

CLARENCE PETER HELCK

1893 – 1988

It may come as a surprise to see Peter Helck's details listed in this profile of UK working artists. Without doubt Peter Helck was the foremost American motoring and racing artist. However Peter Helck lived and worked in the UK on at least two occasions. The first visit was in late 1919 or early 1920 when he was working with Frank Brangwyn on a project for Fisk Tyres.



Brooklands paddock scene painted for The Motor Owner 1920

Frank Brangwyn was one of the foremost UK artists of his time with far ranging talents from landscapes to portraits and murals often with an architectural theme and an outstanding use of colour. These strengths were also characterise the work of Peter Helck.



County Fair 1903 for Esquire magazine

1924 when he was again working for The Motor Owner as well as The Autocar. For The Autocar besides small sketches Peter Helck also

completed some superb front cover artwork. He was a visitor to Brooklands track and The Autocar published several of his drawings of the paddock and personalities. This is in addition to the painting of a paddock scene that was completed in 1920 for the Motor Owner.



1933 TT with MGs at Dundonald

Peter Helck on his return to the USA was to make his name with many paintings of motor racing plus a very full portfolio of associated advertising work. Particularly well known is his work for the oil companies and Esquire magazine. Two books of his work were published together with many prints of his paintings plus etchings and a few bronzes.

FURTHER REFERENCE

www.peterhelck.com Website set up by the Helck Family

Great Auto Races by Peter Helck published by Abrams 1975

Checkered Flag by Peter Helck published by Scribner/ Castle 1961

Seventy-Five Years with Palette, Paintbrush and Wheels by Peter Helck published in The Bulb Horn magazine July – August 1966

Peter Helck by Ken Browning published in Autographics magazine 1977

Peter Helck by Keith Marvin published in Automobile Quarterly Volume 27 #1 1989

Peter Helck – American Master by Gary Doyle published in AFAS Journal #33 2007