

The Drum by John Scott (1730-1783)

I hate that drum's discordant sound ,
 Parading round, and round, and round:
 To thoughtless youth it pleasure yields, And
 lures from cities and from fields,
 To sell their liberty for charms
 Of tawdry lace, and glittering arms;
 And when Ambition's voice commands,
 To march, and fight, and fall, in foreign lands.

I hate that drum's discordant sound,
 Parading round, and round, and round:
 To me it talks of ravag'd plains,
 And burning towns, and ruin'd swains,
 And mangled limbs, and dying groans,
 And widows' tears, and orphans' moans; And all
 that Misery's hand bestows,
 To fill the catalogue of human woes.

The End of a War Jean Bouvier,
 a French subaltern, February 1916

In former days we used to look at life, and
 sometimes from a distance, at death, and still
 further removed from us, at eternity.
 Today it is from afar that we look at life, death is
 near us, and perhaps nearer still is eternity.

Guard-Duty by August Stramm
 Translated from the German by Patrick Bridgwater.

A star frightens the steeple cross
 a horse gasps smoke
 iron clanks drowsily
 mists spread
 fears
 staring shivering
 shivering
 cajoling
 whispering
 You

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