

Application for Membership by Petition

COL James N. Pritzker IL ARNG (Ret.), founder of the Pritzker Military Library, assembled a major collection of books and related materials on military history, with a particular focus on the concept of the Citizen Soldier in America. The Library, located in the Streeterville neighborhood of Chicago, was opened to the public in October 2003. Today, building upon that foundation through the generosity of private donors, the Pritzker Military Library has become a non-partisan research library that attempts to increase the public understanding of military history and the sacrifices made by the men and women who have served.

Mission

The Library's mission is to acquire and maintain an accessible collection of materials and develop appropriate programs focusing on the Citizen Soldier in the preservation of democracy.

Collection

The collection of the Pritzker Military Library consists of nonfiction works on American history, military and naval sciences, and international affairs as well as works of military fiction. Currently, the Library's holdings include the following:

- over 26,500 books,
- over 6,000 historic photographic prints and glass plate negatives,
- approximately 800 rare prints and posters (many of which are originals from the First World War and World War II),
- over 1,000 artifacts
- over 800 DVDs and VHS tapes of documentaries and war films
- 36 linear feet of archival materials, representing 21 individual fonds
- and over 150 original programs accessible through multiple forms of media including DVDs, podcasts and on-line.

The oldest item in the collection is Famianus Strada's *De Bello Belgico = The History of the Low Countrey Warres* (London: 1650). The strengths of the collection are works on the World War II and Civil War periods of American history. However, the Library has a collection which includes works on such diverse topics as current international relations, the Six Days War, the Boer Wars, the Napoleonic Wars, the Russo-Japanese War, Native Americans and the Indian Campaigns, the American Revolution, and the foundations of democracy.

The materials in the collection are primarily in the English language. But there are items in the collection in the following languages: Filipino (Tagalog), French, German, Hebrew, Japanese, Polish, Russian, Spanish, and Yiddish.

Military fiction by renowned authors like W. E. B. Griffin, Jeff Sharaa, James Jones, and Joseph Heller is also represented. In the case of W.E.B. Griffin, the Pritzker Military Library has been designated by the author as the depository library for his work.

Programs

The Pritzker Military Library is committed to providing free, quality programs that encourage thoughtful discussions and life-long learning for the general public. The Library's flagship program, *Pritzker Military Library Presents*, contains interviews and lectures with leading military authors, historians, and other scholars. In addition, the Library also produces *Medal of Honor with Ed Tracy*, where recipients of the Medal of Honor tell their personal stories of courage under fire, and Chicago's only monthly public affairs forum on military topics, *Front & Center with John Callaway*. The Pritzker Military Library's programs are professionally produced, web-cast live via the internet, made available in a downloadable podcast format, and archived on the Library's website. A majority of the programs are broadcast weekly on a local PBS affiliate, WYCC (Channel 20).

Gallery

The Library has a strong exhibition schedule in its Gallery. Approximately each quarter, the Library highlights items from its collections or brings in notable examples from artists, private collections, or other institutions to communicate the importance of the Citizen Soldier as an essential element of a democratic society. Past exhibitions include *The Art of Art Ross*, *Drawn to War: Steve Mumford*, *Midwest Air Force Artists Exhibition*, *The Art of Persuasion*, and *Our Citizen Soldier*. The current exhibition, *Howard Chandler Christy: American Illustrator*, runs through December 2007. An exhibit relating to the Spanish American War is one of the exhibits planned for 2008.

Clientele & Lending Policy

The readers and visitors to the Library vary greatly. The Library welcomes students (under the age of 18 with chaperone) and the general public to its programs and exhibits. However, most of the Library's regular readers are serious researchers of military history, military affairs, and related topics.

Online membership to the Library is free and open to the general public, but registration is required. Online members get advance notice of Library events, ability to pre-register for events online, can browse the Library's online public access catalog, and may use Library materials in-house.

Associate members and Household members support the Library and its programs. These members also have traditional borrowing and research assistance privileges.

The Library staff, its founder, and its board believe strongly in resource sharing. As a result, the Library became a member of OCLC in 2005 (symbol = ILPML) and regularly lends books and audiovisual materials to other libraries within the continental United States. Currently, about a third of materials are borrowed by in-state libraries while 2/3 of the materials are borrowed by out-of-state libraries. Books and audiovisual materials loaned have a lending period of three weeks.

The Library realizes that most of its readers may never visit the Library in person. As a result, the Library has built a strong digital presence, providing many of its services and programs on a remote basis. For example, downloads of the Library's events, which are made available as podcasts, averages 2,000 per month per podcast.

How CARLI Participation Will Benefit the Pritzker Military Library

Participation in CARLI will benefit the Pritzker Military Library in three important ways: increased awareness in the academic community, direct delivery for in-state interlibrary loan, and discounts on electronic resources and related research products.