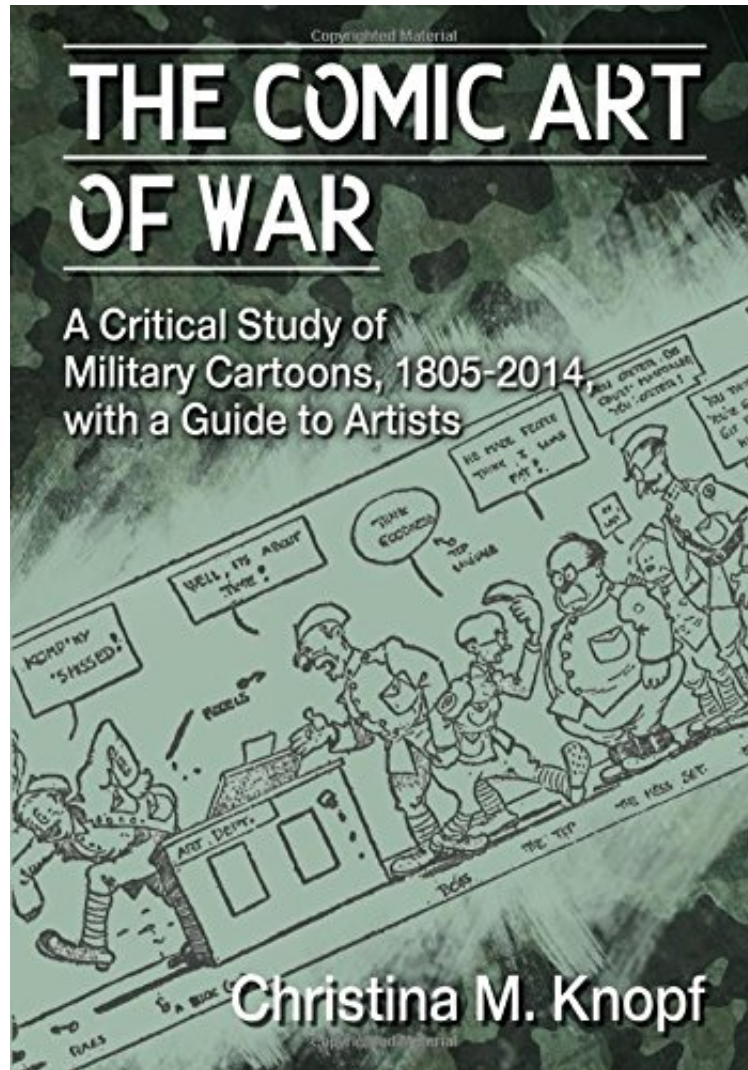


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# The Comic Art of War: A Critical Study of Military Cartoons, 1805-2014, with a Guide to Artists

Christina M. Knopf

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**Christina M. Knopf : The Comic Art of War: A Critical Study of Military Cartoons, 1805-2014, with a Guide to Artists** before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Comic Art of War: A Critical Study of Military Cartoons, 1805-2014, with a Guide to Artists:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Very Insightful and Encompassing By CF Grant This is a great book, and not just because some of my comics are mentioned in it! Usually when you get a book on military comics you're basically getting a book about Bill Mauldin, Beetle Bailey, and maybe Sad Sack, with a chapter on Disney during

World War Two. But this studies a huge spectrum of military comics from all branches going back over a hundred years. Some of the best stuff comes from World War One and a lot of the forgotten artists from the World War Two era, including a few female military cartoonists. Comics that were created for official US Army training are featured, which is also nice to see. Comics from other nations, and from further back in history (stuff from the Napoleonic Wars is mentioned briefly) are brought up as best they can but since there are few surviving examples available for print the reader will have to be satisfied with descriptions. Ms. Knopf not only delves into the works of the artists, but more importantly describes the social contexts that the artists would be in when the works were created. It is fascinating to see how little has changed in military society over the generations-- similar complaints, similar frustrations, similar shortcomings or disappointments in leadership-- while we also see how much has changed. Switching from 'active' warfare (actual fighting) to 'cold war' thinking had an effect on some humor, as well as increased participation of women in the ranks. A great read for anyone with even a passing interest in comics in the military by the folks who actually served. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Fascinating Study of Military Comics By Betsy G. A Remarkably Comprehensive Picture of Military Life through the Ages: its Humor, Struggles and Triumphs as seen in Cartoons A lone cartoonist, with his or her pen and imagination, can at times show more in one panel than with hundreds of words. This book examines the drawings of artists from many countries, from the Civil War to the Iraq War, and backs up their work with meticulous notes and appendices. Much of what the cartoonists show us is a warrior's handling of daily difficulties with realism, irony and humor. One is exposed to much information about the well knowns like Will Eisner and Bill Mauldin, but they also learn in detail about many lesser known artists and what they created. In a story about a Bill Mauldin cartoon, the men are making an amphibious landing, shells are bursting overhead, and Willie requests, Try to say sumpin funny, Joe. This, and many other stories and cartoons, made this book an excellent read that I would highly recommend. Betsy G. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. The Graphic Narrative of War By The Cavin Family The author does a nice job of explain the different type of comics as well as a brief history of the comic narrative. The first chapter touches on an orientation to the subject matter and well as military culture and cohesion with attention to the place of humor in the military environment. Also introduces humor types and trends in the military and the wars, as well as the comics function in the military setting.. The chapter also deals with kinds of humor from different branches of the military to difference sides of the battle comparing and contrasting. Showing also that humor is important during war/service. Humor comes from many sources, including the GI, military life, hierarchy, the poor bugle blower, boredom, uniforms, how to wear a hat, latrines, KP duty, personal hygiene, appearance regulations, overcrowding, endless acronyms, health and shots, alcohol, jargon, saluting, rival branches, the enemy, terrain, location, opposite/same sex, etc. Also dealing with the horrors of war and military service and the struggles it creates when families are separated or constantly relocating. Plus the differences between military life and normal American life which dont always coincide. The conclusion was excellent and overall the book really made me feel differently about our citizens in service. The graphic narrative is an expression of those in the military. The book shows that the author has done their homework and the material is presented in an analysis form, yet does not feel stiff or formulaic. I enjoyed the book my only wish is that I wish there were more cartoons (but I figured that had to do with getting rights etc). But most of all I felt informed and I laughed.

For military cartoonists the absurdity of war inspires a laugh-or-cry response and provides an endless source of un-funny amusement. Cartoons by hundreds of artists-at-arms from more than a dozen countries and spanning two centuries are included in this study--the first to consider such a broad range of military comics. War and military life are examined through the inside jokes of the men and women who served. The author analyzes themes of culture, hierarchy, enemies and allies, geography, sexuality, combat, and civilian relations and describes how comics function within a community. A number of artists included were known for their work with Disney, Marvel Comics, the New Yorker and Madison Avenue but many lesser known artists are recognized.

"Recommended"--Choice. About the Author Christina M. Knopf is an associate professor of communication at the State University of New York at Potsdam. She is the author of many chapters and articles regarding the representation of war, the military and veterans.