

KENNETH MICHAEL SWOPE

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EDUCATION

Ph.D. in History, University of Michigan, 2001
Visiting Researcher, Institute of History and Philology, Academia Sinica,
Nankang, Taipei, Taiwan, 1999-2000
M.A. in Chinese Studies, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, Michigan, 1995
B.A. in History, College of Wooster, Wooster, Ohio, 1992
Semester Abroad, Chinese University of Hong Kong, Shatin, Hong Kong (Fall 1990)

FELLOWSHIPS, GRANTS AND AWARDS

American Council of Learned Societies—American Research in the
Humanities in China Grant (2010)
Graduate Program Recruiting Grant—Ball State University (2009)
Indexing Grant—Ball State University (2009)
West Point Summer Seminar in Military History Participant (2008)
Indiana University East Asian Studies Center Research Travel Grant (2007)
National Endowment for the Humanities Summer Stipend (2006)
Ball State University Summer Funding—Ball State University (2006)
Moncado Prize for Outstanding Article published in *The Journal of Military History* (2006)
New Faculty Summer Research Grant—Ball State University (Summer 2005)
Faculty Travel Grant—Marist College (Fall 2003 & Spring 2004)
Nominated for Faculty Member of the Year Award—Marist College (2004)
Summer Research Grant—Marist College (Summer 2002)
U of Michigan Center for Japanese Studies—Asia Library Travel Grant (Summer 2002)
Faculty Travel Grant—Marist College (Fall & Winter 2002)
Rackham Dissertation Completion Grant (Winter 2001)
Fulbright Grant for dissertation research in Taiwan (1999-2000)
Fellowships in Language and Area Studies—Michigan (1999-2000 & 1997-1998)
Center for Chinese Studies Conference Grants—Michigan (Spring 1999 & Spring 2001)
Rackham Travel Grants—Michigan (Spring 1997, Spring 1999 & Spring 2001)
Summer Funding Award—Michigan (1998)
Rackham Endowment/ Block Grant Awards—Michigan (1994-95 & 1996-97)
Induction into Phi Beta Kappa Society (1992)
Dean's List—College of Wooster (1988-92)
Academic Achievement Awards—College of Wooster (1988-92)
Dunham Prize in History for Outstanding Senior Independent Study (1992)
Turner Prize in History for Outstanding Junior Independent Study (1990)
Graduated from College of Wooster with Departmental Honors

DISSERTATION

“The Three Great Campaigns of the Wanli Emperor, 1592-1600: Court, Military, and Society in Late Sixteenth-Century China” (University of Michigan, 2001)

Advisor: Dr. Chun-shu Chang

Exam Fields: Premodern China (Major Field); Modern China; Premodern Japan; Imperial Russia

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Associate Professor of History, Ball State University (Muncie, IN), Fall 2009-Present;
(Assistant Professor, Fall 2004-Spring 2009)

Courses taught: “Modern Asia Since 1600;” “Modern Japan Since 1600” (Also offered as an online Independent Learning course); “Premodern Japan to 1600;” Introduction to Non-Western History;” “World Civilization I;” “World Civilization II;” “The Mongol Empire in World History;” “Graduate Seminar in World History; topics include: “War, State & Society in Yuan-Ming China;” “The Greater East Asian & Pacific War;” “Peasant Rebellions and Social Movements;” “Empires in Asian History;” and “Nationalism;” “Modern China Since 1600” (Also offered as an online Independent Learning course); “Premodern China to 1600;” “Independent Readings in Premodern Chinese History;” “Independent Readings in Asian Military History;” “Independent Readings in Modern Chinese History;” “Independent Readings in Modern Japanese History”

Other activities include: Director of Graduate Studies for History Department (Spring 2008-present); Seminar designer and instructor for National Consortium for Teaching about Asia Seminar (Spring 2009 & Spring 2011); Program Committee Member for 2011 Annual Meeting of the Society for Military History; National Endowment for the Humanities Summer Stipend Review Committee (Fall 2009 & Fall 2011); Editorial Board Member of *The Journal of Chinese Military History*; Book Review Editor for *The Journal of Chinese Military History*; Contact person for History Department link to the Society for Military History website; Consultant for Spike TV Television Show “Deadliest Warrior;” Nominated for Faculty Homecoming King (Fall 2009); Service on departmental Promotion and Tenure Committee (2011-12); Service on History Department Curriculum Committee (2005-present); Secretary for Search Committee in Early Modern European History (2009-2010); Judge for Ball State University National Debate Competition; Manuscript Reviewer for Columbia University Press; Textbook reviewer for Houghton Mifflin Press; Textbook reviewer for AB Longman Press; Manuscript reviewer for Taylor and Francis publishers; Manuscript Reviewer for *Ming Studies*; Manuscript Reviewer for *The Journal of Military History*; Manuscript Reviewer for *Journal of the Economic and Social History of the Orient*; Manuscript Reviewer for *The Journal of Northeast Asian History*; Manuscript Reviewer for *Canadian Journal of Sociology*; Manuscript Reviewer for *History Compass*; Service on Search Committee for Chinese language professor; Service as Secretary for History Department Advisory Committee; Service on History Department Merit Committee; Service on History Department Graduate Programs Committee; Service on Undergraduate Programs Committee; Service on Search Committee for position in Islamic History; Service on Student History Conference Committee; Reviewing Internal Faculty Grant Applications for Office of Academic Research; Service on NEH Grant Application Review

Committee (Chaired Committee in 2008); Writing interpretive essays for exhibits at Ball State University Art Museum; Training museum docents for giving tours of the Asian collection; Guest lecturing for prison outreach program; Service on the Asian Studies Committee; Service on Curriculum Revision Committee for Asian Studies Minor; Service on Graduate Research Subcommittee; Service on Student History Conference Selection Committee; Service on Comprehensive Exam Committees for M.A. Students; Advising undergraduate theses; Service as Department Representative for the United Way Campaign; Service as Reviewer for Midwestern Association of Graduate Schools Distinguished Thesis Competition; Taught class entitled "Discovering the Tao" for local business; Training University Museum docents for tours of the Asian collection; Guest lectures for other BSU courses; Public lectures at BSU Art Museum; and bringing guest lecturers to campus to give lectures for History 493 (Premodern Japan) and History 496 (Modern China)

Seminar Designer and Instructor-Norwich University (Norwich, VT), Summer 2006-Present
Designed and teach seminar entitled "Non-Western Warfare: The Asian Art of War" for online Master's Program in Military History; Course Revised in Spring 2011 as "Military History and Culture of China"

Assistant Professor of History, Marist College (Poughkeepsie, NY), Fall 2001-Summer 2004
Courses Taught: "History of Asia I-II" (2 semesters), "The Origins of Modern Times," "Traditional China," "Modern China," "The Art of War in East Asia," "World War II in Asia," "History of Baseball," "Themes in Modern History," and "World War II: Axis & Allies."
Other campus activities included: Co-Director of Marist in China program; Hosted 5th Annual Meeting of the Chinese Military History Society; Campus Liaison for AsiaNetwork; Faculty Adviser to the History Club; Adviser to the International Film Series; Member of the Global Studies Committee; Member of the Fellowship Advisory Committee; Attending events as representative of Franklin and Eleanor Roosevelt Institute in Hyde Park, NY; Providing assistance in implementing Marist College's first Chinese language instruction courses; Organizing and chaperoning student field trips; Service on search committees for positions in European, Islamic, Latin American and African history, and bringing guest speakers to campus

TEACHING AND RESEARCH INTERESTS

Late Imperial Chinese Military, Political, and Social History; Modern Asia; East Asian International Relations; World War II; Comparative World History; The Cold War; Imperialism; Military History; and the History of Baseball

GRADUATE TEACHING AND RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

Graduate Student Instructor, History 266: War and American Society in the Twentieth Century

Graduate Student Instructor, History 121: Great Traditions of East Asia

Research Assistant for Professor Chun-shu Chang, Department of History

Grader for Professor Chun-shu Chang, History 250: Early China & History 550: Imperial China

Graduate Student Instructor, History 122- Modern History of East Asia

Graduate Student Instructor, History 396: The Plague and History 396: Historical Writing in the Middle Ages

Research Assistant for Paul Forage, Department of Asian Languages and Cultures

PUBLICATIONS—BOOKS, ARTICLES AND BOOK CHAPTERS

The Military Collapse of China's Ming Dynasty, 1619-1644, forthcoming as part of the "Asian States and Empires" series (London: Routledge, 2012)

A Dragon's Head and a Serpent's Tail: Ming China and the First Great East Asian War, 1592-1598, in the "Campaigns & Commanders" series (Norman: University of Oklahoma Press, 2009)

Edited, wrote the introduction, and contributed to *Warfare in China Since 1600* for the series *The International Library of Essays in Military History* (Aldershot, UK: Ashgate, 2005)

"Bringing in the Big Guns: On the Use of Firearms in the Ming-Manchu War," forthcoming in *Chinese and Indian Warfare in Comparison*, edited by Peter A. Lorge and Kaushik Roy (London: Routledge, 2012)

"As Close as Lips and Teeth: Debating the Ming Intervention in Korea, 1592," forthcoming in *Debating War in China* edited by Peter Lorge (Leiden: Brill, 2012)

"Of Bureaucrats and Bandits: Confucianism and Anti-Rebel Strategy at the End of the Ming Dynasty," in *Warfare and Culture in World History*, edited by Wayne E. Lee (New York: New York University Press, 2011), pp. 61-89

"Ming-Qing zhanzheng zhong dapao de shiyong," [On the Use of Heavy Artillery in the Ming-Qing War] *Qing shi yanjiu* 2011.3 (Aug.), pp. 143-150 [Chinese language publication]

"To Catch a Tiger: The Suppression of the Yang Yinglong Miao Uprising (1587-1600) as a Case Study in Ming Military and Borderlands History," in *New Perspectives on the History and Historiography of Southeast Asia* edited by Kenneth R. Hall and Michael Aung Thwin (London: Routledge, 2011), pp. 112-140

"The Beating of Drums & Clashing of Symbols: Music in Ming Dynasty Military Operations," *The Chinese Historical Review* 16.2 (Fall 2009), pp. 147-177

"Cutting Dwarf Pirates Down to Size: Amphibious Warfare in Sixteenth-Century East Asia," in *New Interpretations in Naval History: Selected Papers from the Fifteenth Naval History*

Symposium, edited by Maochun Yu (Annapolis: Naval Institute Press, 2009), pp. 81-107

"Shin horobite shisamushi: Min ga sansen sezaru o enakatta riyu," [When the Lips Die, the Teeth Freeze: Reasons for the Ming Intervention] in Chung Doo-hee, et al, comps., *Jinshin Senso: Juroku seiki Ni-Cho-Chu no kokusai senso* [The Imjin War: A Sixteenth Century International War Between Japan, Korea and China] (Tokyo: Akashi shoten, 2008), pp. 351-394. [Japanese language publication and translation of *A Transnational History of the Imjin Waeran*]

"War and Remembrance: Yang Hao and the Siege of Ulsan of 1598," *Journal of Asian History* 42.2 (Dec. 2008), pp. 165-195

"Clearing the Fields and Strengthening the Walls: Defending Small Cities in Late Ming China," in *Secondary Cities and Urban Networking in the Indian Ocean Realm* edited by Kenneth R. Hall (Boulder: Lexington Books, 2008), pp. 123-154

"Bestowing the Double-edged Sword: Wanli as Supreme Military Commander," in *Culture, Courtiers, and Competition: The Ming Court (1368-1644)* edited by David Robinson (Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press, 2008), pp. 61-115

"Protecting the Dragon's Teeth: Reasons for Ming China's Intervention," in *A Transnational History of the Imjin Waeran, 1592-1598*, 2 vols. (Seoul: Humanist Books, 2007), vol. II, pp. 317-353 [Korean language publication]

"Beyond Turtleboats: Siege Accounts from Toyotomi Hideyoshi's Second Invasion of Korea, 1597-1598," *Sungkyun Journal of East Asian Studies* 6.2 (October 2006), pp. 177-206

"Crouching Tigers, Secret Weapons: Military Technology Employed During the Sino-Japanese-Korean War, 1592-1598," *The Journal of Military History* 69.1 (Jan. 2005), pp. 11-43—Winner of a 2006 Moncado Prize from The Society for Military History

"A Few Good Men: The Li Family and China's Northern Frontier in the Late Ming," *Ming Studies* 49 (2004), pp. 34-81—Reprinted in *Warfare in China Since 1600*

"Turning the Tide: The Strategic and Psychological Significance of the Liberation of Pyongyang in 1593," *War and Society* 21.2 (October 2003), pp. 1-22—Reprinted in *Warfare in China to 1600*, edited by Peter Lorge (Aldershot, UK: Ashgate, 2005)

"All Men are Not Brothers: Ethnic Identity and Dynastic Loyalty in the Ningxia Mutiny of 1592," *Late Imperial China* 24.1 (June 2003), pp. 79-129

"Deceit, Disguise, and Dependence: China, Japan, and the Future of the Tributary System, 1592-1596," *The International History Review* 24.4 (December 2002), pp. 757-782

"Civil-Military Coordination in the Bozhou Campaign of the Wanli Era," *War and Society* 18.2

(October 2000), pp. 49-70—Reprinted in *Warfare in China to 1600* edited by Peter Lorge (Aldershot, UK: Ashgate, 2005)

Dissertation: “The Three Great Campaigns of the Wanli Emperor, 1592-1600: Court, Military, and Society in Late Sixteenth-Century China” (University of Michigan, 2001)

BOOK REVIEWS, REPORTS AND SHORTER PUBLICATIONS

Book review of *Lost Colony: The Untold Story of China's First Great Victory over the West* forthcoming in *The American Historical Review* (2012)

Book review of *The Troubled Empire: China in the Yuan and Ming Dynasties* by Timothy Brook in *The Journal of the Economic and Social History of the Orient* 54.4 (2011), pp. 552-554
Encyclopedia entries in *The Encyclopedia of War* edited by Charles Martel (London: Blackwell, 2011) Entries include: Battle of Sekigahara; Imjin War; Oda Nobunaga; Toyotomi Hideyoshi; and Yi Sunsin

Book Review of *Battlefronts Real and Imagined: War, Border, and Identity in the Chinese Middle Period* edited by Don J. Wyatt in *China Review International* 17.2 (2011), pp. 256-259

Book review of *Empire's Twilight: Northeast Asia Under the Mongols* by David M. Robinson in *The American Historical Review* 115.4 (Oct. 2010), pp. 1119-1120

Book review of *Tour of Duty: Samurai, Military Service in Edo, and the Culture of Early Modern Japan* by Constantine Nomikos Vaporis, in *The Historian* 72.3 (Fall 2010), pp. 672-673

Book review of *Military Culture in Imperial China*, edited by Nicola di Cosmo, in *De Re Militari* (2009) [Online publication]

Book review of *Khubilai Khan's Lost Fleet: In Search of a Legendary Armada* by James P. Delgado in *The Chinese Historical Review* 16.2 (Fall 2009), pp. 250-253

Book review of *Tradition, Treaties, and Trade: Qing Imperialism and Chosen Korea, 1850-1910*, by Kirk W. Larsen in *Pacific Affairs* 82.3 (Fall 2009), pp. 544-546

Comparative book review of *Asia Looks Seaward: Power & Maritime Strategy*, edited by Toshi Yoshihara and James R. Holmes, and *China's Energy Strategy: The Impact on Beijing's Maritime Policies*, edited by Gabriel Collins, et al., in *The Northern Mariner* xix no. 1 (Jan. 2009), pp. 95-97.

Book review of *The Making of the Chinese State: Ethnicity and Expansion on the Ming Borderlands* by Leo K. Shin in *The Historian* 70.1 (Spring 2008), pp. 136-137

Book review of *The Diary of a Manchu Soldier in Seventeenth-Century China: "My Service in the Army"* by Dzungseo by Nicola Di Cosmo, in *The Journal of Military History* 72.1 (Jan. 2008), pp. 233-234

Book review of *Between Dreams and Reality: The Military Examination in Late Choson Korea, 1600-1894* by Eugene Y. Park in *The Journal of Military History* 71.4 (Oct. 2007), pp. 1227-1228

Book review essay entitled "Perspectives on the Imjin War" in *Journal of Korean Studies* 12.1 (Fall 2007), pp. 154-161

Book review of *Empire at the Margins: Culture, Ethnicity, and Frontier in Early Modern China*, edited by Pamela Crossley et al., in *The Journal of the Economic and Social History of the Orient* 50.4 (Oct. 2007), pp. 592-595

Book review of *War and State Formation in Ancient China and Early Modern Europe* by Victoria Tin-Bor Hui in *The Journal of Asian Studies* 66.2 (May 2007), pp. 536-538

Book review of *Gateway to Japan: Hakata in War and Peace, 500-1300* by Bruce L. Batten in *The Historian* 69.1 (Spring 2007), pp. 132-135

Book review of *War in World History: Society, Technology and War From Ancient Times to the Present, Part IV: The Dawn of Global Warfare, 1500-1750* by Stephen Morillo, et al., in *Chinese Military History Society Newsletter* 8 (May 2005)

Book review of *Cultural Centrality and Political Change in Chinese History: Northeast Henan in the Fall of the Ming* by Roger V. Des Forges in *The Journal of Interdisciplinary History* 35.2 (Sept. 2004), pp. 339-340

Book review of *Firearms: A Global History to 1700* by Kenneth Chase in *Journal of the Economic and Social History of the Orient* 47.2 (Mar. 2004), pp. 284-286

Book review of *Fire and Water: The Art of Incendiary and Aquatic Warfare in China* by Ralph D. Sawyer, in *History: Reviews of New Books* 32.3 (Spring 2004), p. 117

Book review of *Like Froth Floating on the Sea: The World of Pirates and Seafarers in Late Imperial South China* by Robert J. Antony in *Ming Studies* 48 (2003), pp. 100-107

Book review of *Ancient China and its Enemies: The Rise of Nomadic Power in East Asian History* by Nicola Di Cosmo in *The Journal of Asian Studies* 62.4 (November 2003), pp. 1234-1235

Book review of *Medieval Chinese Warfare* by David A. Graff, in *The Journal of Asian Studies* 62.3 (August 2003), pp. 930-932

Book review of *Warfare in Chinese History*, edited by Hans van de Ven, in *Journal of the Economic and Social History of the Orient* 45.3 (August 2001), pp. 406-409

Book review of *The Literature of Travel in the Japanese Rediscovery of China, 1862-1945* by Joshua A. Fogel in *New Asia-Pacific Review* 3.1 (1996), pp. 60-61

Book review of *God's Chinese Son: The Heavenly Kingdom of Hong Xiuquan* by Jonathan Spence in *New Asia Review* 2.4 (Spring 1996), pp. 47-48

Book review of *Governing China* by Kenneth Lieberthal in *New Asia Review* 2.2-3 (Fall/Winter 1995-96), pp. 68-69

Obituary for Professor Edward L. Dreyer published in the online *Chinese Military History Society Newsletter* 13 (Fall 2007)

"Report on the Taipei Conference on Ming Literati Collections" *Ming Studies* 44 (Fall 2000), pp. 3-4

CONFERENCES, PAPERS AND INVITED PRESENTATIONS

"Hanging by a Silken Thread: The Strategic Dilemma of the Ming in 1644" to be presented at the Annual Meeting of the Society for Military History to be held at Arlington, VA (May 2012)

"Buccaneers, Boats, and Barbarian Cannon: Naval Technology and State Power in the Late Ming," presented at the conference "Pirates, Silk, and Samurai: Maritime China in Global History," held at Emory University, Atlanta, GA (October 2011)

Presentation entitled "Manifesting Awe: Imperial Leadership and Grand Strategy in the Ming Dynasty," delivered at the Center for Chinese Studies, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, MI (October 2011)

"Postcards from the Edge: Competing Strategies for the Defense of Liaodong in the Late Ming," presented at the conference "Civil-Military Relations in Chinese History," at the University of Leipzig, Leipzig, Germany (August 2011)

Commentator for panel entitled "Southeast Asia in World History" at the World History Association Annual Conference, Beijing, China (July 2011)

Commentator for panel entitled "Imagining War and Strategic Thought in China" at the Annual Meeting of the Society for Military History, Lisle, IL (June 2011)

Presentation entitled "History and Memory: Recalling the First Great East Asian War, 1592-1598," delivered at Taylor University, Upland, IN (April 2011)

"Gunsmoke: The Ming Invasion of Vietnam and the Dissemination of Firearms Technology in Fifteenth-Century Asia," presented at the Annual Meeting of the Association for Asian Studies, Honolulu, HI (April 2011)

"Managing Dwarfs, Children, and Barbarians: The Thorny Responsibilities of Being a Tributary Overlord in Northeast Asia," presented at the conference "Was There an Historical

East Asian International System? Impact, Meaning, and Conceptualization” at the University of Southern California, Los Angeles, CA (March 2011)

Panel Chair and Commentator for panel entitled “Thought and Practice in Chinese Warfare” at the Annual Meeting of the Society for Military History, Virginia Military Institute, Lexington, VA (May 2010)

“Of Bureaucrats and Bandits: Anti-Rebel Strategy at the End of the Ming Dynasty,” presented at the Annual Meeting of the Society for Military History, Virginia Military Institute, Lexington, VA (May 2010)

“Immersive Learning: Accounts of the Defense of Kaifeng at the End of the Ming Dynasty,” presented at the Annual Meeting of the Chinese Military History Society, Virginia Military Institute, Lexington, VA (May 2010)

Delivered Annual Kwan-Wai So/Anthony Koo Lecture in Asian Studies entitled “Taking Heads and Rectifying Names: Comparing Heroes of the First Great East Asian War, 1592-1598,” at Michigan State University, East Lansing, MI (April 2010)

“Bringing in the Big Guns: On the Use of Artillery in the Ming-Manchu War,” presented at the conference “War and Devastation in the Ottoman and Qing Empires” at the University of the Bosphorus, Istanbul, Turkey (June 2009)

“Miscasting a Ten-Sided Net: Evaluating Yang Sichang’s Anti-Rebel Strategy at the End of the Ming Dynasty,” presented at the Annual Meeting of the Chinese Military History Society at Kwantlen University, Vancouver, Canada (May 2009)

Commentator for panel entitled “East Asian Urban Networks in the Early Modern Era,” at the Small Cities Conference, Ball State University, Muncie, IN (April 2009)

Participant in “The Uses and Abuses of ‘Ways of War’” roundtable organized for 2009 Society for Military History Conference held at Middle Tennessee State University, Murfreesboro, TN (April 2009)

Presentation entitled “East Asia’s First Modern War: The First Great East Asian War (1592-1598) in Global Context,” delivered at the East Asian Studies Center, Indiana University, Bloomington, IN (February 2009)

Presentation entitled “Imperial Visions: Ming China’s Response to the Japanese Invasion of Korea, 1592-1598,” delivered at Columbia University, New York, NY (September 2008)

“Loyalist or Desperado? The International Context of the Execution of Mao Wenlong,” presented at the Annual Meeting of the Association for Asian Studies, Atlanta, GA (April 2008)

Presentation entitled “The Art of War: Images of the Japanese Invasion of Korea in the 1590s,” delivered at the Ball State University Museum of Art (February 2008)

“Cutting Dwarf Pirates Down to Size: Amphibious Warfare in Sixteenth-Century East Asia,” presented at the Naval History Symposium, Annapolis, MD (September 2007)

Panel commentator for panel entitled “Commerce and Power in Early Modern East Asian Cities,” for “The Small City in Global Context Conference,” Ball State University, Muncie, IN (April 2007)

Presentation entitled “Baywatch: Anti-Japanese Coastal Defenses in Late Sixteenth-Century China,” delivered at the University of Toronto, Toronto, ON (December 2006)

“Protecting the Dragon’s Teeth: Reasons for Ming China’s Intervention,” presented at “A Transnational History of the Imjin Waeran: The East Asian Dimension conference,” Tongyeong, South Korea (June 2006)

Organized panel entitled “Raiders, Traders and Invaders in Premodern Northeast Asia” for the Annual Meeting of the Society for Military History held at Kansas State University, Manhattan, KS (May 2006)

“All Along the Watchtowers: Plans for Bolstering Coastal Defenses in Late Sixteenth-century China,” presented for the panel “Raiders, Traders and Invaders in Premodern Northeast Asia” at the Annual Meeting of the Society for Military History at Kansas State University, Manhattan, KS (May 2006)

“The Beating of Drums & Clashing of Symbols: Music in Late Ming Military Operations” presented at the “Musiking the Late Ming” Conference at the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, MI (May 2006)

“Father Knows Best? Emperor Wanli and the Ming Intervention,” presented as part of the panel “The Korean War of 1592-98 and Styles of Governance in Premodern East Asia” at the Annual Meeting of the Association for Asian Studies, San Francisco, CA (April 2006)

Presentation entitled “Using Korean Archives for Ming History” given at the Annual Meeting of the Association for Ming Studies, San Francisco, CA (April 2006)

Presentation entitled “Contemporary Seoul & Taipei: Highlighting the Past and Looking Towards the Future” for Roundtable Discussion on Urbanization in Contemporary Asia during Focus on Asia Month at Ball State University, Muncie, IN (November 2005)

“When Victory Blows Up in Your Face: The Battle of Sachon and the Mountain of Ears,” presented at the Annual Meeting of the American Association for Chinese Studies at Vanderbilt University, Nashville, TN (October 2005)

Presentation entitled “Hideyoshi’s Hubris & Wanli’s Wrath: Ming China and the First Greater East Asian War” delivered at Sungkyunkwan University, Seoul, South Korea (August 2005)

"Yi Said, Li Said: Contrasting Views of the End of the First Greater East Asian War," presented at the Annual Meeting of the Chinese Military History Society held at the University of Calgary, Calgary, Canada (May 2005)

Organized and chaired roundtable entitled "A Reign of Great Significance: Recasting Wanli and his Era From an Interdisciplinary Perspective" at the 2005 Annual Meeting of the Association for Asian Studies, Chicago, IL (March 2005)

Chaired panel entitled "Iron Ships and Stone Walls in Pre-Modern Japan and England: The Military Revolution Across the Globe," at the Tenth Annual Barnes Club Graduate Student History Conference held at Temple University, Philadelphia, PA (February 2005)

"Lurking Fears: Strategic Concerns of the Later Ming Dynasty, ca. 1550-1650," presented at the Annual Meeting of the Society for Military History, Bethesda, MD (May 2004)

"Dashing Defiers and Dastardly Defenders: Independent Military Power at the End of the Ming, 1620-1644," presented at the Annual Meeting of the Chinese Military History Society at George Washington University, Washington, D.C. (May 2004)

Organized panel entitled "Perspectives on the First Greater East Asian War, ca. 1560-1620," for the Annual Meeting of the Association for Asian Studies, San Diego, CA (March 2004)

"Snatching Defeat from the Jaws of Victory: Yang Hao and the Siege of Ulsan," presented as part of the panel "Perspectives on the First Greater East Asian War" at the Annual Meeting of the Association for Asian Studies, San Diego, CA (March 2004)

Delivered Second Annual Lecture in Asian Studies at the University of South Alabama entitled "Korea's Unforgotten War," Mobile, AL (November 2003)

"Beyond Turtleboats: Siege Accounts from Hideyoshi's Second Invasion of Korea, 1597-1598," presented at the New York Conference on Asian Studies, SUNY Buffalo, NY (October 2003)

Hosted and organized the Annual Meeting of the Chinese Military History Society held at Marist College, Poughkeepsie, NY (May 2003)

"Guns, Guts, and Glory: Notes on Military Technology in the Japanese Invasion of Korea, 1592-1598," presented at the New York Conference on Asian Studies, Skidmore College, Saratoga Springs, NY (October 2002)

Presentation entitled "When Are People Going to Start Talking About *Wu*? Military Elites in the Late Ming Dynasty, 1570-1620," delivered at the Center for Chinese Studies, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, MI (October 2002)

Organized panel entitled "Alternative Possibilities: Women on the Margins of Asian Society Across Space and Time," for 12th Annual Conference on Women's Studies, Marist College, Poughkeepsie, NY (June 2002)

"The Legend of Tang Saier" presented at 12th Annual Conference on Women's Studies, Marist College, Poughkeepsie, NY (June 2002)

"Turning the Tide: The Strategic and Psychological Significance of the Liberation of Pyongyang in 1593" presented at the Annual Meeting of the Chinese Military History Society, Kansas State University, Manhattan, KS (May 2002)

"All Men are Not Brothers: Ethnic Identity and Dynastic Loyalty Along China's Northwestern Frontier, 1572-1592," presented at the Annual Meeting of the American Historical Association, San Francisco, CA (January 2002)

Presentation entitled "The Ningxia Mutiny of 1592" delivered to the Military Studies Group of the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, MI (December 2001)

Presentation entitled "Wrath of the Dragon: China's Response to the Japanese Invasion of Korea, 1592-1598," delivered at Colgate University, Hamilton, NY (November 2001)

"A Few Good Men: The Li Family and China's Northern Frontier in the Late Ming," presented at the Annual Meeting of the Chinese Military History Society, Miami, FL, (May 2001)

Organized panel entitled "Close Encounters with Ming China: International Trade, Diplomacy, and Cultural Exchanges," for the Annual Meeting of the Association for Asian Studies, Chicago, IL (March 2001)

"Caught Between the Dragon and the Rising Sun: Sino-Japanese Negotiations Over the Fate of Korea, 1593-1596," presented at the Annual Meeting of the Association for Asian Studies, Chicago, IL (March 2001)

Presentation entitled "China Crosses the Yalu, Part One" delivered to the Military Studies Group, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, MI (December 2000)

"Size Matters: International Military Technology in Toyotomi Hideyoshi's Invasions of Korea, 1592-1598," presented at the Midwest Conference on Asian Affairs, Indiana University, Bloomington, IN (October 2000)

Presentation entitled "Wild Frontiers: International Incidents and Domestic Rebellions During the Wanli Reign" delivered to the Ming-Qing Studies Group, Institute of Modern History, Academia Sinica, Nankang, Taipei, Taiwan (April 2000)

"Civil-Military Coordination in the Bozhou Campaign of the Wanli Era" presented at The Association for Asian Studies Annual Meeting, Boston, MA (March 1999)

“A Window on the Late Ming Military: The Career of General Chen Lin” presented at the Midwest Conference on Asian History and Culture, Ohio State University, Columbus, OH (May 1998)

“The Ethnic Problematik in Premodern China” presented at the Methodological Reflections on History and Culture Workshop, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, MI (February 1997)

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

Associate Faculty Member, East Asian Studies Center, Indiana University (2007-present)

Chinese Military History Society (Board member, 2003-present)

Editorial Board, *Journal of Chinese Military History*

Society for Ming Studies (Board member, 2003-2006)

Association for Asian Studies

Society for Military History

Society for Qing Studies

Phi Beta Kappa Society

Columbia University Seminar on Traditional China (2002-2004)

World History Association (2001-2005)

American Historical Association (2000-2006)

American Association for Chinese Studies (2005-2006)

New York Conference on Asian Studies (2001-2003)

Midwest Conference on Asian Affairs (2000-2001)

References for Kenneth M. Swope

Dr. Tonio Andrade
Associate Professor of History
Emory University
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Dr. Thomas Buoye
Associate Professor & Chair, Department of History
University of Tulsa
Thomas-buoye@tulsa.edu

Dr. David A. Graff
Associate Professor of History
Kansas State University
dgraff@ksu.edu

Dr. John K. Whitmore
Adjunct Associate Professor of History (Retired)
University of Michigan
johnkw@umich.edu

Dr. John E. Wills, Jr.
Professor of History (Emeritus)
University of Southern California
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January 11, 2012

Dr. Andrew Wiest
Chair, Center for the Study of War & Society Search Committee
Department of History
The University of Southern Mississippi
118 College Drive #5047
Hattiesburg, MS 39406-0001

Dear Dr. Wiest,

It is with great pleasure that I respond to your invitation to reply to your open position in the study of war and society. My research interests in Ming dynasty Chinese military history as indicated by my record of publication and professional activity and my extensive teaching experience make me ideal for this position. In these capacities I have had the opportunity to teach courses in modern and pre-modern Chinese and Japanese history, general Asian surveys, seminars such as "The Art of War in East Asia," and "The Mongol Empire," and courses on World War II, the Japanese Empire from 1868-1945, the history of baseball, and Non-Western history. Furthermore, I have taught both halves of the world history survey required of all history majors at Ball State, and also taught our graduate seminar in world history, the current topic being "War, State, and Society in Yuan-Ming China." In addition to teaching undergraduates, which remains very important to me, the opportunity to work with graduate students at the doctoral level is a particularly attractive aspect of this position and would allow me to build upon my experience as Director of the History M.A. program at Ball State and as an instructor for Norwich University's online Master's in Military History (MMA) program, which I helped launch as the designer of their seminar in Asian military history. I recently re-designed this course as a seminar in Chinese military history. Therefore, I would be quite interested in advising students pursuing subfields in comparative military history and the study of war and society within your graduate program and I have extensive experience preparing students for examination fields in Chinese and Japanese history. I would also welcome the chance to expand your existing course offerings to include more Asian topics. With my teaching background and publication record, I can enhance your department's existing strengths in European and American history by designing new upper division courses such as "War and Diplomacy in Early Modern East Asia" and "Peasant Rebellions and Revolutions in Modern Asia."

With respect to my research interests, my first monograph, *A Dragon's Head and a Serpent's Tail: Ming China and the First Great East Asian War, 1592-1598*, was published in 2009 and has received excellent reviews in a number of academic journals including *The Journal of Asian Studies*, *Sixteenth-Century Journal*, *The Journal of the Economic and Social History of the Orient*, and *The American Historical Review*. This book is the first scholarly monograph in

English on a conflict that has been called Asia's first "World War," and that remains one of the most poignant historical memories for people in Korea and Japan in particular. Although my primary emphasis is on the war from the perspective of Ming China, which sent tens of thousands of troops in defense of its tributary vassal state of Korea to repulse the Japanese, I also make extensive use of Korean and Japanese primary and secondary source materials to give a full picture of the conflict. These sources include memorials, letters, diaries, official court records, battlefield dispatches, and local and family histories, which I was able to gather during research trips to Korea funded in part by a summer stipend from the National Endowment for the Humanities. In addition to examining the international context of this war, I challenge standard interpretations of the controversial Ming Emperor Wanli's reign (1573-1620) to show how he tried to use military officials to counterbalance the great power of civil officials in Ming government and enhance his own role in governmental affairs. I also draw comparisons between the late Ming military and its early modern contemporaries.

I am currently in the final writing stages of my next book, *The Military Collapse of China's Ming Dynasty, 1619-1644*, which is under contract with Routledge and is slated for publication in 2012 as part of its "Asian States and Empires" series. In this book I move beyond standard narratives of Ming political and institutional decay to examine late Ming military policy and strategy from both the perspective of the court and from commanders in the field by making use of largely untapped primary sources, most notably recently published materials from the First Historical Archives in Beijing. The central contention of the book is that micromanagement of field operations by the last Ming emperor, compounded by his inability to reconcile disagreements between his civil and military officials, was the most significant factor in the demise of the Ming state at the hands of foreign invaders and peasant rebels. I also consider the dynamic between war and society in the late Ming in a comparative fashion as I look at how natural disasters and climate change contributed to the outbreak and perpetuation of social movements and peasant rebellions. I completed research for this book with the help of an American Council of Learned Societies grant that allowed me to spend four months in Beijing in 2010 as a foreign scholar affiliated with the History Department of Beijing University.

In the meantime I have had articles and book reviews published in *The International History Review*, *Late Imperial China*, *War and Society*, *The Journal of Military History*, *The Sungkyun Journal of East Asian Studies*, *The Journal of Asian History*, *The Journal of Korean Studies*, *The Journal of the Economic and Social History of the Orient*, *Ming Studies*, *The Chinese Historical Review*, *The Journal of Interdisciplinary History*, *The Historian*, and *The Journal of Asian Studies*. I wrote the introduction, edited and contributed to *Warfare in China Since 1600* (Ashgate, 2005); and have chapters in a number of edited volumes including *Culture, Courtiers, and Competition: The Ming Court (1368-1644)* edited by David Robinson; *Secondary Cities and Urban Networking in the Indian Ocean Realm* edited by Kenneth R. Hall; *Warfare and Culture in World History*, edited by Wayne Lee; *Debating War in China*, edited by Peter Lorge; *A Transnational History of the Imjin Waeran* edited by Chung Doo-hee (in Korean and Japanese); and *New Interpretations in Naval History*, edited by Maochun Yu. Additionally, my work has been translated into Chinese, Japanese, and Korean. After finishing the current project, I am interested in continuing my research into a number of topics in East Asian military and diplomatic history, including a study of the Ming empire's attempt to colonize Vietnam, tentatively entitled *China's Quagmire: The First Tet Offensive and the Ming Dynasty's War in Vietnam*, and a study of the late Ming peasant rebel Zhang Xianzhong and

his lieutenants.

My extensive and continued research in Chinese and East Asian history, my experience in conducting research abroad, my administrative and committee experience, and my teaching record demonstrate that I am able to handle the rigors of research and service required by a top-notch university and offer the personal attention to teaching that is so valuable to students. In my courses I stress the ability to write effectively and encourage students to grapple with the material to find their own solutions to complex historical problems. I also make use of a wide array of texts and mediums to deliver content, including *manga*, films, music, and the internet. I offer informative seminars for my graduate students on subjects such as applying for external funding, getting published, and how to apply for Ph.D. programs. Students seem to appreciate this, as I have earned strong student evaluation numbers while maintaining very rigorous grading standards. I also offer students the opportunity to meet with me in less formal settings like my weekly "Dharma Bums Coffee Hour," which has become a staple of my Asian history classes. With my ability to teach in all periods of Chinese and East Asian history as well as my service and research experience, I can be an asset to your department and its students at all levels. In addition to the courses already mentioned, I would be especially interested in designing survey courses in Asian history to augment your existing offerings. I would also welcome the chance to participate in the activities of the Center for War and Society and contribute to your various outreach programs. Among other things I would make use of my extensive contacts as a Board Member of the Chinese Military History Society and book review editor of *The Journal of Chinese Military History* to bring scholars to campus for lectures and academic conferences. This would allow me to continue the kind of public outreach I have enjoyed as an instructor for the National Consortium for Teaching about Asia (NCTA). In this capacity I taught a seminar for middle and high school teachers in the greater Indianapolis area that helped them integrate Asian Studies into their curriculums. I am pleased to note that I've been asked to teach this seminar again in the spring of 2012. Finally, the opportunity to join a university with a commitment to expanding its offerings in military history is quite appealing to me. Thus, with its dynamic curriculum, engaged students, and diversely talented faculty, the University of Southern Mississippi offers the perfect environment in which to continue my growth as a scholar and educator.

If you have any questions or need additional information, please feel free to contact me. Thank you for your consideration and I look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,

Kenneth M. Swope
Associate Professor
Department of History
Director, History M.A. Program
Book Review Editor, *The Journal of Chinese Military History*
209 Burkhardt Building
Ball State University
Muncie, IN 47306

Statement of Teaching Philosophy

Kenneth M. Swope

When I first started teaching I endeavored to be all things to all students. I tried to emulate the practices and adopt the assignments of the teachers who had most influenced me in my academic career. I had high expectations and high standards. I figured that if students could not meet these standards, it was their problem, not mine. After all I had always earned stellar evaluations as a graduate student instructor so I clearly knew what I was doing. But when I got my first set of student evaluations back at the end of my first semester as a “real” professor, I was dismayed to see how poorly I had connected with my students. Not only had their performance fallen woefully short of what I had expected, they were clearly frustrated with me for being rigid, demanding, and uncompromising. So I decided to quit trying to be someone else and just be myself in the classroom, hoping to infuse my own love of learning and appreciation of history’s ironies into my classes. Although I have encountered some bumps on the road, that approach has generally worked well and I have managed to develop a classroom style and demeanor that is relaxed and stimulating for students, while also maintaining rigorous academic standards. In other words, I fully believe that class should be engaging and “fun” for students, but that should not mean that one sacrifices content or the amount of material one assigns. Indeed, I have discovered that creative and engaging assignments have allowed me to demand more in the way of reading out of my students and in the process awakened them to the importance of reading multiple primary and secondary sources in order to gain as full an appreciation of the past and its actors as possible.

It is my belief that my primary responsibility as an educator lies in the area of teaching students to be better readers, writers and critical thinkers, whether they are enrolled in larger survey courses, or in smaller upper-division or graduate offerings. I take it to be my mandate to provide students with the equivalent of the best education they could receive anywhere. Therefore, I emphasize reading, analysis, and discussion in all of my classes. I never give exams that are solely multiple-choice and I provide extensive feedback on student writing in particular. I attempt to create a classroom atmosphere that encourages students to ask questions, whether about the material itself, or on a larger level. All of my courses, even at the survey level, have a significant classroom discussion grade, designed to encourage students to be active participants in their own education. I encourage the consideration of multiple interpretations and points of view by presenting historical events from different perspectives. For example in one assignment in my world history class, students read accounts of the Crusades from the Catholic, Muslim, and Byzantine

Orthodox perspectives and answer a series of questions pertaining to the goals, objectives, and interpretations of each of these groups and their respective sub-groups. In this way I believe I'm helping to fulfill broader goals of not only teaching history, but also promoting the development of essential skills needed by all today's college graduates, regardless of their particular field of study.

Secondarily, as someone invested with the responsibility of teaching courses that typically fulfill various "global studies" requirements, I realize that is integral that students have a greater understanding of their roles as citizens of the global community. Because of the international events of the past few years, students are becoming increasingly aware of the need for better understanding between the various peoples and cultures of the world. Therefore, one of the things I seek to impart in all of my courses is a greater appreciation for, and sensitivity to, other nations, cultures, and traditions. I attempt to accomplish this goal through extensive and varied classroom readings, films, guest speakers and the introduction of personal experiences and artifacts. I also encourage my students and colleagues to share their own experiences. It is very rewarding to see students come to the realization that they often have much to share and that they too can be teachers in the classroom, even as first-years. I have been especially pleased to encounter many of the students I've taught in the past at internationally themed campus events such as films and lectures. One example would be a campus-wide lecture by the Cambodian refugee Luong Ung. We read her memoir about growing up in Cambodia during the 1970s in my Non-Western History class three years ago and the strong impression made by the text inspired many of my former students to attend the lecture, even though they were not getting any kind of class credit for it. I have also been pleased by the number of e-mails I receive from former students alerting me to news items or events that pertain to something we discussed in class.

Furthermore, I constantly challenge myself to refine and adjust my courses. I never use all the same texts twice in a row for a given course and I actively solicit colleagues for suggestions concerning both new readings and dynamic teaching strategies. I also seek to incorporate the latest scholarship and new interpretations into my classes. I often make reference to current events or bring in "historical nuggets" I come across to make class more interesting and engaging. I encourage my students to do the same and often begin my classes with "viewer mail" that consists of things students have e-mailed or forwarded to me, including news stories and youtube clips. I also solicit feedback from my students at the end of the semester through specially designed evaluations and then try to incorporate worthy suggestions into future classes.

For example, I added a revisionist biography of the controversial Roman Emperor Caligula to the required reading list for my World Civilization class and designed a new assignment to help students better understand the author's approach to the subject. This is a "Book Dissection" that introduces students to critically evaluating scholarly works in a step by step fashion rather than just asking them to write a straight book review. I can say that the students derived far more from this approach than in previous book review exercises. Several of the students made a point of telling me how useful the exercise was and how it has given them a much better sense of how to approach historical works and evaluate primary sources. In my upper division and graduate classes I have incorporated a weekly discussion grade and I regularly post questions to coincide with the week's readings in addition to creating a variety of debates and other in-class exercises to stimulate student participation and interaction. Every time I teach my Non-Western History survey I give students the opportunity to pick the subjects for the next iteration of the class through a specially designed research project that asks them to evaluate materials in a variety of mediums to assess notable individuals in Non-Western history. This makes the assignment much more interesting and personal both for the students and myself, and ensures that I have a different course every year. As one student noted in an evaluation last year, "I love this class format!"

In summary, my overarching teaching philosophy is to attempt to engage my students on a number of levels and through various mediums and assignments. I strive to introduce them to not only the techniques and methods of "doing history" but also to the ways in which historical events are remembered and how they shape current actions and developments. In terms of class style, I try to strike a balance between relaxed discussion and academic rigor. I think it is essential that everyone cultivate their own classroom style and voice and not try to slavishly adhere to someone else's ideal teaching model. If one is able to do this, then their natural passion for the subject will come out and have a positive effect on the students. Nothing is more rewarding as an educator than having a class that "clicks" where students clearly not only enjoy coming to class, but also actively become part of the learning process.

Note Concerning Transcript for Kenneth M. Swope

Because of technical difficulties experienced with uploading the pdf of my transcript on the job site, I have forwarded a copy directly to Dr. Andrew Wiest, the Search Committee Chair. Please contact me at kmswope@yahoo.com if you have any questions.

Thank you!



Center for Southeast Asian Studies

Professor Andrew Wiest
Modern War and Society Search Committee
Department of History
The University of Southern Mississippi
118 College Drive, #5047
Hattiesburg, MS 39406-0001

Dear Professor Wiest:

I wish to provide my strong support for the application of Dr. Kenneth M. Swope for your senior position in the study of war and society. A scholar of Vietnamese and Chinese history of the fourteenth to sixteenth centuries, I served on his doctoral committee (though not on his defense, since I was teaching at UCLA at the time) and have known him since his graduate student days in the mid 1990s. He has proven himself to be a strong presence in the fields of Chinese and East Asian history and is an innovative and engaging teacher. To be part of a program like yours will both advance his own skills and knowledge and provide much energy for your activities. He will throw himself into your program with great enthusiasm in a way that will benefit both his research and your aims.

Dr. Swope is a highly energetic, hard working scholar who, as his resume shows, is constantly engaged in a variety of studies of Chinese history, especially of the Ming period (fourteenth-seventeenth centuries). An historian of Chinese military events and procedures, he is keenly interested in the government and society of that land and how the military related to them. His work on the Ming Wanli emperor is totally new and strongly re-evaluates the role of the emperor in the Chinese system. This military focus in the late sixteenth and early seventeenth centuries also involves him strongly in questions of technology, science, and the Western presence of those years. On the other hand, his research likewise takes him into the contemporary East Asian competition, its armed forces, interstate relations, and cultural differences, as Japan, Korea, and China collided. A further dimension of his original work was the Chinese military interaction with differing societies and cultures of the north (Mongols), the east (Japanese, Koreans), and the south (Miao [Hmong]). He has more recently also examined the Ming conquest even farther south of the Vietnamese. All this work places a dynamic China and its military institutions within the broad international currents of the day.

With his broad and far reaching intellectual interests, Dr. Swope will fit very well into a program such as yours that pulls him in new directions. He will be an excellent addition to your Asian history teaching and will represent you very well on the national and international scholarly scene. His personal and research experience in China and Taiwan, as well as across East Asia, will enhance your connections with that region. I

believe that he will make great use of his time with your program, that he will produce further stimulating work, and that he will contribute to the inquiring and exploratory atmosphere there. He will challenge his students and lead them to re-examine their conceptions of the area. The result will be more exciting scholarship. I urge you to bring him into your program. Thank you.

Sincerely yours,

John K. Whitmore, Ph.D.
Research Associate,
Center for Southeast
Asian Studies,
University of Michigan



HENRY KENDALL COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCES
DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY

Dr. Andrew Wiest
Chair, Center for the Study of War & Society Search Committee
Department of History
The University of Southern Mississippi
118 College Drive #5047
Hattiesburg, MS 39406-0001

January 20, 2012

Dear Professor Wiest,

I am writing in support of Kenneth Swope's application for the position in the study of war and society. I have known Ken for more than a decade. When I was a visiting professor at the University of Michigan in 1998 Ken was one of the graduate student instructors in my survey course on East Asia. I can attest to Ken's commitment to teaching and to his students. Ken ran several discussion sessions for the course and was responsible for grading papers and exams. We met for lunch once a week and I found Ken's feedback on the course extremely helpful and insightful. Despite the demands on his studies and dissertation writing Ken also was always accessible to his students. (In fact, he held office hours in a local coffee shop instead of the less well-appointed advising offices.) It was clear to me that Ken truly enjoyed teaching and sincerely cared for his students. I had opportunity to visit Ken and participate in one of his classes when he was at Marist College before he moved to Ball State. Not surprisingly, Ken was a very popular teacher both for his skill as a teacher and his rapport with his students.

Ken's doctoral thesis examined the "Three Great Campaigns," major military engagements that took place in the Ming dynasty during the reign of the Wanli emperor

(r. 1573-1620). In addition to providing a narrative history of these important events, Ken analyzed the role of the emperor and the tensions between the military and civilian officials involved. The thesis offered a fresh look at Wanli's reign and challenged existing scholarship that has portrayed Wanli and his generals unfavorably. As Ken's research convincingly argued, these unfavorable portrayals have reflected the anti-military biases of traditional Chinese scholarship.

Ken's work has drawn on a wide variety of Chinese, Japanese and Korean sources. In this way his work has contributed to a growing body of scholarship scrutinizing traditional Chinese elite interpretations of people, events, and institutions of the late imperial period. Ken subsequently revised the manuscript for publication with the University of Oklahoma Press. The revised work, *A Dragon's Head and Serpent's Tail*, was released in 2009. Going beyond conventional military history, his work also looks at the problems of state and military in a comparative perspective, borrowing from the works of Geoffrey Parker, Jeremy Black, and Charles Tilly, among others. I am sure that his work will have a broad impact on late imperial Chinese studies as well as comparative history. Ken has also published half dozen articles in journals and edited volumes and he begun research on his next book on the military collapse of the Ming dynasty.

Ken's study of the Japanese invasion of Korea promises to fill an important void in English historiography of early modern Asia. Not only is this the first full-length scholarly study in English of this important conflict, more importantly, the book is an excellent example of a multi-national approach to the study of East Asia. Until most recently, historians of East Asia have tended to be far too unilateral in approach. In this

way Ken's work is on the cutting edge of much welcomed new approach to the study of Asia. While I have not yet had a chance to read the manuscript I also await his most recent work, *The Military Collapse of China's Ming Dynasty, 1619-1644*, which is forthcoming with Routledge. Suffice to say that Ken has become a prolific scholar whose extensive research will have a long-lasting impact on the field. As you can see from his C.V. Ken has been quite active, presenting papers and organizing panels. His record of funding, most notably a Fulbright Scholarship, ACLS grant, a NEF Summer Stipend, as well as many other research and travel grants, testifies to the high regard other scholars have for his work and his potential as a scholar. Ken is a promising and talented scholar, a dedicated teacher, and a supportive colleague, and I wholeheartedly recommend him.

Thomas Buoye
Chair, Department of History
University of Tulsa

John E. Wills, Jr. 衛思韓
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January 19, 2012

On the candidacy of **Professor Kenneth M. Swope**

Professor Andrew Wiest
Chair, Center for the Study of War and Society Search Committee
Department of History
University of Southern Mississippi

Dear Professor Wiest:

Kenneth Swope seems to me a nearly perfect fit for your program. There are not many scholars of any aspect of East Asian history who give you erudition and context on China, Japan, and Korea; most of us think two out of three is a lot. Swope's first book is a vivid and thoroughly researched account of a major war involving all three, the Japanese invasion of Korea in 1592-1598.

I have followed Swope's work in progress on the Ming military collapse through several conference papers. It's original, deeply researched, and takes up a startling range of different regional situations. The new project on the disastrous early Ming invasion of Vietnam is equally promising. Both on this and on the Japanese invasion of Korea, many of us will be ready to scratch our heads and ask "Why didn't anyone do this before?" I think part of the answer is that you have to be brave and a hard worker to tackle several difficult languages and incompatible national perspectives, and part is the general neglect of military factors in the history profession. Your program, of course, is designed to remedy the latter, and I can't see where you could find a better participant in it focused on East Asia.

I endorse Swope's candidacy with enthusiasm.

Very truly yours,

John E. Wills, Jr.
Professor Emeritus



EMORY
UNIVERSITY

Department of History

Prof. Andrew Wiest, chair
Modern War and Society Search Committee
The University of Southern Mississippi
Department of History, 118 College Drive #5047
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andrew.wiest@usm.edu

11 January 2011

Dear Professor Wiest,

Ken Swope is applying for your position in war and society and has asked me to write a reference for him. He is one of the top scholars working in the field of Chinese military history. His work is top-rate, and there's a lot of it – few scholars are as productive. In addition, he's a kind and collegial person. So I'm honored to write on his behalf and give him my unqualified, full endorsement.

Before I talk about his work, let me first say a few words about the increasing importance of Chinese military history. I gather from your advertisement that you were intending to focus your search on a scholar whose research centered on the twentieth century and on Europe. I understand, however, that you have invited Ken to apply for the position as well, knowing full well that his work is not focused on the twentieth century or on Europe. This is a wise choice. The military history of China, unlike that of 20th century Europe, is practically unknown to students and scholars alike, and it is extremely important to our understanding of world history. Indeed, Chinese military history is one of the hottest and most exciting topics in military history, providing insights that are changing the field in fundamental ways, and Ken is at the forefront of these developments.

To give you a sense of what I mean, let me just raise one example. Any military historian worth his salt has studied the famous Military Revolution, made famous by the work of Geoffrey Parker. According to Parker, western Europeans underwent a number of revolutionary developments in war and society between 1500 and 1800. These developments transformed European states and European warfare, purportedly conferring on westerners a decided military advantage over other peoples around the world. Indeed, according to Parker and his many followers, Europeans' precocious military modernization was the prime factor behind preindustrial European colonization and expansion.

Yet recent data from early modern East Asia are showing that facets of military modernization that were once thought to be unique to Europe also characterized Chinese, Japanese, and Korean societies. We see not so much a great divergence between European and Asian warfare as strange parallels. Chinese armed forces seem to have been employing the much ballyhooed musketry volley technique by the mid-1500s, forty years before it was supposedly invented in

Europe. Chinese and Japanese forces were deploying advanced muskets, and Chinese cannons seem to have been as good as any in the world, partly because – as Ken’s detailed work has shown – the Chinese were easily able to adopt European advances and incorporate them into the Chinese context. Similarly, the proliferation of modern military manuals once thought unique to early modern Europe, which has been taken as evidence of both a military and a print revolution in the west, is mirrored by a similar proliferation in printed manuals in East Asia, a phenomenon which occurred at nearly precisely the same time. The deeper we look, the more we find reason to question received wisdom on European military exceptionalism.

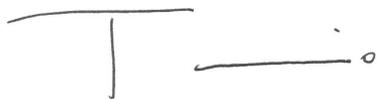
Ken’s work has been at the forefront of these exciting new historiographical trends. I’m sure you’ll have occasion to read his book *A Dragon’s Head and a Serpent’s Tail*, which has been published by Oklahoma University Press, the top press for military history in the world. This book has received an enormous amount of attention within the scholarly community and beyond, and is already considered the new classical study of the epochal Sino-Japanese War of 1592-1598, arguably the most important Asian war of the entire early modern period. His articles, too, have made important contributions, and among my favorites are “Crouching Tigers, Secret Weapons” (2005) and “Beyond Turtleboats” (2006), which make revisionist – and very compelling – arguments about East Asian military technology in a global historical perspective. His scholarship is prodigious. I count eighteen peer-reviewed articles, an edited volume, and a book manuscript nearly ready for submission, in addition to *A Dragon’s Head and a Serpent’s Tail*. This body of work has established him as the west’s top reigning expert on early modern East Asian warfare. In East Asia, whose academic culture is surging with its own impressive sets of experts and institutions, Ken is a sought after lecturer and expert.

I can’t comment on Ken’s work in the classroom, but he is certainly an effective speaker. He gave a great talk at a conference I organized here at Emory in October 2011, and he’s had speaking engagements around the world.

In sum, Ken’s productivity and the impact of his research put him in the forefront of the field of military history. The fact that he focuses on an area of the world that is becoming increasingly important and whose history sheds enormous light on global history and on the history of Europe itself, is an added advantage. It was wise of you to widen your search criteria to welcome a historian of Asia, and there’s no one better to fill the position that Ken Swope. He will be a credit to any institution lucky enough to have him.

If you have any questions or wish to talk to me about Ken’s candidacy, please let me know.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a horizontal line above a vertical line that descends to a horizontal line ending in a small circle.

Tonio Andrade

Associate Professor of History
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January 12, 2012

Professor Andrew Wiest
Department of History
118 College Drive, #5047
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Dear Professor Wiest:

I am writing in support of Dr. Kenneth M. Swope's application for the senior position in Modern War and Society at the University of Southern Mississippi. I have known Ken for some twelve years now, since the time he was finishing his dissertation at the University of Michigan. Most of my contact with him has occurred within the framework of the Chinese Military History Society; Ken and I were among the earliest members of the group, and Ken has attended and presented papers at almost all of the CMHS annual conferences since 2001. He himself organized and hosted the 2003 conference at Marist College, and he has been a member of the CMHS board of directors since 2003. As secretary of the organization, I've found Ken especially helpful and cooperative. To name only two examples, when I was unable to attend our business meetings in 2008 and 2009 Ken cheerfully agreed to chair the meetings in my stead and did an exemplary job. All my dealings with him lead me to believe that he will competently and uncomplainingly shoulder his share of the service burden for any department fortunate enough to have him as a member.

With regard to scholarship, Ken is one of a group of younger historians who are reassessing the military element in China's past and subjecting old stereotypes, many of them rooted in the failures of the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, to critical scrutiny. The general trend, clearly reflected in Ken's work, is to give more weight to military factors (and contingency) in causal explanations, to rehabilitate military elites as political actors alongside the Confucian scholar-officials who have been more often studied, and to assess the effectiveness of imperial China's armed forces in their own terms rather than by a modern, Western yardstick that usually finds them backward and even comical. Ken's particular contribution has been the reevaluation of the late Ming military, once considered almost completely moribund, and of civil-military relations at the very highest level during the reign of the Wanli emperor (r. 1573-1620). In contrast to the view, popularized by the late Ray Huang, of Wanli as a do-nothing monarch at odds with his own government, Ken has made a convincing case that this emperor was keenly interested in military affairs and had a good working relationship with his generals (if not his civil officials), while his book on the fighting between Chinese and Japanese forces in Korea during the 1590s has shown that the late Ming military was far from being a toothless tiger. His current project on the fall of the Ming dynasty promises to be an even

more stimulating challenge to the conventional wisdom about the late Ming. He conducted research on this topic in China in 2010 with a grant from the American Council of Learned Societies, and I am eagerly looking forward to reading the final product.

Ken's research on the Korean conflict of the 1590s has embraced the history of early modern Japan and Korea as well as China, and his teaching experience covers the entire range of Chinese and Japanese history. Although I have never had the opportunity to observe Ken in the classroom, I have heard him present a great many papers at conferences and would be very surprised if the playful attitude (witness the titles of his articles and papers) and *joie de vivre* that he brings to his scholarship has not turned his courses into undergraduate favorites.

What has impressed me most about Ken, however, is the tremendous energy that he has been able to put into teaching, scholarship, and all of his professional activities. Despite being burdened with a very heavy course load in his first teaching position at Marist College, he managed to produce a steady stream of high-quality articles (one of which won the Moncado Prize from the Society for Military History) and move on to a better position at Ball State University. I will limit myself to just one more example of Ken's energy and stamina. Several years ago, Norwich University's School of Graduate Studies invited me to design a seminar on East Asian military history for its online Master of Military History program. This was at the beginning of the summer, and the course had to be ready for student enrollment by the end of the summer. I balked at the abbreviated time frame for this project (which included not only a course plan and reading list, but also paper topics, discussion questions, and a dozen twenty-page lectures), but recommended Ken as the only person I could think of who would have a fighting chance of delivering the product on time without compromising its quality. Ken took on the task and performed just as I had hoped, delivering a very high-quality product in full and on time. I am currently collaborating with Ken on another project, a *Journal of Chinese Military History*, to be published by Brill beginning in mid-2012. The journal is being co-edited by David Curtis Wright (Calgary) and myself, with Ken serving as book review editor. In that capacity, he has done a truly stellar job of recruiting reviewers and extracting books from publishers – no mean feat for journal that has not yet begun publication.

In my opinion, Ken's trajectory is clearly upward and his potential for future accomplishment is all but unlimited.

Sincerely,

David A. Graff
Associate Professor