

A Brief Description of the Royal United Service Institution.

Published under the Authority of the Council.

This Institution was founded in 1831, under the auspices of King William the Fourth, and under the patronage of the Duke of Wellington, and of some of the most distinguished Naval and Military Officers, at that time, in the service of the Country.

In 1860, Her Majesty the Queen was graciously pleased to grant to the Members of the Institution, a Royal Charter of Incorporation, under the title of The Royal United Service Institution.

DESIGN.

The design of the Institution is to promote Naval and Military Art, Science, and Literature.

The above object is carried out by means of a Library; the delivery of Lectures; the exhibition of Inventions; the publication of a Journal; Museum containing Naval and Military Models, a collection of Arms of all Nations, Relics of, and Trophies connected with distinguished Officers and warlike operations; and other objects affording professional information.

QUALIFICATION OF MEMBERS.

The following Officers are entitled to become Members *without ballot*, on payment of their entrance fee and subscription, viz., Princes of the Blood Royal; Lords Lieutenant of Counties; Governors of Colonies and Dependencies; Officers of the Army, Navy, Marines, Her Majesty's Indian Naval and Military Forces, Militia, Yeomanry, Royal Naval Reserve, and Volunteer Corps.

The following are eligible to become Members, by ballot, on their names being submitted to the Council by two Members of the Institution, viz.:-

Officers, not previously Members, who have retired from the Service; Ex Governors of Colonies and Dependencies; Deputy Lieutenants of Counties; Civil Functionaries who are, or have been attached to the Naval and Military Departments; also the Master, Deputy Master, and Elder Brethren of the Trinity House, and Army and Navy Agents.

PRIVILEGES OF MEMBERS.

Members, non-resident in the United Kingdom, are entitled to an Absent Member's ticket (not transferable), which will admit their friends to the Museum and to the Theatre. The name and address of the person to whom the ticket is given, should be transmitted to the Secretary and will appear on the ticket. This ticket must be renewed at the commencement of each year.

Members are entitled to as many ordinary tickets of admission to the Museum as they may from time to time require, such tickets being available for every day except Friday, on which day Members must personally introduce their friends.

Members have the privilege of admitting two friends to the Lectures on Evening Meetings, either by personal introduction, or by ticket, except on special occasions, of which due notice will be given.

Members can receive and answer letters at the Institution.

HONORARY MEMBERS.

Honorary Members are only entitled to personal admittance to the Institution.

SUBSCRIPTION.

An Entrance Fee of One Pound.
An Annual Subscription of One Pound, or a Life Subscription of Ten Pounds (including Entrance Fee).

Subscriptions are due on joining the Institution, and on the 1st of January in each year.

When a Member joins the Institution on or after the 1st of October, he will not be charged a second Subscription of the following 1st of January, but on the 1st of January thereafter ensuing.

THE THEATRE.

LECTURES AND EVENING MEETINGS.

Lectures are delivered in the Theatre of the Institution, on alternate Fridays, at 3 P.M., and Papers, followed by discussions, are read at the Evening Meetings, on alternate Mondays, at 8.30 P.M., from January to June inclusive.

The Council are anxious that Officers (particularly those on Foreign Stations), should contribute Papers, descriptive of Countries or Warlike operations, or containing other professional information.

A very important advantage conferred by the Institution upon the Service and the Public, is the opportunity which it affords to Officers and others, of bringing forward in the theatre, schemes of improvement of a professional character, which might otherwise fail to receive the attention they deserve. Inventors of articles connected with the Naval and Military Professions have also opportunities granted them of exhibiting their inventions at the Evening Meetings, and of depositing models of them in the Institution.

Societies and Charitable Institutions, connected with the Army and Navy, are allowed the privilege of holding their General Meetings in the Theatre of the Institution, subject to the discretion of the Council.

THE JOURNAL.

The Journal published under the authority of the Council, contains the Lectures, the proceedings of the Evening Meetings (and a description of the inventions then exhibited), illustrated, when necessary, by Maps and Diagrams.

This publication, now amounting to 16 annual volumes, has proved eminently successful, and has been received with marked approbation by the Members and by the Public. It is sent, post free, to Annual Subscribers of One Pound, and to Life Subscribers of Nine Pounds.

Officers joining the Institution on and after the 1st October, are only entitled to the numbers of the Journal published subsequent to that date.

THE LIBRARY.

The Library contains 15,800 volumes of Professional, Historical, and Scientific Works. Amongst these, is a complete set of the Specifications of Patents connected with Arms, Ammunition, and Accoutrements, commencing from the year 1617, together with Abridged Specifications of Inventions in various other Departments of Science. This valuable series was presented by H.M.'s Commissioners of Patents.

The Governments of Austria, Belgium, Denmark, France, Italy, the Netherlands, the North German Confederation, Russia, Sweden, Switzerland, and the United States present their professional journals; and the Admiralty, the War, and the India Offices supply the Parliamentary Papers, and other documents issued by them.

The Library has been found most valuable for purposes of study and reference, and is extensively used by the Officers of H.M.'s Services.

In addition to the Library, there is a Reading Room in which the leading Daily Papers; the Quarterly and Monthly Periodicals; as well as the Weekly scientific and professional Newspapers, are taken in.

The Library and Reading Room are open to Members from 10 a.m., to 8 p.m.

THE TOPOGRAPHICAL ROOM.

This Room contains the Charts issued by the Admiralty; the copies of maps, plans, &c., prepared by the Topographical Department, and the photographs of Ordnance, Military Matériel, &c., presented by the War Office; also a large and valuable collection of Maps, Plans of Campaigns, of Battles and Sieges, &c., &c.

During the progress of Military operations, the movements of hostile forces are defined, by means of pins and coloured cards, upon Maps specially arranged for the purpose.

THE MUSEUM.

Naval Department.

In this Department, there is a Series of Models, illustrating the Naval Architecture of different Countries, and of early periods down to the present time. It also contains Models of Life boats (and other Apparatus for saving Life), Masts, Anchors, Rudders, &c., &c.

This department also contains an elaborate model of the Battle of Trafalgar. The table upon which it is placed, and which was presented by the Lords of the Admiralty, was constructed of oak timber removed from H.M.S. *Victory*, when under repair.

Military Department.

The European Armoury contains specimens of Mediæval Armour and Weapons, also of Breech loading Ordnance of an early date; a complete series of Firearms, in use by the British Army from the reign of Charles the Second to the present time; and an interesting collection of Breech loading Small Arms of different Countries.

The Foreign Armoury contains a rich collection of Arms and Armour from India, from China, and from Japan; also the arms of the Esquimaux, of the natives of New Zealand, Australia, Africa, North and South America, and of the Polynesian Islands.

The Military department of the Museum also contains a series of Models of the different patterns of heavy Ordnance and of Field Artillery in H.M.'s Services; of Guns invented by private individuals; and of the various forms of rifling which have, from time to time, been advocated. There are also here arranged, specimens of different kinds of Gunpowder, Fuzes, Shot, Shell, Rockets, and other Missiles, with many other objects of much interest connected with the science of Gunnery.

Steam Engines.

The Institution possesses a very complete series of working Models of Steam Engines, for which it is indebted to Captain Jekyll, late Grenadier Guards.

Accoutrement Room.

This room contains specimens—presented by the respective Governments—of the Uniforms, Arms, Accoutrements, and Field Equipments of Soldiers of the Continental Armies, of the United States, and of Great Britain.