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Studying the Art of War: Military Books Known to American Officers and Their French Counterparts during the Second Half of the



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Sandra L. Powers

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This essayseeks first to identify published military books available to eighteenth-century American officers and their French counterparts. Second, it examines which among those titles were actually known to or owned by a number of said officers. Not surprisingly, the titles included classical military histories as well as

contemporary histories and biographies. In addition, practical treatises such as drill manuals and mathematical treatises on artillery, fortification, and strategy were popular. The study includes an annotated list of those books and identifies which among them can be found at the library of the Society of the Cincinnati

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Studying the Art of War: Military Books Known to American Officers and Their French Counterparts During the Second Half of the Eighteenth Century



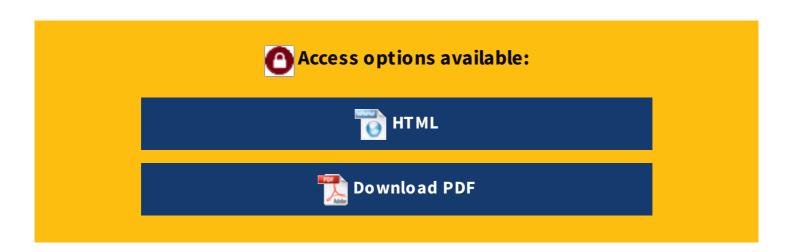
Sandra L. Powers

Abstract

This essay seeks first to identify published military books available to eighteenth-century American officers and their French counterparts. Second, it examines which among those titles were actually known to or owned by a number of said officers. Not surprisingly, the titles included classical military histories as well as contemporary histories and biographies. In addition, practical treatises such as drill manuals and mathematical treatises on artillery, fortification, and strategy were popular. The study includes an annotated list of those books and identifies which among them can be found at the library of the Society of the Cincinnati.

Some readers may recall that *Time* magazine named Johann Gutenberg the man of the last millennium. Some may also remember that the theme of the XXVIIth Congress of the International Commission of Military History held at Norfolk, Virginia, in 2002 was "Coming to the Americas: The Eurasian Military Impact on the Development of the

Sandra Powers, who holds a Master of Arts in Teaching from Johns Hopkins University and a Master of Library Science from the University of Maryland, is Library Director Emerita of the Society of the Cincinnati in Washington, D.C. Her interest in Renaissance and Enlightenment literacy began in 1968, when she joined the staff of the Folger Shakespeare Library. That focus narrowed when scholars began using the Society's collections to investigate military readings by eighteenth-century British officers, and she began to compile evidence of American and French officers' reading preferences during the same period.



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