



BIOGRAPHY

Percy John Delf Smith, RDI (Royal Designer for Industry), was a member of the Royal Society of Arts. A painter, calligrapher and book designer, he studied in London and exhibited at the R.A. He worked in Palestine (1932) and the United States. During World War I, Lieutenant Smith served with the Royal Marines Artillery in the trenches on the Western Front in France and later in Belgium. He lettered several warship plaques, one in the Beccles Town Hall for the Minesweeper 'HMS Brave'. He was also commissioned to create the lettering for the Canadian National Vimy Memorial at Vimy Ridge. His work listed the names of 1,285 Canadian soldiers killed in France with no known grave.

He established the Dorian (later Dorno) Workshop & Studio, served as a consultant to Heinemann, and specialized in typographic design. He continued to pursue his work as a visual artist alongside his career as typographer and calligrapher. He was a Fellow or member of several professional societies of artists, as well as of the Society of Calligraphers and the Double Crown Club.

His most famous etched series, "The Dance of Death 1914–1918", explored the specter of Death following British soldiers.

