

RUSSELL PARTRIDGE BROCKBANK

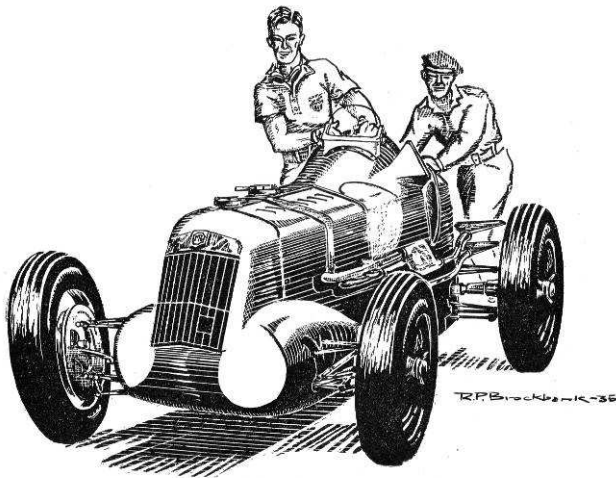
1913 – 1979

Russell Brockbank is the motoring cartoonist that captured so well the times in which he worked with both general motoring and motor racing. However his skills were far wider than just motoring and from 1949 Russell Brockbank was the Art Editor for Punch magazine producing a wide spectrum of cartoons.



Russell Brockbank was born in Canada but his family moved back to the UK in 1929 and he studied

Art in London. As a young man he must have been very interested in cars as we start to see drawings from the mid 1930s for magazines such as The Sports Car, Autocar, Speed and later The Motor. He was to have his first drawings accepted by Punch in 1937.



1935 illustration for Speed

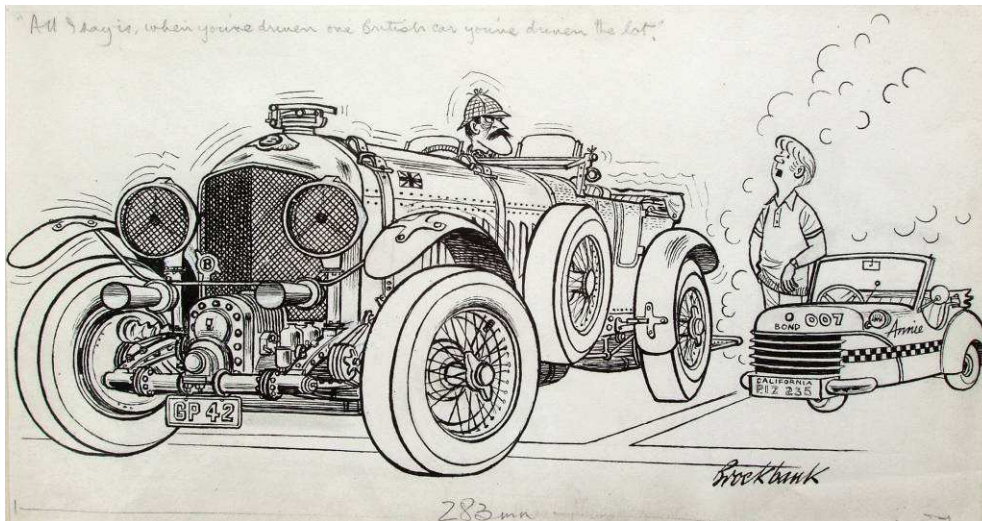
The early works are skilful black and white illustrations either with pen and ink or scraperboard, depicting motor racing scenes. Normally his work was signed 'Brockbank' occasionally 'RB' but some of the early work is just a 'B'.



Impecunious VW owner filling with petrol

During the Second World War Russell Brockbank served in the Navy but this did not stop him producing cartoons for various magazines but mainly for The Motor. It was towards the end of the war that he developed his cartoon character Major Upsett, the bowler hated, mustachio, bumbling English gentleman that was to be a permanent part of his Motor cartoons. After the war he was a very popular cartoonist with his work

appearing in many publications and also several books of his cartoons were produced.



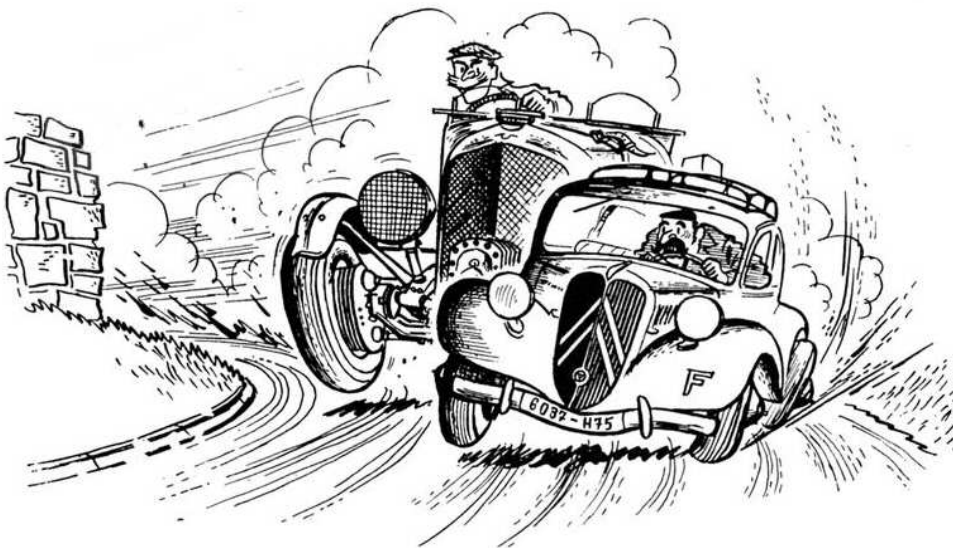
“All I say is once you have driven one British car you have driven the lot”

Russell Brockbank rarely used colour to enhance his cartoons, it was the strength of his line work that meant that colour was to some extent superfluous. However it is said that he was not confident using colour but the artwork seen, such as front covers for Punch and calendar artwork, show a very

competent use of soft watercolour.

We are fortunate that many of the original cartoons have survived from the archives of Punch and The Motor. Also his work was popular at the

time so that work colleagues saved any originals that they managed to acquire. This has meant that during the early 2000's we have seen many cartoons come onto the market where they have been eagerly bought by collectors. The main source of Brockbank cartoons was the sale of The Motor archives in



Citron Pressé one of Russell Brockbank's famous cartoons

2001 plus the collection of Geoff Goddard who was a photographer colleague of Brockbank at The Motor.

An excellent website about Russell Brockbank and his work has been set up by the family with more details about his life and work plus copies of prints are for sale. The link is given below.

FURTHER REFERENCE

www.russellbrockbank.co.uk website of the Brockbank family

Round the Bend by Russell Brockbank published by Temple Press 1948

Up the Straight by Russell Brockbank published by Temple Press 1953

Over The Line by Russell Brockbank published by Temple Press 1955

The Brockbank Omnibus by Russell Brockbank published by Perpetua Books 1957

Manifold Pressures by Russell Brockbank published by Temple Press 1958

Penguin Brockbank by Russell Brockbank published by Penguin 1963

Brockbank's Grand Prix by Russell Brockbank published by Methuen 1973

Plus he illustrated many other books.