



FOUNDATION NEWS

Chairman's Notes



WHEN I COMPOSE these notes I often have to remind myself not to repeat what I wrote in the previous issue.

However, this is unlikely this time. Many of you will know of club member Tom Clarke, the historian and writer, who is also well known for his talks at The Hunt House.

Tom is the Foundation's auction watcher, by which I mean he keeps a constant watch on auction house sales and dealers's stock and informs the SHRMF of anything of relevance that comes on the market.

A few months ago he spotted some notes, diaries and documents relating to Eric Platford who, as many of you will know, was Sir Henry Royce's first apprentice. At first the cost seemed to be beyond the means of the SHRMF but Tom considered the items of such importance that he made a very generous donation towards the purchase price. With an equally large donation from East Midlands Section chairman David Towers the Foundation was able to cover the balance.

By the time you read these words this valuable archive will be where it belongs, in The Hunt House, providing yet another piece of Rolls-Royce history and an invaluable tool for historians.

Recently there was a re-run of a programme called *Rolls-Royce: Dream Machines* on Channel 5, in which the Foundation's heritage advisor Philip Hall took part and I must say he did us proud. We are fortunate to have such a knowledgeable and enthusiastic member able to put the Rolls-Royce story into words. Thank you, Philip.

Duncan Feetham

Fred Hardy workshop recreation is now complete

MEMBERS WHO VISIT The Hunt House and venture into the cellar will have noticed the re-creation of Fred Hardy's workshop, an exhibit which may well be the subject of a future *Hunt House Treasures* article.

The Foundation is extremely grateful to Mike Martin of the Paulerspury Section who has given up a considerable amount of his own time and money to supply the materials and to erect the third false wall to make this exhibit complete. Many thanks Mike.

A vote of sincere thanks also goes to the Northern Section for making its £1,000 donation towards funding an Apprentice Award, with the balance being put towards general donations.



Michael Bailey receives the 2019 Philip Hall Award



AT THE FOUNDATION'S HERITAGE WEEKEND last November, the Philip Hall Award was presented to Michael Bailey (pictured left with Duncan Feetham). Over the past eight and a half years Michael has scanned nearly 250,000 documents in The Hunt House archives. These comprise anything from A4 sheets to drawings more than six feet long.

He has shown great dedication to this extremely time-consuming task; each document has to be handled individually and often has to be cleaned or repaired before it can be fed into the scanner. Visitors to The Hunt House are often taken to see Michael's 'studio' where, in his own inimitable way, he treats them to an explanation of what is involved.

In addition to scanning, Michael assists at numerous RREC and Foundation events and is invariably on hand whenever help is needed. He is always immaculately dressed in his uniquely flamboyant style.

THE PHILIP HALL AWARD

The Philip Hall Award was instigated by Brenda Wright who is the daughter of the late Rupert Nicholson, the appointed receiver of Rolls-Royce Ltd in 1971 when the company was forced into receivership. It can safely be said that, by his courageous and unprecedented action, in the face of intense political opposition, Rupert Nicholson was the man who saved Rolls-Royce.

Brenda Wright established, and continues to sponsor, this award in commemoration of her father, and she has done Philip Hall the great honour of putting it in his name. It is given annually to someone who has played a significant part in the preservation and furtherance of Rolls-Royce Heritage. The award comprises a Foundation gold medal, a certificate and a cheque for £1,000.

Clarification of Rolls-Royce's rights to the Spirit of Ecstasy



NUMBER 19 in this series (*Spirit & Speed* November 2019) describes the document by which Rolls-Royce Ltd acquired the rights to the Spirit of Ecstasy mascot from Charles Sykes in 1911. Since then, three similar documents have come to light. These are in the collection of RREC member Raymond Richard from The Netherlands who kindly brought them to The Hunt House for us to see.

The earliest is dated 26 January 1934 and concerns the assignment of copyright of the Kneeling Lady, which is described as 'a work of sculpture representing the figure of a woman kneeling with draperies flowing behind

her in the form of wings'. Sykes was paid £32 11s for this, and was to receive a commission of £2 2s for each mascot produced.

The second one, dated 23 June 1979, is a wordy legal document (part shown above left) which seems to clarify that the rights to the Spirit of Speed assigned in the original agreement, signed on 16 March 1911, apply also to the Spirit of Ecstasy. It notes that the mascot is also known as The Flying Lady. This document is signed by Sykes's daughter, Josephine Phillips née Sykes, and assigns any rights she may have held to Rolls-Royce Motors Ltd at Crewe.

The third document is similar but refers to the Kneeling Lady. It also makes reference to the rights being assigned to the Minister of Aviation when the company was in receivership in 1971. This was signed by Josephine Phillips on 3 June 1982 (part shown above right). It is odd that these last two assignments were made in two separate documents dated three years apart. Raymond Richard was kind enough to let us take copies of these documents. Although we do not have the originals, it seems appropriate to include them in this series to complete the record.
Philip Hall

FOUNDATION DIARY

Wednesday 13 May

■ Lecture: Engineering and Design with Jaguar, Lotus, TVR and General Motors. The lecture will be presented by **Oliver Winterbottom**, lifetime engineer and designer of the Lotus Elite and TVR Tasmin.

Saturday and Sunday 19-20 September

■ The Hunt House Open Weekend

Thursday 1 October

■ Lecture: Sixty Years at the Sharp End - a pilot's retrospective on 60 years of change. Presented by **John Hutchinson**, retired Concorde pilot.

Saturday and Sunday 21-22 November

■ Heritage Weekend and 2020 AGM

Dates are subject to change due to circumstances beyond our control.

See www.henryroyce.org.uk for full details and booking information.

The Sir Henry Royce Memorial Foundation

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