

National Army Museum

Information Sheet 6:

Researching the Museum's Picture Collections



Introduction

The Museum's collections of pictures cover oil paintings, miniatures, drawings (including watercolours), prints and photographs. Works on paper may be consulted in the Templer Study Centre.

To view original oil paintings and miniatures see the 'Access to the Collection' leaflet. Photographs of and information about these are available in the Templer Study Centre.

Scope

Prints and drawings

These range in date from the mid-eighteenth century to the present. They cover battles, uniform studies, portraits, historical scenes and topography, being particularly strong in nineteenth century material. There are a number of important collections including the Crookshank Collection of contemporary battle prints from 1066 to 1868; the Heeresbucherei Collection of early foreign uniform studies; and the Fairhaven Collection relating to the Household Cavalry and Horse Guards (the building). The Museum does not participate in the official War Art scheme but has a good collection of soldier-art from the First World War to present day.

Photographs

Because the National Army Museum is not generally a repository of official military photographs, the more than 10,000 photographic collections in its archives consist chiefly of privately photographed material.

These include the remarkable images captured by Surgeon John McCosh in India during the 1840s and 1850s, hundreds of photographs snapped by individual soldiers on their box Brownie cameras during the Boer War and 2,000 pictures taken by Major James Sale as an 'unofficial' unit war photographer in the Second World War.

Searching records

On the shelves, the yellow-fronted drawers of cards comprise an index to all pictorial material acquired before 1982.

Prints and drawings acquired since then are mainly catalogued on computer but are not yet available for public search: please ask a supervisor to assist you in searching for material.

Records of the Museum's collection of original photographs can be searched on the public computers in the TSC.

Black and white images of many items with a negative number below 70,000 can be viewed on microfiche.

To request

Up to 25 items per day may be requested using the Prints & Drawings slips. Please specify whether an item is a print, a drawing or a box as this aids retrieval. For viewing on Saturdays, prints and drawings must be pre-ordered with a minimum of 24 hours' notice.

Photographs may be ordered using the Archives & Photographs slips, to a maximum of 8 albums or collections per hour.

In all cases, one slip is required per item, box, volume or album (excepting sequential accession numbers).

Handling material

Before consulting any material from the Print Room please read the 'Guidelines on Handling' issued with it. These are intended to help maintain the condition of these fragile works on paper. Please note that there may also be special handling requirements for early photographs, and surrogates may be issued in some cases.

On finishing with the items, please notify the Desk Supervisors. You will be asked to wait while the material is checked against the request slips. Medals and Awards

Special collections

Handlists are available for the following three special collections. They can be especially useful for researching military uniform details or historic pictures. Up to 12 boxes or albums may be ordered at any one time.

- AMOT Collection, NAM. 1996-01-1: 1500 boxes of material, mainly arranged by unit.
- Carman Collection: uniform research notes of the leading authority on British and Indian military costume.
- Binns Albums: scrapbooks of pictures of uniform, arranged regimentally.

Obtaining copies

If your research is undertaken for the purpose of ordering photographs, you may prefer to contact the Picture Library in the first instance, (email photo@nam.ac.uk or telephone 020 7730 0717 ext 2476) as they can provide image suggestions.

Alternatively, if you have made your own selection, please either contact them directly quoting the accession and/or negative numbers of those items, or complete a Photograph Enquiry Form (held at the

Supervisors' Desk). Picture Library staff will be able to advise you about costs and also reproduction permissions, if required. Please note that the National Army Museum may not be able to provide copies of pictures where the copyright is held elsewhere.

Tracing, photocopying, and photography by members of the public is NOT permitted (please see TSC Rules and Guide for further information).

Print on Demand

The Museum offers a new service for the reproduction of its picture collections via the internet, including options for framing or canvas prints. Please see:- www.nam.ac.uk/prints for further details. Kiosks for placing orders are also available in the museum.

To pre-order specific items (with at least 24 hours notice) and for any queries regarding particular items in these collections please contact:-
The Department of Fine and Decorative Art (fd@nam.ac.uk). The Department of Archives, Photographs, Film and Sound (apfs@nam.ac.uk).

Useful Books

British military art

Index to British Military Costume Prints 1500-1914, Army Museums Ogilby Trust (1972) ['The AMOT Catalogue', an important reference for uniform studies]

Lt-Col C de W Crookshank, *Prints of British Military Operation. A Catalogue Raisonné... from the Norman Conquest to the campaign in Abyssinia*, Adlard & Son (1921)

A E Haswell Miller & N P Dawnay, *Military Drawings and Paintings in the Royal Collection*, Phaidon (1970) 2 vols [an informative catalogue of The Royal Collection, with short biographies of artists represented]

Peter Harrington, *British Artists and War. The Face of Battle in Paintings and Prints, 1700-1914*, Greenhill Books (1993)

J M W Hichberger, *Images of the Army. The Military in British Art 1815-1914*, Manchester University Press (1990) [a history of nineteenth century military art, discussing the two areas of battle painting and genre painting]

Matthew Paul Lalumia, *Realism and Politics in Victorian Art of the Crimean War*, UMI Research Press (1984)

Pat Hodgson, *The War Illustrators*, Osprey (1977) [artists working for the illustrated press, from the Crimean War to the Boer War]

Paul Usherwood and Jenny Spencer-Smith, *Lady Butler, Battle Artist*, Alan Sutton & National Army Museum (1987) [a biographical study of one of Britain's leading battle painters; some discussion of nineteenth century battle art]

Ryno Greenwall, *Artists and Illustrators of the Anglo-Boer War*, Fernwood Press (1992)

Early British military photography -

Boris Mollo, *The British Army from old photographs from the National Army Museum*, Dent and Sons (1975)

Pat Hodgson, *Early War Photographs*, Osprey (1974)

The Army in India, 1850-1914. A Photographic Record, Hutchinson of London with the National Army Museum (1968)

G Baldwin, *All the Mighty World: The Photographs of Roger Fenton 1852-1860*, Metropolitan Museum of Art (2004)

Roger Taylor, *Impressed by Light. British Photography from Paper Negatives, 1840-1860*, Metropolitan Museum of Art (2007)

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