



- The Field of

Human Conflict -



- War throughout history in the

Special Collections of St John's

College Library -

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INTRODUCTION

The experience of war, and how to respond to its consequences, has always been a significant and problematic issue. With this year marking the centenary of WWI, there has been much recent discussion about how war should be commemorated, and war as a concept has become a prevalent theme in the media. This exhibition tracks representations of war from 14th century Egypt to WWII Britain. It begins by looking at the technicality of military weaponry, moving onto sieges and battles and then to a general chronological perspective. The exhibits vary in their focus and emotional attitude to war, but all provide valuable evidence of how individuals and societies have documented their memories of different conflicts throughout history.



Above and front cover illustrations from Muirhead Bone, *The Western Front: Drawings by Muirhead Bone* (London: 1917)

We hope you enjoy this exhibition.

WEAPONRY

Vegetius, *De Re Militari* Delta.3.1(2)

A 17th century printing of a 5th century Roman military text, with a focus on the 'strategy' of war and illustrations of various military techniques.



Muhammad ibn Manglī, *The Book of Devices for Wars, Conquest of Cities, and Protecting Mountain Passes* MS 83

A 14th century Egyptian manuscript, written in Arabic and focussing on military equipment, with highly decorative illustrations. Written by a Mamluk officer of the guard who attributed the text to Alexander the Great.

SIEGES AND BATTLES

***The Siege of Caerlaverock*, MS 174**

An illustrated French poem describing of the siege of a Scottish castle by the English army in 1300, with particular attention paid to the heraldry of the participants.



Sir Thomas Stafford, *Pacata Hibernia. = Ireland appeased and reduced. Or, an historie of the late vvarres of Ireland...* (London: Robert Milbourne, 1633) Pi.1.34

Account of the wars which occurred as part of the Tudor Conquest of Ireland (including the Nine Years' War), with detailed fold-out maps.

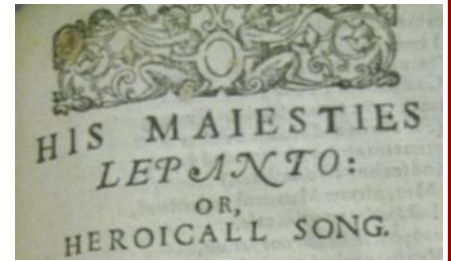
THE 16TH CENTURY

Niccolò Machiavelli, *The Arte of Warre*, trans. by Peter Withorne (London: Thomas East, 1588) HB4 2.b.3.20 (1)

A political analysis of the importance of a disciplined and effective military to society as a whole, including diagrams.



James I, *His Maiesties Lepanto, or, Heroicall Song*;: being part of his poetick exercises at vacant houres... (London: Stafford and Hooke, 1603) HB4 3.a.5.23 (1)



English edition of James's poem, printed in the year he became King of England, twelve years after its original Scottish publication. Its focus is on religious triumph rather than historical accuracy.

THE 17TH CENTURY AND THE ENGLISH CIVIL WAR (1642 – 1651)



Cannon Ball

Always on display in the Library, the cannon ball is said to date from the English Civil War, apparently fired at the then Royalist College by Roundhead soldiers.

John Pointer, *Musæum Pointerianum* MS 253; MS 254

From a varied collection of 17th century documents, one item relates to the codes used in communications during the English Civil War, while the other is a colourful visual representation of the mottoes and devices of Parliamentary officers.



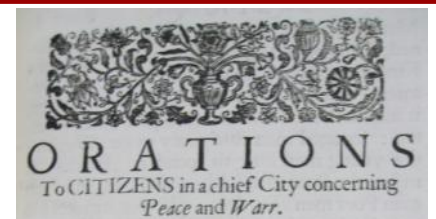
William Cavendish, Duke of Newcastle, *Methodes et invention nouvelle de dresser les cheveaux* (A Anvers: Chez Jacques van Meurs, 1658) Cpbd.c.2.lower shelf.9

A decorative French edition of a book on horse-training, by a Royalist exiled to France after defeat in the English Civil War. The illustrations, by contrast, glorify both Cavendish himself and Charles II.

Margaret Cavendish, *Orations of divers sorts, accommodated to divers places* (London: 1662)

Phi.2.20

Various arguments for and against war, and its impacts on society, presented in the form of a written speech, by a female writer famous in the 17th century for her philosophical discussions.



THE 19TH AND EARLY 20TH CENTURIES

Pall Mall Christmas "Extra" (1884) STORE / ENGL / 600 / STE

Newspaper publication of Robert Louis Stevenson's *The Body Snatcher*, although the focus here is on 'The Pall Mall Prizes' competition section, which asks readers to predict the outcome of British military action in Sudan during the Madhist War (1881 – 89).



Rudyard Kipling, *Barrack Room Ballads and Other Verses* (London: Methuen, 1892); *The Fringes of the Fleet* (London: Macmillan, 1915) STORE / ENGL / 600 / KIP

Works (principally poems) demonstrating the patriotic focus prevalent in representations of war at the height of the British Empire, and associating the army with specific contemporary values of masculinity and Englishness.

Sent by MESSRS. KEGAN PAUL, TRENCH, TRÜBNER & CO. LTD.
With the Compliments of the AUTHOR.

A. E. Housman, *A Shropshire Lad* (1896) and *TS of The Olive* (1902) Housman Cupboard

Poems written by the St John's alumnus about the destruction of the innocent, idyllic county life by the Boer War; they gained a new poignancy and increased readership after the outbreak of WWI.

WORLD WAR I (1914 – 1918)



T. E. Lawrence, *Seven Pillars of Wisdom: A Triumph* (London: Privately printed, 1926) HB4 6.d.4.9

'Lawrence of Arabia's' account of serving in the British Army in the Middle East during WWI, adapted into an Oscar-winning film in 1962.



War Office, *Northern France and Belgium 1914-1918*

[maps] STORE / FOLIOS / WAR / ELEPHANT

War Office maps of Northern France and Belgium produced during WWI. Notes by C.G. Douglas, a College Fellow, which explain the how the marked positions were altered according to changes in British lines.

Muirhead Bone, *The Western Front: Drawings by Muirhead Bone* (London: 1917) STORE / HIST / 802 / BON (OUTSIZE)

Illustrations and paintings by the first official war artist depicting the preparation for, and impacts of, battles in WWI.



Robert Graves, *Correspondence relating to World War I and World War II* Spec Coll. / RG

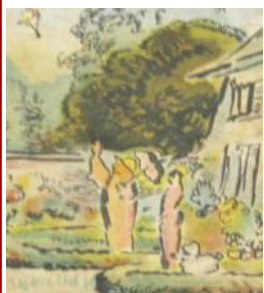
Letters both written and received by Graves referring to his experiences of, and reactions to, both World Wars.

WORLD WAR II (1939 – 1945)

Spike Milligan, *Hand-drawn illustrations from his War Memoirs, and documents relating to the same* Spec. Coll. / SM

Milligan's own drawings from *Adolf Hitler: My Part in his Downfall* (1971), "Rommel?" "Gunner

Who?" (1973) and *Mussolini: His Part in my Downfall* (1978). Also included are a contemporary newspaper review and personal telegram relating to the former work.



Gertrude Stein, *The World is Round* (London: B.T. Batsford Ltd., 1939) and *Wars I Have Seen* (As above, 1945)

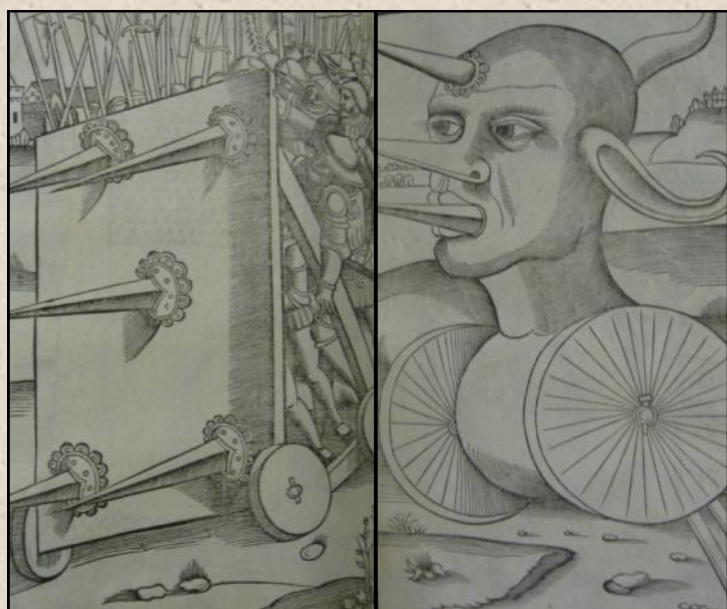
ML-6R-02; ML-6R-03

Both books belonged to Robert Graves; the first contains a letter to him from Stein referring to WWII, and the second relating to Stein's own experiences of living through both World Wars.

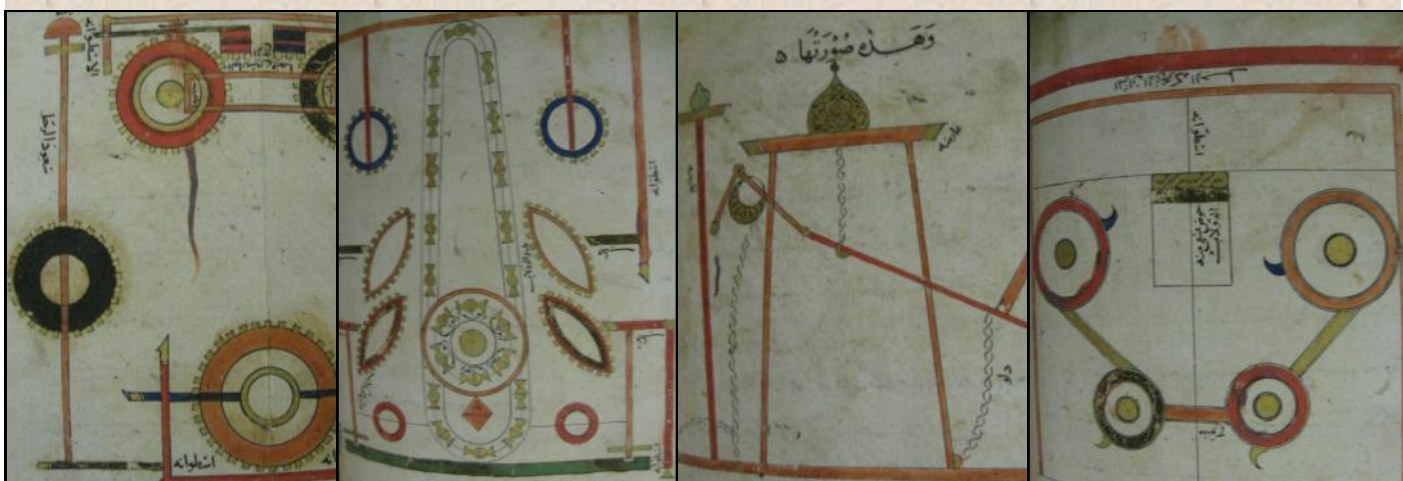


Above: Illustrations from Muirhead Bone, *The Western Front: Drawings by Muirhead Bone* (London: 1917)

Right: Illustrations from Vegetius, *De Re Militari* (Paris: Christian Wechel, 1553)



Below: Illustrations from Muhammad ibn Mangli, *The Book of Devices for Wars, Conquest of Cities, and Protecting Mountain Passes MS 83*



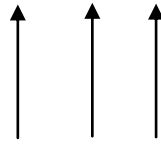
EXHIBITION PLAN

PLEASE FEEL FREE TO LOOK THROUGH THE MAPS AT THE ENTRANCE TO THE OLD LIBRARY, BUT PLEASE REPLACE THE BOOK AFTERWARDS

WWI/WWII:
GRAVES, STEIN

MILLIGAN

WWI: BONE



LAUDIAN LIBRARY

OLD LIBRARY

WWI: LAWRENCE

C 19TH/20TH:
HOUSMAN

PALL MALL,
KIPLING

WWI: MAPS

CIVIL WAR:
POINTER

C 16TH : JAMES
I,
MACHIAVELLI

SIEGES AND
BATTLES:
CAELAVEROCK,
HIBERNIA

WEAPONRY:
VIGETIUS,
IBN MANGLI

CANNON
BALL

STAIRS

C 17TH:
CAVENDISHES

