

ROY ANTHONY NOCKOLDS

1911 – 1979

Roy Nockolds was the first early artist to make the transition from illustrator and advertising artist to fine artist selling prints and paintings to the collector. He was the brother of the author Harold Nockolds who wrote many motoring books such as the history of Rolls Royce and Lucas Industries. Roy Nockolds was born in London and was keen on art from a child, some of his art certificates still survive.



Roy Nockolds worked for "Motor Sport" in the 1930's contributing sketches to the magazine also for The Motor pre and post war. This was probably as a freelance and not a full staff member. His work can also be seen in advertisements and brochures for

motor manufacturers.

He was obviously a frequent visitor to Brooklands and continental motor races and this intimate knowledge of the cars and the tracks was to serve him well after the war. During the post-war period up to his death he painted many retrospective motor racing works. During the second war he produced many posters whilst working for the



Birkin (Maserati) leads Campbell (Mercedes) at the Brooklands Mountain Championship Race, 1931

Ministry of Information. He also worked on proposals to camouflage aircraft by the use of colour to try and alter visible shape. After the war he pressed claims to be recognised for his efforts without success. He worked as a freelance artist post-war for many companies particularly publicity material for Lucas and Lockheed Brakes plus car manufacturers. Roy Nockolds was also very active with the Brooklands

Society helping to organise events and by contributing pictures for raffles and reproduction as greetings cards.

Roy Nockolds is equally well known as an aviation artist with many front covers for "Flight" magazine and was very active holding office with the Kronfield Aviation Art society which became the Guild of Aviation Artists. During the war and in the immediate years there were lots of commissions from the RAF and the various squadrons wanting aviation scenes for the Officer's Mess etc.

Besides his motoring and aviation work he also had a large output of country landscapes, wild life, dogs, hunting and fishing scenes. Many of these were commissioned by greetings card manufacturers.



MG illustration for Motor Sport magazine signed with 'N' 1937

His early work consists mainly of pencil and charcoal sketches with occasional scraperboards. Where colour is used it is thin watercolour secondary to the line work. This colour with time became stronger particularly with gouache and oils. Post war the colour technique is very competent and fairly detailed to the extent that sometimes the motor racing scenes lose the feeling of speed. The early sketches are signed Roy Nockolds with an underline, sometimes initialled 'RN' or rarely just an 'N'. The remaining contents of his studio were sold by Onslow's auctions in November 1989. This resulted in many smaller sketches and unfinished works coming onto the market, most of these were not signed. Roy Nockolds frequently sketched and made tracings on tracing paper and besides

ordinary paper he used lined and squared paper for these preliminary works.

He took part in many exhibitions including one in the USA and after his death a memorial exhibition of his work was held at the Qantas Gallery, London in November 1980.

Recently many print reproductions of his art have come on the market, some of them at large size. These are available in black and white or hand coloured.

Used at least two pseudonyms HODGE and van der Heyden.