Upper cover of volume XVII (early printed works, 16th–17th century) of the 22 volume catalogue.
Royal Netherlands Army Museum, Delft, nr. 00067318

J. van der Meij (left) and J.W.A. van Eyk (right), circa 1970.
Royal Netherlands Army Museum, Delft, nr. 00064353

Royal Netherlands Army Museum, Delft, nr. 00066075

Lieutenant general F. van der Veen.
Royal Netherlands Army Museum, Delft, nr. 00067208

C.H. de Ruyter.
Jan Reijken, Delft

Upper cover volume 1A of the 3 volume catalogue of early printed works.
Royal Netherlands Army Museum, Delft, nr. 00034783
Veen’s decision to house the historical library at the Army Museum meant that the museum forthwith controlled one of the largest and most important collections of military history in the Netherlands, a collection of international importance. As such, the museum received streams of valuable old books from the Ministry of Defence in the years that followed. For example, nearly all of the highly valuable historical library belonging to the Staff School found its way to the Army Museum. Given the sheer number of works it held from prior to 1801, it was a superb augmentation of the museum’s collection.

In 1968 Paardekooper appointed C.H. De Ruyter as librarian specifically for the historical collection. In 1969 a start was made in the putting together of a printed catalogue of the museum’s pre–1801 books. The third and final volume of this catalogue was published in 1974 by W. Helder; it includes all works prior to 1747 and was compiled by Van der Meij and De Ruyter. In that same year, Helder, true to the tradition of his predecessors, succeeded in 1974 in acquiring an important collection of military books from the Royal Archives. Both quantitatively and qualitatively the core of the collection as it stands today was in place by 1974.

The Army Museum housed the Ministry of Defence’s historical library, that of the Royal Archives and other historical book collections at its auxiliary branch in Delft, where another book collection already existed. In 1959 the Army Museum received a large and unique study collection of military equipment from the Ministry of Defence entitled *Stumima* or *Armamentarium*. This was also the name of the former States of Holland and West Frisia arsenal in Delft, where this collection was housed.

The current combined book collection, consisting of the institutional library and the previously mentioned historical libraries originated when, in 1978, the decision was taken to move the entire collection of the Army Museum to the Armamentarium in Delft. The relocation took place in 1984. The physical consolidation of the libraries obviously had an enormous effect; it had become the largest and by far the most important collection of military history in the Netherlands.