

**CAL Undergraduate Research Scholarships Scheme 2017  
Project Proposal Form**

<b>Project Proposer/s:</b>	<b>David Griffith</b>
<b>School/Dept:</b>	<b>EDACS / English Literature</b>
<b>Project Title:</b>	<b>Frederic Manning, <i>The Middle Parts of Fortune</i> (1929): towards a critical edition</b>
<b>Project Summary</b>	
<p>I am preparing an annotated and critical edition of Frederic Manning's <i>The Middle Parts of Fortune</i> (TMPF), routinely described as one of the most important novels to emerge from the First World War yet critically neglected. To avoid censure for obscenity, the novel was published anonymously by Peter Davies in 1929 in a limited edition of 520 copies. Manning's fastidiousness and tendency to destroy work in draft led to a period under house arrest in Davies' London flat to ensure the book's completion. An expurgated version, <i>Her Privates We</i>, published the following year under the pseudonym 'Private 19022' (Manning's army rank and serial number), enjoyed considerable success running to five impressions in the first twelve months. In one form or another the novel has remained in print ever since, though the unexpurgated version was reissued only in 1977. None of these imprints provide any sort of critical apparatus. Given Manning's personal history - arrived in England from Australia aged 16, respected critic, reviewer, poet, and classicist, friend of Ezra Pound and T.S. Eliot, survived the Battle of the Somme, discharged for alcoholism, died in London aged just 51 - TMPF's acknowledged status as a classic of the period, and its unusual publication history, an annotated and critical edition is long overdue.</p>	
<b>What the researcher will do</b>	
<p>The researcher will be tasked in five particular areas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To create a database of editions of the novel in both its original and expurgated forms</li> <li>• To create a database of printed and archival materials relating to the novel's composition and reception (and to consult originals, as appropriate)</li> <li>• To identify and collate Manning's self-censorship in <i>Her Privates We</i></li> <li>• To identify and collate those historical references, military terms, topical and literary allusions requiring annotation (including Shakespearean epigraphs and references to ancient Greek literature)</li> <li>• To develop an annotated bibliography of critical studies</li> </ul>	
<b>Skills required by the Scholarship holder</b>	
<p>An interest in literature of WW1; the ability to work independently on agreed tasks; attention to detail; highly developed organisational skills; excellent spoken and written English; facility with MS Word and, ideally, Excel; familiarity with academic and other databases (JSTOR etc).</p>	
<b>How will your Project benefit the Scholarship holder?</b>	
<p>This project is ideal for a student who has opted for one or both of 'Remembering World War One' and 'Writers Among the Ruins', and/or is preparing for a Dissertation or Extended Essay on writing of WW1 or on early twentieth-century publishing and book history. As well as acquiring valuable knowledge of Manning and the literature of WW1, the Scholarship holder will gain hands-on experience of planning and developing a significant research project, will be introduced to textual editing practices, and in the identification and use of critical and scholarly resources and materials will develop a range of generic research skills. Also, the Scholarship holder will be acknowledged in the published edition.</p>	
<b>How will the Scholarship benefit your Project?</b>	
<p>This edition will be an output in the next REF cycle and the work done by the Scholarship holder will allow me to accelerate the project, notably in the collection of relevant data and in the identification of aspects of the novel requiring editorial annotation and comment (an undergraduate perspective is most useful in this regard). Second, the project is an aspect of the research-led teaching that informs level H/M English Literature modules on the writings of WW1 (taught jointly with Deborah Longworth) - the materials generated by the Scholarship holder will be used as teaching resources, accessible through Canvas and to be directly employed in plenary and seminar sessions.</p>	