

FREE EXHIBITION

Great War Memorabilia

17 to 19 October

10 am to 4 pm



- + Origins of the Great War
- + The Many Faces of World War One Trench Art
- + German Expressionist Poetry & Drama 1914-1918 (with some reference to British war poets)
- + Medical Improvements for the the Soldiers during the Great War
- + The Role on Women in Britain & France during the Great War
- + Sing when You're Winning? The Great War and Song
- + The Quick & the Dead: Families & Children of the Great War
- + The Importance of the Versailles Peace Treaty
- + The Families who Never Forgot: Archaeology of the Great War & the phenomenon of 'The Missing'

WEEKEND SYMPOSIUM

THE GREAT WAR

RESPONSES & REACTIONS

The Cultural, Artistic and Social Legacy



Advance booking for whole or part-weekend:
Bath Box Office: 01225 463362

£40 or £20 for students / BRLSI members

Admission at the door for individual talks:
£5 or £3 for students / BRLSI members

16 Queen Square Bath BA1 2HN

**For further details phone 01225 312084
or visit www.brlsi.org**

Registered charity no 304477

**Friday 17 October
to Sunday 19 October 2014**



BATH ROYAL LITERARY & SCIENTIFIC INSTITUTION

FRIDAY

17 OCTOBER

7.30 - 8.45pm

Origins of The Great War

Professor Keith Robbins

Former Vice Chancellor, University of Wales, Lampeter

Historians have argued about the war from its start. Was it 'the system'? Was it Germany or Russia? Was it 'Balkan nationalism'? Was it 'capitalism'? Was it 'popular hysteria'? Why was Britain not neutral? Was Europe sleepwalking? Consensus in 2014 will no doubt remain elusive.

SATURDAY

18 OCTOBER

9.45 - 11am

The Many Faces of World War One

Trench Art

Paul Cornish

Senior Curator & Historian, Imperial War Museum

The varied artefacts which are commonly categorised as 'Trench Art' represent a rich aspect of the material culture of conflict. They inhabit a potentially confusing space where human creative urges overlap with the objectification of memory, commerciality and even medicine. Their resonance extends both spatially and temporally beyond the 'trench' – where, indeed, few of these items were actually made.

11.15 - 12.30

German Expressionist Poetry & Drama 1914-18 (with some reference to British war poets)

Professor Robert Vilain

Professor of German, University of Bristol

Expressionism as a movement in German literature and art began around 1908-9, rose to its height in the 1914-18 War, and gradually evaporated in the early 1920s. It was a reaction against Naturalism, and strove to proclaim man's aspirations, hopes and fears, in styles which were often intense, exclamatory, apocalyptic and frequently impersonal. This talk will introduce the main figures within drama and poetry, and their achievements. Connections with English poetry, where they exist, will be drawn.

12.30 - 14.00 LUNCH BREAK IN CITY CENTRE

14.00 - 15.15

Medical Improvements for Wounded Soldiers during the Great War

Dr Emily Mayhew

Department of Humanities, Imperial College, London

The story of the men and women who rebuilt the military medical system from the ground up in response to the crisis in providing care for the wounded soldiers of the Western Front. The system that was created by their dedication, technical expertise and courage provided the foundation for the system that is used in Britain's wars today.

15.30 - 17.00

The Role of Women in France and Britain during the War

Professor Alison Fell

Professor of French Cultural History, University of Leeds

For some women, the war was a transformative venture outside of their pre-war domestic role. For others, it was a case of changing one form of industrial labour for another. Drawing on case-studies from France and Britain, this talk will illustrate the diversity of women's roles and experiences of war.

SUNDAY

18 OCTOBER

9.45 - 11am

Sing when You're Winning? The Great War and Song

Dr Guido Heldt

Senior lecturer in Music, University of Bristol

From state propaganda to sarcastic comment, from simple ditties to finely-wrought art — song, that most ubiquitous of musical forms, held up manifold mirrors to the First World War. Using British and German examples, the speaker will look at some of the reflections and refractions they threw back.

11.15 - 12.30

The Quick & the Dead: Families & Children of the Great War

Richard Van Emden

World War One historian & BBC documentary maker

The Quick and the Dead is the story not only of the soldiers who went to war and did not return, but of the wives and children they left behind to mourn. It also looks at how a whole nation came to terms with its grief.

12.30 - 14.00 LUNCH BREAK IN CITY CENTRE

14.00 - 15.15

The Importance of the Versailles Peace Treaty

Dr Steve Wharton

Senior lecturer in French & Communications, University of Bristol

The formal conclusion of The War To End All Wars came with the signature of the Treaty of Versailles, the punitive reparations of which combined with real and perceived slights and a desire for revenge to set the stage for inevitable future conflict. This paper examines the 'before, during and after' of the Treaty.

15.30 - 17.00

The Families who Never Forgot: Archaeology of the Great War and the phenomenon of 'The Missing'

Richard Osgood

Archaeologist for the Ministry of Defence

The names of almost 60,000 'missing' soldiers of the Great War are carved and commemorated on the Menin Gate in the Belgian town of Ypres. Although missing, the men were not forgotten. What did the phenomenon of having no grave mean for the families, and what can an archaeological investigation of former battlefields add to both a study of the Great War and also the knowledge of the fate of those men?

END OF GREAT WAR SYMPOSIUM

Please Note

- + Each talk will include a short period for questions.
- + There will be a 15 minute tea or coffee break between talks.

All lectures will take place at
16 Queen Square, Bath BA1 2HN

For more information: 01225 312084
or visit: www.brlsi.org

GREAT WAR SYMPOSIUM

devised by: **Woody River**

planning team: **Woody River** (Chair)

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