

# Information for teachers

## Efforts and Ideals: Prints of the First World War

The Artists

national  
museum  
wales  
amgueddfa  
cymru



Self Portrait  
Augustus John  
(1878-1961)  
(Amgueddfa Cymru)

### Muirhead Bone (1876-1953)

---

- Bone was born in Glasgow and studied at Glasgow School of Art.
- He settled in London in 1901.
- He was an official war artist in 1916-1918, and the official Admiralty artist in 1939-1946.
- He was knighted in 1937.

### Frank Brangwyn (1867-1956)

---

- Brangwyn was born in Bruges, but moved with his family back to Britain at a young age.
- He received little formal art education, yet was successful at oil painting, watercolour painting, printing, architecture and design.
- He was not an official war artist, but produced over 80 posters and designs for War Bond Stamps. He was a member of the Senefelder Club, which promoted self-printing, and drew directly on the stone rather than using transfer paper and printed his own proofs.

## Sir William Nicholson 1872-1949

---

- Nicholson was born in Newark-on-Trent.
- He studied at Herkomer's School at Bushey, then the Académie Julian, Paris. He turned his hand to many mediums including painting and engraving.
- Nicholson is especially known for his revolutionary poster designs, created alongside his brother-in-law James Pryde under the names 'J. and W. Beggerstaff'. He went on to become a successful portrait and still-life painter.

## Edmund Dulac (1882-1953)

---

- Dulac was born in Toulouse, France.
- He studied law before switching to art.
- He moved to Britain in 1904 and became a pre-eminent illustrator of deluxe edition books.
- During the First World War he illustrated several 'gift' books created to raise money for relief and was employed by the Ministry in connection with pictorial propaganda.

## Maurice Greiffenhagen (1862-1931)

---

- Greiffenhagen was born in London of Baltic German descent.
- He studied at the Royal Academy Schools and exhibited there from 1884.
- He worked as an illustrator, but from 1900 moved towards portrait painting.
- From 1906 to 1929 he was the headmaster of the Life Department at Glasgow School of Art.

## A. S. Hartrick (1864-1950)

---

- The artist and illustrator Hartrick was born in India and brought up in Scotland.
- He first studied medicine, before attending the Slade School, London, and art schools in Paris, exhibiting in the 1887 Paris Salon.
- In 1909 he became a founding member of the Senefelder Club. He also turned to teaching the method, writing the instruction book Lithography as a Fine Art in 1932.

## F. Ernest Jackson (1872-1945)

---

- Jackson was the son of a printer; he was apprenticed to a firm of lithographers in Leeds before studying in Paris.
- He was an instructor in drawing at the Royal Academy Schools 1921-39 and Principal of the Byam Shaw School 1926-40.
- He was a member of the Senefelder Club and was in charge of propaganda lithography for the Ministry of Information during the First World War.
- He was instrumental in the production of *The Great War: Britain's Efforts and Ideals*, liaising with all the artists who contributed and facilitating the printing process.

## Eric Kennington (1888-1960)

---

- Kennington was born in London; he was the son of a well-known portrait artist.
- He studied at St Paul's Art School, the Lambeth School of Art and the City and Guilds School.
- He was an official war artist 1917-1919 and again in 1940-1943, painting portraits of sailors and airmen.

### Augustus John (1878-1961)

---

- John was born in Tenby, Wales and studied at the Slade School of Art 1894-8 where even before his graduation he was recognized as the most talented draughtsman of his generation.
- By the 1920s he was the leading portraitist of his day.
- He was elected to the Royal Academy in 1928.
- Alongside these achievements his lifestyle epitomised that of the bohemian artist, a reputation bolstered by his fascination with Romany culture.

### Gerald Moira (1867-1959)

---

- Moira was born in London to Portuguese parents.
- He is best known for his mural paintings. He also worked as a painter of landscapes and figures, and a lithographer.
- He studied at the Royal Academy Schools and then in Paris, exhibiting from 1891.
- He was a founding member of the National Portrait Society in 1911, and was principal of Edinburgh College of Art 1924-1932.

### C. R. W. Nevinson (1889-1946)

---

- Nevinson was born in London; his father was the war correspondent and journalist Henry Nevinson.
- He studied at the Slade School and in Paris and he first studied lithography under Ernest Jackson in 1912.
- At the outbreak of war he volunteered as an ambulance driver, an experience that deeply affected him. He was appointed an official war artist in 1917.
- These prints follow the process of building aircraft from making parts to assembly and flight. *Acetylene Welder* and *Assembling parts* both show the growing contribution of women workers.
- He is one of the most renowned war artists of the period. His work was very much influenced by Cubism and Futurism, but slowly moved to a more realist style as he attempted to portray the conflict.

### George Clausen (1852-1944)

---

- Clausen trained at the South Kensington art schools.
- He was a founding member of the New English Art Club and was elected Professor of Painting at the Royal Academy in 1904.
- He was a well-respected artist at the outbreak of the war and was appointed an official war artist in 1917.

## Charles Pears (1873-1958)

---

- Pears was born in Pontefract, Yorkshire.
- Although he worked as a successful illustrator and lithographer, he is best known for his marine paintings.
- During the First World War Pears was a commissioned officer in the Royal Marines, and worked as an official naval artist 1914-1918 and again in 1940.
- Throughout his career he was also a popular poster designer, creating works for organizations such as the London underground.

## Charles Ricketts (1866-1931)

---

- Ricketts was born to an English father and French mother in Geneva; he spent his childhood in France and Italy.
- In 1882 he went to study at the Lambeth School of Art where he met his lifelong partner Charles Shannon (another 'Ideal' artist). They founded and edited The Dial together 1889-1897 and founded the Vale Press in 1896.
- Ricketts then turned to sculpture and painting, and was also involved in theatrical design.

## William Rothenstein (1872-1945)

---

- Rothenstein was born in Bradford.
- He studied at the Slade School, London and the Académie Julian, Paris. He worked as a painter, lithographer, draughtsman and writer.
- From 1891 he attracted the interest of artists such as Degas and Pissaro.
- He was appointed official war artist to the British Army in France, 1917-1918, and to the Canadian army of occupation, 1919.
- In 1931 he was knighted.

## Charles Shannon (1863-1937)

---

- Shannon was born in Quarrington, Lincolnshire.
- He is best known for his figure and portrait paintings, but he also worked as a lithographer and illustrator.
- From 1882 he studied wood engraving at Lambeth School of Art, where he met his lifelong partner Charles Ricketts, with whom he founded and edited *The Dial* magazine and Vale Press.
- In 1929 he became incapacitated after a fall from a ladder, ending his successful career.

## Claude Shepperson (1867-1921)

---

- Shepperson was born in Beckenham, Kent.
- He was a successful water-colourist, pen and ink artist, illustrator and lithographer.
- He gave up law and studied art in Paris and London.
- He is well-known for his humorous drawings in *Punch* magazine between 1905 and 1920.

## Edmund J. Sullivan (1869-1933)

---

- The painter, etcher and illustrator Edmund Sullivan was born in London.
- He studied art under his father in Hastings, then joined the staff of the *Graphic* and subsequently worked as an illustrator for the *Daily Graphic* and the *Pall Mall Budget* magazines.
- He went on to achieve a highly successful career illustrating books.

# Efforts and Ideals: Prints of the First World War The Print Portfolio

Information for teachers



# Efforts and Ideals: Prints of the First World War

## How are the prints displayed?

The series is divided into:

**Ideals:** dramatic images of symbolic subjects such as *The Triumph of Democracy* and *The Reconstruction of Belgium*

**Efforts:** depicting the nine themes Making Soldiers, Making Sailors, Making Guns, Building Ships, Building Aircraft, Transport By Sea, Women's Work, Work on the Land and Tending the Wounded.

# Efforts and Ideals: Prints of the First World War

## Ideals

- Twelve artists each contributed a large, colour lithograph to this section. They express aims and ambitions of the war through allegory and symbolism. Countries and concepts are visualised as figures and forms. There are hidden messages in the compositions, referenced by the title of each work. This is a traditional form of art in popular use from Renaissance times. It had, however, been out of fashion for some time when these prints were made. It was used here to communicate objectives and, to an extent, justify the realities of the war.
- Some of the artists, including Brangwyn and Jackson, were accomplished lithographers. For others, such as Clausen and Grieffenhagen, it was the first time they had produced a colour lithograph. Although many people praised the project, the images received some criticism for their idealist portrayal of war.

‘To lose sight of Britain's ultimate ideals of freedom and democratic justice is to reduce the present war to nothing less than a carnival of carnage.’ (*Burton Daily Mail*, Feb 15 1918)

# Efforts and Ideals: Prints of the First World War

## Efforts

- Nine artists contributed to this section. Each artist undertook a commission for six prints under a single theme such as *Making Soldiers*, *Making Guns*, *Building Ships* or *Work on the Land*.
- As images of propaganda these works offer a wonderful overview of war activities, but they do not convey the realities – the horrors and atrocities of the war. For instance, the figures in *Women's Work* record the important contribution women made to the war effort, but don't record the hardship, dangers and monotony of their work.
- Artistically the works are very different. Nevinson's prints are modern, linear and dramatic, Pears's are detailed and accurate and Rothenstein's are simple and pared down.
- Bone was the most well known of the war artists and his dramatic views of shipbuilding were particularly praised by critics and journalists.

'Artists have something to say, like other men, about our country's effort and spirit in the present momentous struggle.' (*Morning Post*, 12 July 1917)

## Efforts and Ideals: Prints of the First World War

### Ideals

Artist: **William Nicholson**

Title: **The End of War**



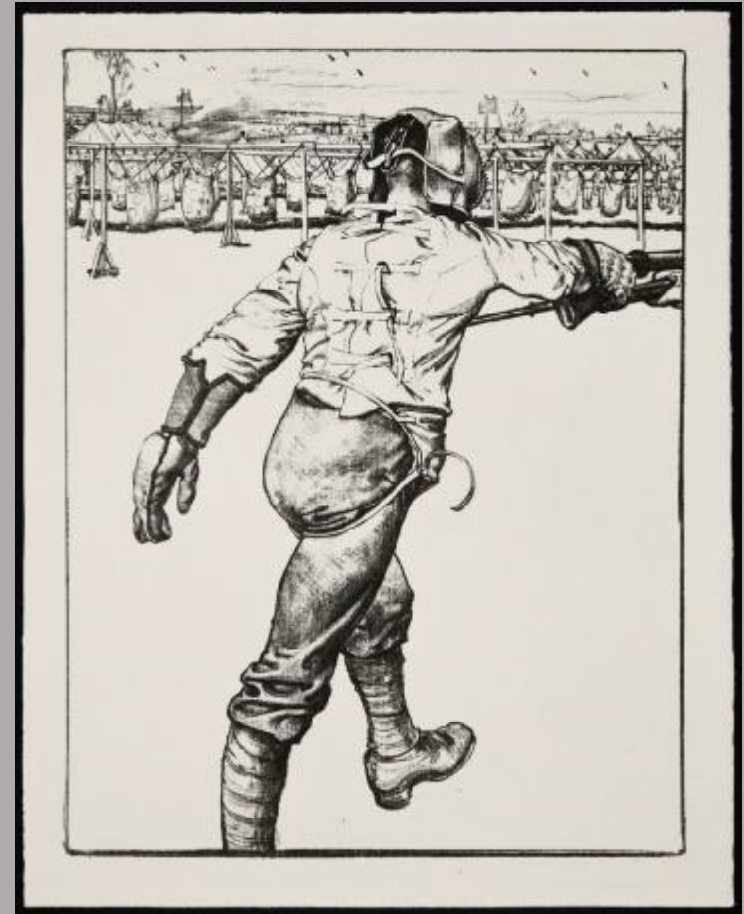
# Efforts and Ideals: Prints of the First World War

## Efforts

Artist: **Eric Kennington**

Theme: **Making Soldiers**

Bayonet Practice



# Efforts and Ideals: Prints of the First World War

## Efforts

Artist: **Claude Shepperson**

Theme: **Tending the Wounded**

Casualty Clearing Station in France



# Efforts and Ideals: Prints of the First World War

## Efforts

Artist: **Muirhead Bone**

Theme: **Building Ships**

Ready for Sea



## Efforts and Ideals: Prints of the First World War

### Efforts

Artist: **Frank Brangwyn**

Theme: **Making Sailors**

Boat-drill



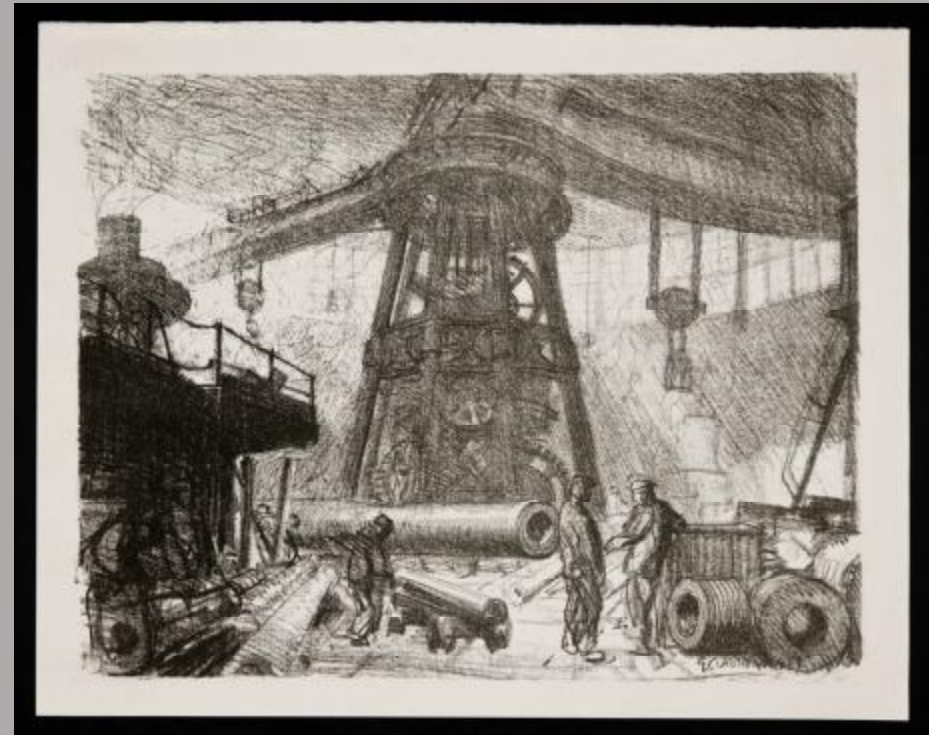
# Efforts and Ideals: Prints of the First World War

## Efforts

Artist: **George Clausen**

Theme: **Making Guns**

The Radial Crane



## Efforts and Ideals: Prints of the First World War

### Efforts

Artist: **Archibald Standish Hartrick**

Theme: **Women's Work**

On Munitions: Dangerous Work (packing TNT)



# Efforts and Ideals: Prints of the First World War

## Efforts

Artist: **Charles Pears**

Theme: **Transport By Sea**

Transporting troops



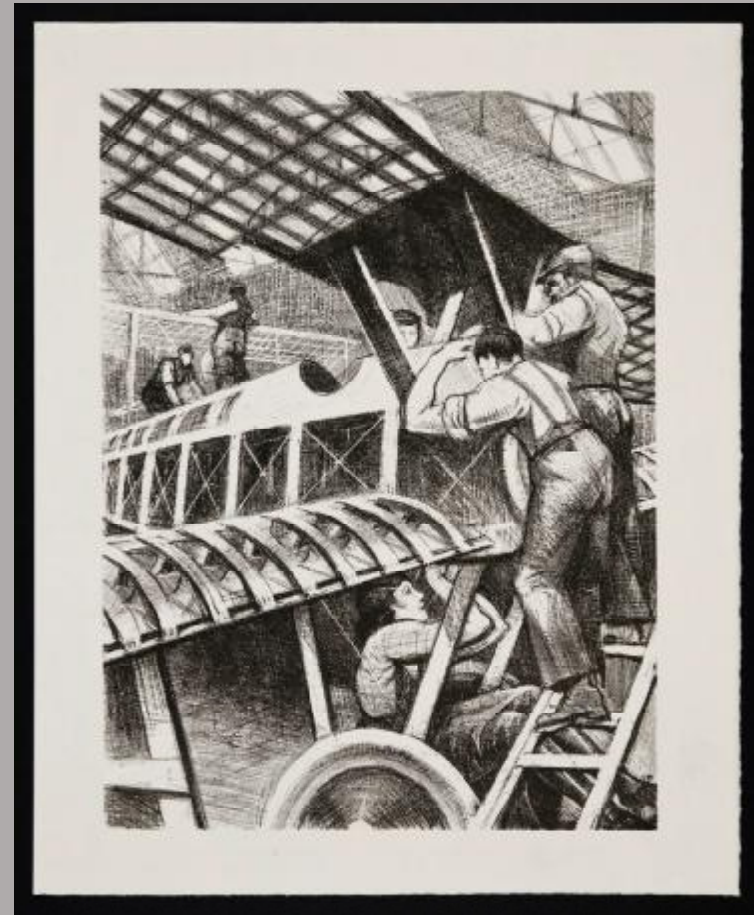
# Efforts and Ideals: Prints of the First World War

## Efforts

Artist: **Christopher Nevinson**

Theme: **Building Aircraft**

Assembling Parts



# Efforts and Ideals: Prints of the First World War

## Efforts

Artist: **William Rothenstein**

Theme: **Working on the Land**



Ploughing