



From the guest editor's desk:

10th Anniversary issue: Remembrance of things past

by Barry Drees

I think that it is somehow fitting that Elise should reach back into the dim and distant past, and ask an aged EMWA dinosaur like me (editor of *TWS* from 1998 - 2004) to be guest editor of an issue dedicated to the history of EMWA, even if it does make me feel a bit like Donovan being asked to host a television special on 1960's pop music! Nevertheless, I was honored to be asked, and excited to be able to bring together two of my passions in life, EMWA and history.

Of course, history of any kind poses definite problems. First of all, as Geoff Hall notes in his article on the history of the association, does anyone even care? I certainly do and have always firmly believed that we cannot understand the present or even hope to be able to reduce trouble in the future if we are ignorant of our own history. Most of you will have heard the famous quote by George Santayana (Spanish Philosopher), "Those who cannot learn from history are doomed to repeat it", but I also like David McCulloch's view (US 'celebrity' historian), "History is a guide to navigation in perilous times. History is who we are and why we are the way we are". I truly believe that knowing more about EMWA's history can help illuminate useful strategies in dealing with some of the challenges facing EMWA today.

Perhaps more of a problem is the question, "what is history?" There are few scholarly subjects as subjective as history, for history must be remembered by the participants, and memory is far from a faithful record and is different for each person. This point was brought home to me when after years of thinking that I understood what happened at the Battle of Waterloo (having read several accounts, but all in English and based on British recollections), I read an account in French (translated, admittedly) based on their view. It was hard to believe that they were talking about the same event. I believe that therein lies the answer to this question—the best history contains as many different views as possible. A history teacher complained to me about the Internet and how lazy students can just find any view and think that it is history. I believe, however, that he is missing an opportunity. He should be teaching that real historical insight only comes from reading many different views, and perhaps have his students examine a number of websites with different views and then discuss the differences.

Thus, I have gotten several other 'battle-scarred' veterans from EMWA's past who played key roles in the development of EMWA to join me in sharing our 'remembrances

of things past', each presenting the specific aspect we know best. I give my views on the *EMWA Newsletter* and how it became *TWS*, Stephen deLooze tells us of the creation, of EMWA's reason for being, the Educational Programme, and Geoff Hall regales us with tales from the mythical and murky origins of the organization itself. Therefore, this is by no means 'The Definitive History', but rather a spectrum of views, which, taken together, hopefully can enlighten us about "who we are and why we are the way we are". After all, as David Ben Gurion (first president of Israel) said, "Anyone who believes you can't change history has never tried to write his memoirs".

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EMWA conference renumbering

Venue	Year	Old number and name	New number and name
Brussels	1992	1 st Spring Conference	1 st EMWA Conference
Eindhoven	1993	2 nd Spring Conference	2 nd EMWA Conference
Basle	1994	3 rd Spring Conference	3 rd EMWA Conference
Bruges	1995	4 th Spring Conference	4 th EMWA Conference
Berlin	1996	5 th Spring Conference	5 th EMWA Conference
Edinburgh	1997	6 th Spring Conference	6 th EMWA Conference
Madrid	1998	7 th Spring Conference	7 th EMWA Conference
Copenhagen	1999	8 th Spring Conference	8 th EMWA Conference
Henley	1999	1 st Autumn Meeting	9 th EMWA Conference
Dublin	2000	9 th Spring Conference	10 th EMWA Conference
Lille	2000	2 nd Autumn Meeting	11 th EMWA Conference
Montpellier	2001	10 th Spring Conference	12 th EMWA Conference
Brighton	2001	3 rd Autumn Meeting	13 th EMWA Conference
Prague	2002	11 th Spring Conference	14 th EMWA Conference
Amsterdam	2002	4 th Autumn Meeting	15 th EMWA Conference
Lisbon	2003	12 th Spring Conference	16 th EMWA Conference
London	2003	5 th Autumn Meeting	17 th EMWA Conference
Budapest	2004	13 th Spring Conference	18 th EMWA Conference
Munich	2004	6 th Autumn Meeting	19 th EMWA Conference
Malta	2005	14 th Spring Conference	20 th EMWA Conference
Manchester	2005	7 th Autumn Meeting	21 st EMWA Conference
Lyon	2006	15 th Spring Conference	22 nd EMWA Conference
Brussels	2006	8 th Autumn Meeting	23 rd EMWA Conference
Vienna	2007	16 th Spring Conference	24 th EMWA Conference
Basle	2007	9 th Autumn Meeting	25 th EMWA Conference
Barcelona	2008	17 th Spring Conference	26 th EMWA Conference