



School of Literature, Communication, and Culture  
Graduate Program in Digital Media

November 20, 2011

To Whom It May Concern,

Dr. Jane Mattison asked me to review her website ("walterdraycot.com"), which is, as indicated on the home page, "specially designed for literary specialists with an interest in the representation of 'self' in autobiographical writing." The site is an ambitious and successful exploration of the records of a private soldier who served on the Western Front during WWI. Mattison has created a kind of hypertextual essay in which she weaves excerpts from Draycot's own writing into her analysis. The site is richly illustrated with photographs and sketches, both in thumbnail and large format. Mattison deploys these materials in service of her explanation and analysis of the autobiographical self that Draycot forged. Her site in fact combines together two essays based on these materials ("Memoirs and Sketches" and "Diaries and Photographs").

The site itself is well laid out, with a simple and legible interface. Navigation is straightforward, and the affordances of web design are well used here. My judgement is that this site represents serious scholarship that would be of interest to historians and literary critics of this critical cultural moment in the twentieth century.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jay David Bolter". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

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