

## NEWSLETTER 12 (January 2021)

**OUR BENEFACTORS....** We have had another very generous donation from the daughters of John Lankester Parker OBE. Many will know he was a very close friend of Oswald Short and the chief test pilot for the Company for many years. He, JLP, is the only man to land a Sunderland ACROSS Windermere. It happened on a delivery to the Shorts wartime **Civilian Repair Organisation** (CRO) factory at Troutbeck.

We thought our members should receive the first offer of these unique 'treasures'.

**OUR SALE...** We have consulted two auctioneers - Sotheby's who identified elements of the Collection for us and our local auctioneer Adam Partridge, here in Macclesfield, for valuations. They were in agreement.

We did consider auctioning the entire Collection. However, as with the solid silver tea-set Jane and Sally (née Lankester Parker) kindly gave us a couple of years ago, we are not 'at ease' with the 20% fee and VAT.

The Collection is the product of the artistic skills of JLP's mother, the renowned Mabel Oliver Rae, 1868-1956. Born in Cambridge she became an accomplished artist after training at The Slade School in London. She set up her own studio in Mildenhall and completed some of her works with the production of fine copper printing plates. She was a painter, water colourist and etcher with a nationally recognised reputation.

### Offers are invited for the following

#### **HERITAGE AIRCRAFT INTEREST...**

1. Two unsigned, framed, watercolour paintings *Short Sunderland* (by Mabel Oliver Rae almost certainly)

1. 24x28cms



b) 24x30cms



2. Three prints, identical, unframed, signed by Mabel Olivier Rae of

*'Short Calcutta and Big Ben'* being flown by JLP. 1928

a) 36x25cms



b) 36x25cms



c) 36x25cms



## LOCATIONAL INTEREST – FRAMED PRINTS...

Etched, Signed, Printed and Framed By Mabel Oliver Rae...

Clare College,  
Cambridge.  
Print 30x19cms.



St. John's  
Tower  
Cambridge  
Print. 20x7cms.



Magdalene  
College  
Cambridge  
Print 20x13cms.



Wells  
Cathedral from  
Torr Wood  
Print 20x26.5cms.



## OF LOCATIONAL INTEREST – UNFRAMED PRINTS...

Etched, Signed & Printed, Unframed Prints, by Mabel Oliver Rae...

- *Rochester Cathedral Precinct* 12x18cms. together with its' parent copper plate
- *College Gate, Rochester.* 3no. i. 15x14.5cms. ii 15x11cms. iii 15x11cms.
- *Priory Gate, Rochester.* 17.5x12cms and copper plate
- *Trinity Great Court, Cambridge* 30.5x19cms.
- *Marlborough College Chapel, Wiltshire.* 26.5x20cms
- *Bridge of Sighs, Cambridge.* 8x11.5cms
- *Ely Cathedral, Cambridgeshire.* 11x8cms

### Etched Copper Printing Plates by Mabel Oliver Rae

1. *Worlington Hall* at Bury St. Edmunds
2. *Archway and Cart*
3. *Mayflower Barn at Jordans*, Buckinghamshire
4. *Boley Hill, Rochester*
5. *Rochester Cathedral View*
6. *Priory Gateway, Rochester.* (see above)
7. *The Abbey Mill, Tewksbury*
8. *Harbor*, (as spelt on plate), *St. Ives*, Cornwall
9. *Ellen Louise* sailing ship, *Looe*, Cornwall
10. *Little St. Mary's Lane*, Cambridge.
11. *The Castle, Rochester*
12. *The Gatehouse, Rochester*

An unframed 12x19cm. pencil sketch by W.H. Constantine



from M. Oliver Rae Collection

*Hughenden and The Pond, Goudhurst, KENT*

**N.B.** Individual jpegs. of all these works of art are available by email on request before purchase. They are too big to send in this email. Please email us at [info@shortbrothersaviationpioneers.co.uk](mailto:info@shortbrothersaviationpioneers.co.uk) with your interest.

## NEWS...

- It looks like our scheduled 2020 SHORT talks will be once again be postponed in 2021 !
- We are pleased to have found a 'route' to contact a descendant of the Wright Brothers in the U.S. that we are hopeful will be productive. We will update you as contacts are more firmly established.
- Welcome to all new supporters and most recently Rachael Delahey, a descendant of Sir Arthur Gouge.

**Sir Arthur Gouge**, 1890 – 1962, became a very important figure within Shorts. He joined the Company as a mechanic in 1915, was promoted to foreman and obtained a Bachelor of Science degree at London University.

In 1926 he became chief designer and is acknowledged as the designer of the *Empire* flying boats.

By 1935 he had become one of the two directors of the Company, along with Oswald Short.

In 1937 he was awarded the Royal Aeronautical Society *British Gold Medal for Aeronautics* and was knighted in 1948.

He is buried in St. Margaret's Cemetery in Rochester



A deep conversation with Sir Arthur Gouge on the right of the picture

### **We are sad to report that Ronald Lamb, a valued Society supporter, passed away last year.**

Ronald was employed by Shorts in the Planning Office in 1942. He and his friend Arthur Butler found an unexploded bomb in the river mud when incendiary bombs were dropped on The Seaplane Works. They pulled them from the mud unaware of the danger.

His sister-in-law, Gladys Batchelor, learned to fly and was taught by Alan Cobham at Gravesend Airport. She was the first private pilot to have permission to fly from the newly established Short Brothers airfield at Rochester. She was the 'Air Queen' at Rochester in 1936.

Ronald's father-in-law, George Batchelor, was a founder member of the R.Ae.S. and a marine engineer.

Extracted from 'A SHORT STORY' by Liz Walker, now in its' third edition and available from [info@shortbrothersaviationpioneers.co.uk](mailto:info@shortbrothersaviationpioneers.co.uk)

**STAY SAFE and STAY HEALTHY**

Liz & Barrie Walker, Rick Heys and Jane Harvey

email: [info@shortbrothersaviationpioneers.co.uk](mailto:info@shortbrothersaviationpioneers.co.uk) facebook: [shortbrothersaviationpioneers-kent](https://www.facebook.com/shortbrothersaviationpioneers-kent)

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