

WAR, LITERATURE, AND THE ARTS



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WAR, LITERATURE, AND THE ARTS

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Michael C.C. Adams is a Professor of History at Northern Kentucky University. His publications include *Our Masters the Rebels* (Harvard University Press), a study of Civil War generalship. He is currently revising another book, *The Great Adventure*, about the cultural atmosphere surrounding World War I, for Indiana University Press.

Christopher Ames is an Assistant Professor of English at Agnes Scott College. He is completing a book, *The Life of the Party: Festive Vision in Modern Fiction*, and will next undertake a study of how modernist authors have rendered the literary canon within their own imaginative works.

Charles J. Gaspar is an Associate Professor of English at the United States Air Force Academy. His 1983 dissertation was *Reconnecting: Time and History in Vietnam War Narratives*, and he is currently editing a collection of essays on images of the Vietnam War aviator in American culture.

Mark A. Heberle is an Assistant Professor of English at the University of Hawaii at Manoa. He has published a note on Spenser in *The Explicator* and has articles forthcoming in *Spenser Studies*, *Durham University Studies*, and the *Proceedings* of a conference on "Comparative Literature East and West" from the University of Hawaii Press.

James Seaton is an Associate Professor in the Department of English at Michigan State University. He has published *A Reading of Vergil's Georgics* as well as articles in *The Markham Review*, *Journal of the History of Ideas*, *Journal of American Culture*, and *Centennial Review*. He is working on a book titled *Cultural Criticism, Political Radicalism*.

Michele M. Sordi is a graduate student at the University of California at Santa Cruz. She was graduated Phi Beta Kappa from Wellesley College in 1986. Her current work focuses on epic narrators, both in early modern texts and in the eighteenth-century novel.

Preface

Perhaps new journals don't need to justify themselves, but one called *War, Literature, and the Arts* requires a brief explanation.

Why the focus on war? However its texts are read, warfare is a topic of importance and of widespread fascination. Whether one is attracted to or repelled by war, whether one considers it to be "politics by other means" or institutionalized social violence, war tends to reveal complex modes of group and individual behavior which have long attracted writers and artists to the subject.

We editors hope that deeper understanding of relations between war and art will lead to deeper understanding of the cultures involved. The Australian journal *War and Society* contributes to such understanding, but not often with reference to works of the imagination. *War, Literature, and the Arts* provides a forum in which scholars can exchange ideas and examine intellectual perspectives on war as depicted in fiction, film, painting, or other art forms produced within any culture or cultures, past or present.

This inaugural issue contains essays on the war in Vietnam, World Wars I and II, the Battle of Hastings, and the Trojan War. Cultural perspectives range from postmodern American to Mycenaean. Art forms discussed in this issue include poetry, fiction, memoir, and sculpture. The second issue of the journal will include essays on warrior bishops in the middle ages, Yeats' Major Gregory, Heller's " 'Catch-22' Revisited," and Vietnam (the most popular subject among our contributors so far).

We intend to publish articles of interest to the specialist which are at the same time accessible to the generalist. We look forward to providing a range of essays of the highest quality, from diverse viewpoints. Of course, we welcome submissions.

We wish to thank the Dean of the Faculty, United States Air Force Academy, for almost two years of support in this venture.

James R. Aubrey