most esteemed scholarly awards within the Czech academic community, including:

1) Mgr. Jiří Hlaváček, Ph.D. was awarded the Oto Wichterle Prize of the Academy of Sciences of the Czech Republic in 2022

2) PhDr. et Mgr. Petr Wohlmuth, PhD was declared the winner of the Competition of High-Quality Monographs of Charles University in 2022 (Monographs 2022)

3) Mgr. et Mgr. Klára Andresová, Ph.D. was awarded the Bolzano Prize by Charles University in 2024.

Overview of events and projects

In particular, the SVDV engages with the academic, scholarly, research and professional public spheres in the following ways:

- The SVDV disseminates information via its website and through the actions of its members, who engage with the public in ways that fulfil the “third role” of universities and research institutions.
- through the professional activities of its members
- by co-organising international scholarly conferences with established partners at the level of the Academy of Sciences and top public universities.
- Furthermore, the SVDV organises the Theresienstadt Medal for Military History competition, which awards the Medal to the most outstanding university theses at the BA, MA and PhD levels.
- Additionally, the SVDV disseminates knowledge through monographic publications in its *Militaria academica* series, published by Scriptorium.

Year 2020

- The year 2020 was particularly hard hit by the global coronavirus epidemic, which prevented the SVDV from virtually any public scholarly activity due to a series of lockdowns. In the context that SVDV was about to start its activities, this was very unfavourable.
- Nevertheless, the society prepared, in cooperation with the Institute for Contemporary History of the CAS, the Institute of Ethnology of the CAS and the Terezín - City of Change Association, an international scholarly conference *Military Service in an Interdisciplinary Perspective*, which had to be cancelled due to the government's pandemic measures.

Year 2021

- SVDV successfully co-organised the postponed international conference *Military Service in an Interdisciplinary Perspective* on 24-25 June 2021 at the FHS UK campus in Prague.
- The SVDV implemented the first year of the competition for the Theresienstadt Medal for Military History, awarded for excellent academic theses, in this case defended in the academic year 2020/2021. The expert jury consisting of Klára Andresová, Jiří Hofman, Marie Koldinská, Vítězslav Prchal and Petr Wohlmuth announced the following results:
in the category of BA theses, the winner was Tomáš Konečný for his thesis entitled *Military Presentation of Augustus II. Strong. A cultural-military analysis of the Saxon army's exercise plans at Zeithain in 1730*, defended on 25 June at Palacký University in Olomouc.
The winner in the MA theses category was Jan Pecháček for his thesis entitled *To Supervise and Reward. Patent invalids on the Hukvaldy and Tovačov estates in the pre-March period*, defended on 26 August 2021 at the University of Hradec Králové.

Year 2022

- SVDV managed to present its members in a significant way at the 12th Congress of Czech Historians, which was held in Ústí nad Labem under the auspices of the J. E. Purkyně University in Ústí nad Labem. Panel P09, entitled "The History of the Military and its Contemporary Interdisciplinary Overlaps" was co-sponsored by two SVDV members, Jiří Hutečka and Petr Wohlmuth. The panel, all three blocks of which were held on 21 September 2022, featured presentations by Society members Lukáš Sláma, Klára Andresová, Václav Černý, Tomáš Jiránek, Vojtěch Kessler, Michal Cáp, Libor Jůn, Vítězslav Prchal, Petr Wohlmuth and Jiří Hutečka.
- The SVDV implemented another year of the competition for the Theresienstadt Medal for Military History, in which the expert

committee consisting of Jiří Hofman, Vojtěch Kessler, Marie Koldinská, Vítězslav Prchal and Petr Wohlmuth announced the following results: The winner in the category of MA theses was Mgr. Bc. Tomáš Jirouch with his thesis entitled *Environmental History of Bastion Fortifications and IPM Josefov*, defended on 31 May 2022 at Masaryk University, Faculty of Social Studies, Department of Environmental Studies.

- In the category of doctoral dissertations, the winner was Mgr. Matouš Holas, Ph.D., with his dissertation entitled *Interdisciplinary Research on the Battlefields of the Prusso-Austrian War of 1866*, defended on 15 June 2022 at the University of Hradec Králové, Faculty of Arts, Department of Archaeology.

Year 2023

- At the beginning of 2023, the first volume in the *Militaria academica* publishing series, which SVDV (specifically Petr Wohlmuth) manages at Scriptorium, was published. MAI - Petr Wohlmuth, ed. *Military Service in an Interdisciplinary Perspective* (Scriptorium and the Society for Research on the History of Military History: Dolní Břežany and Terezín, 2023), 176 pages, paperback. The publication is a follow-up to the eponymous scholarly conference co-organised by the SVDV in 2021. The publication was supported, among others, by the FHS UK as part of its Cooperatio project fund. The publication has already received positive feedback in the form of a review on the prestigious CEU Review of Books academic website (August 2024).
- In 2023 there was also a very positive development in the membership base with the admission of two new foreign members. The first of them is Prof. Dr. Jaroslaw Kiliarski, active at the Faculty of Sociology at the University of Warsaw. The second is Andrew Deaton, M.A., active at the University of Alabama.
- The SVDV co-organised another international scholarly conference, this time with the Institute for the Study of the Habsburg Monarchy and the Balkans of the Austrian Academy of Sciences and the Faculty of Arts of

the University of Pardubice. The conference, entitled *Army, Society and Warfare in the Bohemian Lands under the Habsburgs (1526-1918)*, was held in Pardubice on 14-15 September 2023. Currently (September 2024) a collective monograph reflecting the issues discussed at this conference is being prepared and will likely be published by the Central European University in Vienna.

- In the announced 3rd year of the competition for the Theresienstadt Medal for the History of the Military, no medals were awarded in any category this time according to the Statute of the competition.
- For the second volume of the *Militaria academica* edition, SVDV managed to obtain a notably high-quality title Milena Lenderová and Vítězslav Prchal, (eds.), *Living Fortresses. Cities, People and Fortifications in Wartime, Postwar and Cultural Imagination* (Terezín and Dolní Břežany: Scriptorium and the Society for Research on the History of Military History, 2024, forthcoming). Editorial work has been underway since late 2023 and publication is planned for late 2024. The volume will also include texts by several SVDV members.

Development of the SVDV membership base

The membership base was maintained at a stable level between 2020 and 2023. A positive trend is the increase of foreign members. A more significant growth, including additional foreign members, will not occur until 2024.

Year 2020

Situation as of 31.12.	
Number of members:	20
Difference from the previous year:	+20

Year 2021

Situation as of 31.12.	
Number of members:	21
Difference from the previous year:	+1

Year 2022

Situation as of 31.12.	
Number of members:	20
Difference from the previous year:	-1

Year 2023

Situation as of 31.12.	
Number of members:	21
Difference from the previous year:	+1

Current status and future outlook

As of the date of this report, 11 September 2024, the SVDV currently has 23 members. In addition, it has 4 prospective members, most of whom are foreign academics and scholars:

- Kamila Baraniecka-Olszewska (Institute of Archaeology and Ethnology, Polish Academy of Sciences, Warsaw).
- Ilya Berkovich (Austrian Academy of Sciences)
- Tomáš Konečný (Military Historical Institute Prague)
- Juliane Tomann (University of Regensburg)

2024 is therefore highly likely to be the most successful year in expanding the membership base, as the difference from 2023 is expected to be +6.

SVDV finances

Throughout its activities, the SVDV has had income only from membership fees.

In 2020

Revenue	CZK 11400
Expenditure	CZK 712
<i>712 CZK, webhosting: FA Active24: FV-131833/2020</i>	
Difference between revenue and expenditure	+ CZK 10688
Account balance as of 31. 12. 2020	CZK 10688

In 2021

Revenue	CZK 12200
Expenditure	CZK 10198
<i>325,50 Kč, domain web: FA Active24: FV-22767/2020</i>	
<i>1681,90 Kč, roll-up (banner): FA Jan Tůma- Print Plus: 2110-0550</i>	
<i>711,48 CZK, webhosting: FA Active24: FV-129705/2021</i>	
<i>7480 CZK, production of Theresienstadt medals: FA Pára: 55/21</i>	
Difference between revenue and expenditure	+ CZK 2002
Account balance as of 31. 12. 2021	CZK 13289,12

In 2022

Revenue	CZK 9000
Expenditure	CZK 17657,16
<i>1474,99 Kč: diploma folders for Theresienstadt medals: FA Opus Praba: 22FV0084</i>	
<i>325,49 Kč: web domain, Active24 FA: FV-27205/2022</i>	
<i>856,68 Kč: webhosting Active 24: FA: FV-117572/2022</i>	
<i>15000 CZK: language editing and proofreading Militaria Academica I: FA Koch: 20/2022</i>	
Difference between revenue and expenditure	-8657,16 CZK
Account balance as of 31.12.2022	CZK 4361,96

In 2023

Revenue	CZK 6000
Expenditure	CZK 1654,07
<i>361,79 Kč: web domain: FA Active24: FV-28038/2023</i>	

1292,28 Kč: webhosting: FA Active24: 823032710

Difference between revenue and expenditure

+ 4345,93 CZK

Account balance as of 31. 12. 2023

CZK 8977,89

SVDV plans

The main SVDV plans are as follows:

The short-term objectives for the year 2024 are as follows:

- The organisation of a further competition for the Theresienstadt Medal for Military History is planned for the period September to December.
- The second volume of the *Militaria Academica* series is scheduled for publication.
- The promotion of the SVDV and its concept of military history is a further objective.

The medium-term objectives are as follows:

- It is the SVDV objective to strengthen its membership base to comprise a minimum of 40 members, both domestic and foreign, by the end of 2025.
- In 2025, an application for membership of the Council of Scholarly Societies (RVS) will be submitted (CZ).
- It is also the objective of the Society to publish regularly monographic works in its own series, entitled *Militaria Academica*, which is published by the Scriptorium Press.
- To hold a regular competition for the Theresienstadt Medal for Military History.
- To continue to co-organise international conferences with established scholarly and academic partners on an annual basis, if feasible.
- Increase visibility in public space through regular expert appearances of members in mass media and other occasions.

- Strengthen partnerships and engage in joint events with established scientific partners at the level of the Academy of Sciences and top public universities.
- Promote high standards of excellence in scholarly work and the application of advanced theoretical and methodological concepts in military history, and support those who strive to achieve these standards.

Strategic objectives:

- To gain the requisite legitimacy, competence and capital to publish a periodical scholarly publication on the topic of problem-analytically grasped history of the military, and to achieve indexing of this publication with established partners (CEEOL, ERIH PLUS, EBSCO, SCOPUS, WoS).
- To establish a study programme at a public university in the Czech Republic that includes the problem-analytical history of the military.
- To become a subject that is widely respected and significant in the Czech and Central European academic communities in the field of the scientifically problem-analytically grasped history of the military.
- To encourage members of the subject to achieve habilitation and professorships in academia.

The Report was submitted by:

PhDr. et Mgr. Petr Wohlmuth, Ph.D.

SVDV Chairman

PhDr. Vítězslav Prchal, Ph.D.

SVDV Vice-Chairman

Mgr. Jiří Hofman, Ph.D.

SVDV Treasurer

The Report was verified by:

Mgr. et Mgr. Klára Andresová, Ph.D.

Mgr. Jiří Hlaváček, Ph.D.

Mgr. Ondřej Vodička

SVDV Audit Commission

In Theresienstadt (Terezín), 11 September 2024