

Preface

VIDES is an entirely student-led periodical. It is designed, written, peer-reviewed, edited, and seen through the press and/or online publication by students on the second year of the MSt in Literature Arts (MLA). Like that course, it is interdisciplinary; the authors bringing to the essays the methodologies and perspectives of the core subjects of the MLA: Art and Architectural History, History, Literature and Philosophy/ the history of ideas. Each essay of VIDES will analyse and compare two different artefacts, providing new perspectives and showing how very different forms, times, styles and materials may reveal illuminating connections.

Each edition of VIDES impresses me anew by the breadth and depth of scholarship it demonstrates and the insights it provides. The cohort of 2020-2022 is no exception. Though the first part of their course was taught remotely, during the pandemic, and they had limited access to archives, museums, galleries, libraries, and other resources, they were unfailingly enthusiastic and unflaggingly energetic in their intellectual curiosity, desire to learn, and ambition to contribute to knowledge and understanding. These shine through their writing. It has been a great pleasure to welcome the students back to Oxford for the residences of their second year, and a further testament to their enthusiasm (and stamina) is that they have organised their own informal fifth residence, for which several will be travelling from overseas.

The artefacts chosen as the subject of essays in VIDES 2022 include ballads, cartoons, ceramics, circulars, illustrated texts, memorials, newspapers, novels, paintings, poetry, statues, tracts and travel accounts; illustrative of the wide range of the interests that the authors have been pursuing during the course.

Many congratulations to Ahmed, Andrew, Annette, Dona, Heather, Jasmin, Joyce, Laurence, Lucinda, Magda, Nancy, Nigel, Nishantha, Patricia, Rachel, Ritch, Shiraz, Simon, Siobhan, and Wafiyaah. It has been a pleasure to work with you and to see you flourish both in class and as independent scholars. I am delighted that some of you will be progressing to doctoral research, and that all of you will have VIDES as material evidence of your scholarship, as well as of your hard work, determination, and flair.

Sandie Byrne

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