

'Adopt-a-Picture' Appeal

— The Roderic Hill drawings

As described in *The Aerospace Professional* June 2004 (p 5) and October 2005 (p 12) the Society's Library has, among its collection of aeronautical works of art, a series of detailed pen-and-ink/pencil drawings by Roderic Hill (1894-1954) of various aircraft designs and imaginary future aviation scenes that were originally published in *Flight* 1919-1922. At the time the artist was in charge of the Experimental Flying Dept at RAE Farnborough, a long distinguished service career culminating in ACM Sir Roderic Maxwell Hill's retirement in 1948 as Principal Air Aide-de-Camp to King George VI.

In 1912 Hill entered the Fine Arts Department of University College, London, under Professor Henry Tonks — enlisting as Private soldier, 18th Royal Fusiliers, in October 1914 shortly after the outbreak of WW1, transferring to the Royal Flying Corps in 1917. His daughter, Prudence Hill, in her biography of her father, *To Know the Sky: the Life of Air Chief Marshal Sir Roderic Hill* (London: William Kimber, 1962), recorded: "...he learnt to etch at the age of forty-two when he was an air commodore, and became a rather fine exponent of the art; and he drew and painted for pleasure to the end of his life."

As a result of the earlier articles, nine of the Roderic Hill pencil/pen-and-ink drawings in the series have been sponsored and restored — including all four of the smaller series of portrait drawings by Hill of early aviation pioneers. They are currently on display outside the Sopwith Room at Hamilton Place alongside other sponsored pictures. It is intended that others in the series will be displayed in the nearby Handley Page Room as they are restored.

These drawings (listed below with their original titles)



Above left: 'A Twin-Engine Commercial Monoplane of the Near Future' Original fine pencil drawing (28.5cm x 37cm) reproduced in *Flight* 21 April 1921. Cost of conservation/restoration £180.

Above right: 'A Glimpse of the Future' Original fine pencil drawing (28.5cm x 22.5cm) reproduced in *Flight* 16 February 1922. Cost of conservation/restoration £170.

Right: 'Ships that pass in the night' Original fine pen-and-ink drawing (29cm x 29cm) reproduced in *Flight* 17 March 1919. Cost of conservation/restoration £170.



are now in need of conservation to preserve them for current and future generations and if any individual member, company or organisation would like to 'adopt' one of these works of art, please contact: Brian Riddle, Librarian, Royal Aeronautical Society, No.4 Hamilton Place, London W1J 7BQ, UK. Tel: +44 (0)20 7670 4362. e-mail: brian.riddle@raes.org.uk. A plaque on the frame of the picture, which would be restored via The London School of Picture and Frame Restoration and then displayed at the Society's headquarters at Hamilton Place, would record the name of its sponsor.

Whenever members of the Society are in London they are welcome to view the permanent display at Hamilton Place of sponsored works of art from the Library's art collections.

Others in the collection but not illustrated here include:

'And it Came to Pass' Original fine pen-and-ink drawing (29cm x 23cm) reproduced in *Flight* 17 March 1919. Cost of conservation/restoration £170.

'Flight in the Near Future' Original fine pen-and-ink drawing (38cm x 27.5cm) reproduced in *Flight* 1 May 1919. Cost of conservation/restoration £180.

'A Happy New Year' Original fine pencil drawing (38cm x 27cm) reproduced in *Flight* 1 January 1920. Cost of conservation/restoration £180.

'Aerial Policemen of the Near Future' Original fine pencil drawing (27.5cm x 38cm) reproduced in *Flight* 17 March 1921. Cost of conservation/restoration £180.



'A Climbing Turn on the Bat Bantam' Original fine pencil drawing (27cm x 36cm) reproduced in *Flight* 7 April 1921. Cost of conservation/restoration £180.

'Travelling of the Future: the White Moon Liner 'Castor and Pollux' awaiting the signal to alight' Original fine pencil drawing (38cm x 28.5cm) reproduced in *Flight* 19 May 1921. Cost of conservation/restoration £180.

'Bristol Scout' Original pencil drawing (38cm x 24.5cm). Cost of conservation/restoration £170.

'The Atlantic flight as it may be' Original fine pen-and-ink drawing (22cm x 31cm). Cost of conservation/restoration £170.