

WAR, LITERATURE, AND THE ARTS



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**Department of English
United States Air Force Academy
Colorado Springs, Colorado**

WLA

War, Literature, and the Arts is published semiannually by the Department of English of the United States Air Force Academy. The editors of *War, Literature, and the Arts* are accepting manuscripts of 15-30 pages which contribute to understanding either war or art, or both, by means of critical inquiry into artistic depictions of war from any culture or period. (Documentation conforms to the MLA Style Manual.)

Although critical articles are our main focus, we will consider war poetry, personal memoir, short fiction, and visual art. The opinions expressed in the journal are not necessarily those of the editors or the United States Air Force.

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Preface

When we founded the journal, we knew that no other journal like *War, Literature, and the Arts* existed. Naturally, we hoped that our work would appeal to a large audience and that we would receive support by way of both subscriptions and publishable manuscripts. We are pleased to report that response to the first issue of *War, Literature, and the Arts* was gratifying. The high number of subscriptions after the publication of but one issue was especially encouraging; the geographical distribution of them was even more encouraging. These subscriptions represent 30 states in all regions of the United States as well as other countries: Canada, Australia, and Great Britain. In addition to subscriptions and manuscripts, congratulatory letters have applauded the creation of a forum in which military and academic scholars exchange ideas and examine intellectual perspectives on war as depicted in the arts.

We continue to call for manuscripts which address the understanding of war or art, or both, through critical or scholarly inquiry into artistic depictions of war from any culture or period.

We are committed to range in this journal. In this issue we present: an article disputing notions that the black soldier is often negatively portrayed in Vietnam War literature and film; an article examining the tenets of religious warfare in the medieval epic; a poem linking a failing personal relationship and the fall of Spain in the Spanish Civil War; an article discussing Joseph Heller's

themes of loss and war; and a notice announcing Colorado State University Library's special holdings of Vietnam War literature.

Some initial delays are inevitable with any new journal, and we've experienced the usual difficulties. The second issue of *War, Literature, and the Arts* had been scheduled for publication last fall, but unexpected events led to delay. First, we needed additional funding. We are particularly grateful for the generous support from The Falcon Foundation which allows the journal's continued life. Second, and with regret, we needed to find a new editor. Jim Aubrey, the journal's founder, retired from the Air Force. We wish him well in his new endeavors. We who remain are pleased to continue the unique journal that Jim began.

The Editors

Acknowledgements

It is with gratitude that we recognize The Falcon Foundation, without whose generous support this issue of *War, Literature, and the Arts* would not have been published.