



Royal Society of British Artists

www.the-rba.org.uk

Jack Millar RBA, NEAC.

It is with sadness that we have to inform you of the death of Jack Millar who died in London on the 2nd November 2006.

Born in London in 1921, Jack went to Clapham Art School before the war but when the school was evacuated to the midlands at the outbreak of hostilities, he returned to London to enrol at St. Martins before joining the Royal Artillery.

His war time experiences were shortened when he contracted tuberculosis and was sent to South Africa to convalesce. Back in England after the war Jack studied at the Royal College, at the same time as Alfred Daniels. Amongst his tutors were Rodrigo Monyihan, Ruskin Spear, John Minton and Carel Weight, and in 1950 he graduated with 1st class honours and the Andrew Lloyd Scholarship for landscape painting.

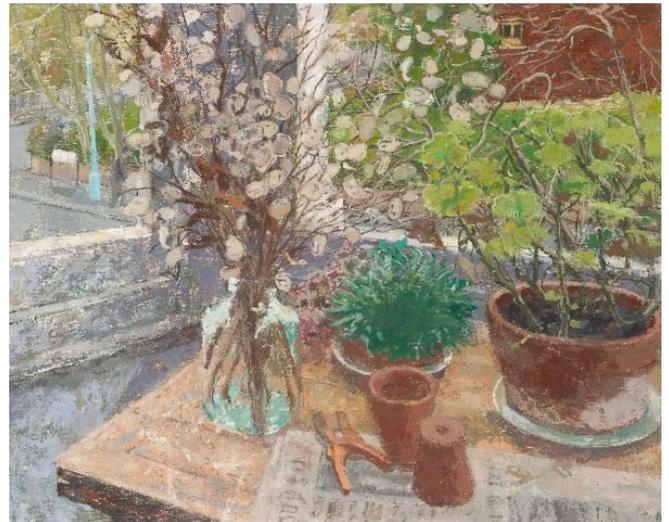
From art school Jack like many others had to teach as well as paint. He was an excellent teacher being approachable and infinitely patient and from 1964-92 a visiting lecturer at the Royal Academy Schools where he taught several of our RBAs, including Anthony Southwell and Tom Coates.

Later he became Head of Fine Art at Walthamstow College of Art, a post he held from 1966-73 and Anthony Southwell who was teaching Ceramics there, remembers travelling home with him on the bus and beginning a friendship that was to continue up until Jack's death.

From 1973-86 Jack was the Head of Kingston Polytechnic.

Jack was elected a member of the RBA in 1954 and later the NEAC in 2001. Winning many art prizes and many admirers, Jack showed with the London Group, the West of England Academy, the Glasgow Institute of Fine Art, and from 1948 regularly at the RA Summer Exhibitions. Over the years he also had many solo exhibitions and contributed work to other mixed shows in commercial and public galleries.

Always kind and happy to listen he will be greatly missed by all of us who met him through the society and we send our thoughts to his wife Pam Izzard.



'Winter Still Life' oil on board 25"x 30", by Jack Millar

Christmas buffet lunch

The RBA Christmas buffet lunch was held at the Mall Galleries on 14th December. Once again it was very well attended by members, FBA staff and in addition on this occasion by members of the de Laszlo Association. The President requested a one minute silence in memory of Jack Millar. He will be sadly missed in the Society. Christopher Hall was awarded the Astor College for the Arts Award which is given for service to the Society. He was unable to attend and so Richard Sorrell accepted the ships' decanter on his behalf.

Extraordinary General meeting of Saturday, 13th January.

Many thanks to all our members who came to the EGM and to Richard Sorrell who acted as our Chairman, it was especially good to see so many attending, reflecting the importance of the meeting.

After listening to the different arguments Romeo was reaffirmed as our President and Peter Peterson was deprived of his membership.

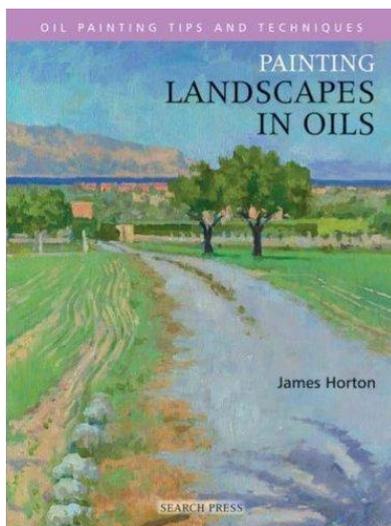
Having had the opportunity to air our differences we hope that the society can now be united and move forward to a bright and happy future.

James Horton

James was elected our new Vice President last summer and brings to the job a wealth of talent and experience.

Painting from a young age, his great inspiration came when he was nine years old on seeing the work by William Constable while on a visit with his Father to the National Gallery. When he was 16 he attended Sir John Cass School of Art in Whitechapel, going on to the City & Guilds where he won a scholarship to study in Florence in 1970. On his return he went on to the Royal College for a further three years gaining his MA in 1974. At the college he recalls David Hockney, Peter Blake and Ruskin Spear, and it was Ruskin who introduced him to the galleries in Cork Street and passed on portrait painting commissions.

James describes himself as an objective painter and explains 'I look at life, distil what I see and make it into a painting, I don't like working from photographs. The essence for me is to be there on the spot, the time and place. That's why I like travelling, it's exciting, new, always a challenge, and I get switched on by what I see and want to make a comment about it'. When he travels he paints mostly in oils but also takes along his watercolours. He enjoys painting landscapes, figures, portrait and conversation pieces.



By James Horton, published by Search Press. ISBN – 10: 1844480402.

Approached by Indus Tours, he has for the past seven years been able to blend his passion for travel and painting in exotic locations with that of teaching small painting groups.

James has written many books about painting and art and will see his book 'Painting Landscapes in oils' published in March.

He has shown work in the large opens including the RA Summer exhibitions, the Young Contemporaries, the New English Art Club and the Portrait society, and many other influential private galleries including Agnews. James has also painted many important portrait commissions and has been guest tutor and visiting lecturer at several colleges.

We look forward to him being our VP and wish him a great deal of good fortune.

Cheryl Culver

Cheryl will be exhibiting at the Art in Ireland Spring Collection 2007 in the Main Hall of Dublin's RDS from Friday to Sunday 30th March to 1st April. The Private View on the Thursday from 6-8pm. If any members are over in Ireland and would like to visit the show they would be happy to forward complimentary tickets if details are sent by email to the organizer: maria@eriva.com stating you are a member of the RBA.

One of Cheryl's paintings was selected by the Pastel Society to represent them at the Watercolours and Drawings Fair at the Royal Academy from 1st to 4th February. The Pastel Society exhibition runs from 28th February to 11th March 2007. Cheryl will also be showing her work at the Russell Gallery in Putney throughout the year.

Christopher Hall

Christopher is to have a one man show at the Rona Gallery, 1-2 Weighhouse Street, Mayfair, London W1 opening on the 27th March with the Private View, and continuing throughout April. The exhibition includes work done by Christopher when he travelled to Rome in October 2006 in the company of Bob Brown NEAC.



Christopher in his studio

Richard Sorrell

Congratulations to Richard for being elected the new President of the RWS, taking over in the spring of last year from Trevor Frankland. We would like to take this opportunity to wish him an excellent tenure.

Richard has been a member of the RBA since 1988, and was the de Lazslo prize winner in 2003. Recently the RBA were very grateful to him for being a good and fair chairman at our EGM where he kept excellent order at a very difficult time.

The forthcoming RWS shows are at the Watercolour and Drawings Fair at the Burlington Gardens Galleries at the RA from 1st – 4th February and the 21st Century Watercolour Exhibition (the RWS Open show, open to non-members only) on the 9th February – 4th March. Elections at the RWS are due to be held on the 6th March and the RWS Annual Spring Exhibition from March 9th to April 8th.

Richard's next show is to be held at Alpha House Gallery in Sherborne, Dorset with June Berry and David Brayne and will open on March 3rd.



'Words'
watercolour on
paper, using a
little gold leaf
11"x 13", by
Richard Sorrell

Tessa Spencer Pryse

Tessa had a very successful exhibition of oil paintings of Provence, Venice and the Alps in March/April 2006 at Galerie Sionnet, Geneva (Switzerland). Half of her paintings were sold and she has been invited back for 2008.

Tessa had twenty-five paintings in a five man show at Llewellyn Alexander, The Cut, Waterloo, from 8th January to 6th February. Also in the pipeline for her is an exhibition of paintings in a new gallery at Beaumes de Venise, Nr Avignon this year.

John McCombs

John exhibited some of his excellent landscape and figure work from the 3rd October to 28th with the New Manchester Group where he showed with 6 other artists, at the Blyth Gallery Manchester.

John also writes articles regularly on painting for the Artist Magazine and Leisure Painter.

Miranda Halsby



'Barefoot, barefoot' etching 200mm x 250 mm,
edition of 50, by Miranda Halsby

Miranda will be showing her recent prints of Dorset, France and Venice, at Abbot and Holder this year, with the exhibition running from Thursday 8th till Saturday 17th November. There will be two Private Views with the first on the 8th and the second, which will include a glass of wine, on Saturday 10th November at lunchtime.

Just before Christmas, Miranda had a print in the RWA, (Royal West of England Academy).

The next exhibition at the Gallery owned by Julian and Miranda will feature watercolours by a local and very successful artist, Jake Winkle and will run from Friday 8th to Saturday 16th June. Future shows planned for this year will include one about Venice in the autumn.

The Newland Gallery is at:

**101 Newland,
Sherborne,
Dorset.**

For details and opening times and to be included on their mailing list please phone: **01935 812177.**

The de Laszlo Association

The launch of the de Laszlo Association last year has been supported by both patrons and supporters of the RBA, with a lot of interest being shown by people.

Damon de Laszlo intends to offer a monetary prize to award alongside the de Laszlo Medal for the next exhibition.

This year we are extending the membership, which will be **free**, to include all RBA Members.

Non Members and Patrons are asked for an annual payment of ten pounds, for which they get their membership number entered into a draw for a painting donated by artists at the exhibition, invitations to other exhibitions, as well as other activities that happen during the year.

The purpose of the Association is to arrange activities where artists, patrons and other interested parties can meet informally, exchange views and get to know each other better.

Damon de Laszlo has generously offered to open up his country house in the summer for members to look round, and also to view the art work there. When we can agree a date I will let you know when this will be.

Shortly you will be receiving your membership card for the de Laszlo Association. Each membership card will have its own unique number on it, so please keep it safe.

I do hope that you will take advantage of being a member, as I think that it is so important to keep in contact with not only each other, but also with non members who support us in so many ways.

Carol Hubble,
De Laszlo Association Organiser.

Stephen Brown

Stephen will be having an exhibition at the Rowley Gallery, 3a Great Minster Street, Winchester. The Private View is on the 31st March and the exhibition continues until 15th April. The Gallery phone number is: **01962 877601.**

Cinzia Bonada

Despite breaking her right arm badly last October, Cinzia had two paintings in the NEAC and showed work with the Hesketh Hubbard Art Society; she also had paintings in the Russell Gallery in their winter show and with the Small Paintings Group at Piers Feetham, from January 30th to February 17th. Happily her arm is now mending.

Peter Kelly

The art critic Carol Cordrey, as curator of the 'Interiors' exhibition at the New Grafton Gallery in Barnes chose Peter as one of the painters whose work was shown in a mixed show which took place from 16th January to 3rd February.

Peter will also be having a one man show in October at the Ebury Street Galley of John Adam Fine Art.



'The old Kitchen, Calke Abbey' oil on canvas 18"x 12.5", by Peter Kelly.

Ronald Morgan

Ronald will be showing with the Small Paintings Group at the Piers Feetham Gallery in Fulham Road from January 30th to February 17th and also with the ROI in their Spring Exhibition at the Whittington Gallery in Henley on Thames.

Andrew Macara

'Recent Paintings by Andrew Macara' will open on the 13th and continue to the 27th May this year at the Contemporary Fine Art Gallery, 31 High Street, Eton, Windsor, Berkshire, SL4 6AX. tel: 01753 854315; email: mail@cfaq.co.uk.

Leigh Parry

Last autumn Leigh had work in the 'Venice in Peril' exhibition at the W.H.Patterson Gallery in Albermarle Street, paintings in the Ashley Hall Farm Gallery in Cheshunt, the Russell Gallery and the Stamford Artists' Gallery, and this year with the Pastel Society. Leigh will also be showing paintings with the Llewellyn Alexander Gallery and at the Henley Festival.

Bridget Moore

Bridget was one of the five artists who won the runner-up prize at the Lynn Painter-Stainers prize last November which was held in the Painters' Hall, Little Trinity Lane, London. Her prize winning painting is reproduced below. At the end of 2005 Bridget was also elected a member of the NEAC for which we send our congratulations.



'Blue, Blue Sky' gouache, 41" x 41", by Bridget Moore

Ann Heat

Ann showed with the Cedar House Gallery in Ripley in their Christmas Exhibition and with Rosemary Parkes at the Woodhay Gallery in Newbury. Ann will also be showing with the Small Paintings Group at the Piers Feetham Gallery, Fulham Road from January 30th to February 17th.

Alfred Daniels

Last autumn Danny gave a talk at the Bankside Gallery about his painting 'The Peak Cutters' which is reproduced in the beautiful new book recently published by the Royal Society of Watercolour Painters (RWS).

He had work on the RWS stand at the Watercolours & Drawings Fair, Royal Academy of Arts, Burlington Gardens which was held from 1st to 4th February and will be showing paintings with the RWS at their annual exhibition, which will be held in April. Danny is working on several commissions.



Charlie Dimmock by Alfred Daniels, oil on canvas, 24"x 20"

Trevor Frankland



'The Return Visit' watercolour and acrylic, 43cm x 70cm, by Trevor Frankland

Trevor stepped down from the RWS Presidency in April 2006 having served three years in office, guiding the Society through its bicentenary celebrations, and in September 2006 he held a one man show at the Dover Street Arts Club where he also gave a talk about his work. Trevor was again one of the judges for the Singer and Friedlander/Sunday Times Watercolour Competition shown at the Mall Galleries and for the RWS 21st Century Watercolour Open Exhibition, at the Bankside Gallery.

Trevor showed prints at 'The Walk' Gallery in London and exhibited watercolours at the Watercolour and Drawings fair held at the Royal Academy Burlington Gardens, in 2006. He also had work at Christies 'Art for Life' Exhibition and with the London Group and at the Bankside Trevor had work in the RI Spring Show as an Honorary Member of the Society. As an RWS member he had a reproduction of a painting and associated text in 'Watercolour Masters, Then and Now', published in September 2006.

Martyn Baldwin

Newly elected member Martyn Baldwin together with Alfred Daniels recently appeared on Australian Television with the BBC's Star Portrait series. This popular programme presented by Rolf Harris, no stranger to the RBA, was well received down under. Martyn had numerous contacts from artists, students, and would be artists who had been inspired by the portraits produced of Charlie Dimmock.



Charlie Dimmock by Martyn Baldwin oil on canvas 24"x 20"



Martyn and Danny working from the model

Philip de László (1869-1937) an article by Leigh Parry.

Instalment IV:

FIRST STEPS ON THE LADDER cont: - which will lead him to international renown and to his important association with us – the RBA.

The Events of 1892. End of Student days. MUNICH - BUDAPEST

**"There's a divinity that shapes our ends
Rough-hew them how we will" says Hamlet
"That is most certain" replies Horatio.**

These words of Shakespeare would appear to apply most aptly to some of the upward steps in young Philip László's early career. That or pure chance some might say when a small incident, which could so easily never have happened at all, even a set back proves unexpectedly to be the catalyst to the next major step forward. Not least are the series of events which led to his meeting with Lucy Guinness and the far reaching influence on his future which followed on from all that, to involvement with us, the RBA.

Looking back on those events of February 1892 what chance was it that had prompted Baron Von Krahl who lived in Munich and took an interest in the work of the Students to buy one of twenty two year old Philip's drawings? What cast of fortune then further prompted him to invite Philip to accompany him to that fateful Students' Ball; that there should be vacant seats at their table; that they should be asked if another party of visitors, among them Eva and Lucy Guinness, might take up those seats; finally that it should be Lucy who took the empty place next to Philip and therefore out of politeness he felt obliged 'to break the ice' as he says and enter into conversation?

How this penniless Hungarian Art Student and the just twenty two year old sixth daughter of Mr Henry Guinness of Burton Hall, Stillorgan, County Dublin of the banking firm of Guinness Mahon and Co found an immediate mutual attraction to each other and how each was in love with the other by the time the two girls' visit to Munich was over and they had to return home to Ireland; how Lucy broke the news to her parents; how her father was horrified, stating it must be but a passing phase and there must be a cooling off; that Lucy must not write to Philip for a year has already been told. We know now, they didn't know then, that they were destined not to meet again for seven years.

And what of the seven years during which Philip's prowess and reputation were to flourish? When he had a success he wrote and told her and the first of these came soon for Lucy was a part of it.

It concerns a painting 'The Hofbräuhaus', a 30 x 50" canvas upon which he was already well embarked before he and Lucy met. He tells how from his first days in Munich he had thought the crowded tavern where he

took regular evening meals would make a good subject. He had been fascinated by the cosmopolitan company: 'that wonderful crowd of men drawn from every class.' In his memoirs he goes on to describe how he made many surreptitious studies day by day to build up a composition involving some twenty five figures, among them he mentions 'a soldier, a cabman, a small official, a business man, a student' and 'the buxom Bavarian waitresses in their national costumes'. Then one day 'a couple of English tourists were gazing at the scene.' They would just fit into the composition.

The picture being in progress at the time he met her, Philip persuaded Lucy in those days immediately following the Students' Ball, to pose as model for the English lady.

Now, after the girls had left Paris and gone home to Ireland Philip overcame his feeling of loss and returned to Munich to finish the Hofbräuhaus and enter it together with another work for the 'Composition Students' Exhibition at the Academy. He records the success this painting proved to be for him. At the Munich Academy he was awarded the Silver Medal 'inaugurated by King Otto of Bavaria with the King's portrait in relief on one side. He immediately telegraphed the good news to Lucy Guinness'.

He took the painting home with him to Budapest and entered it for the Winter Exhibition there. It was sold to a private buyer and ultimately donated to the Hungarian National Gallery.

The close of that year 1892 saw not only the end of his time in Munich but also the end of his Student days; not, however, before the Academy awarded him a second Silver Medal for a genre painting 'The Evening Prayer.' Both successes were communicated to Lucy Guinness.

Now aged 23 he could no longer postpone his return to Budapest for his dreaded Military Service. The short time it lasted for him was by his account, no better than he had feared. As it happened it was all over in six weeks. He was invalided out with painful varicose veins.

The next step in his life, 1893, was to be taken up by Mr Alexius de Lippich, the Secretary of the Fine Arts Department of the Ministry of Education. It is thought

remarkable that a man in his position some ten years older than Philip should have befriended such a young almost unknown artist, unless, appreciating his unusual talent and foreseeing that he would almost certainly make a name for himself 'thought it worthwhile to help in shaping his career.' He commenced by commissioning a portrait of Mrs Lippich for the Winter Exhibition then introducing him on to other influential patrons writing "I believe this commission will give you the entrée into a new society set." He helped Philip compose the letters 'to those in a higher social sphere'. A year later, 1894,

he was probably instrumental in obtaining Philip's first royal portrait commission.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT:

I am most grateful to the de Laszlo Trust for advice and help, for permission to use photographic reproductions from the Exhibition Catalogue and to quote from Philip de László's memoirs. **L.P**



'The Hofbräubaus', detail. 1892, oil on canvas 78.1 x 127.3 cm.



'At Vesper Bell (Ave Maria)', 1895, oil on canvas 97.5 x 73 cm

AGBI

Miranda Halsby, AGBI steward for the RBA, was delighted with the generous response from all the members who attended the Christmas party, as we were able to raise a splendid £150 by running a raffle, with the kind permission of the president. The lucky winner was rewarded with a bottle of pink fizz which was also donated. Thank you all very much on behalf of the AGBI. Please don't forget, if you still wish to make a formal donation for this year, please do so before the end of March and if you can, fill in a tax declaration form which you can get from Miranda at: mirandahalsby@yahoo.co.uk.

USA

A selection of work, by both members and non members was made at our last RBA exhibition at the Mall and went over to the Crossgate Gallery, Charlottesville, Virginia and Lexington, Kentucky. It was received very well and Greg Ladd, the Gallery owner, has requested we exhibit with him again in two years time. Over one third of all work was sold.

Henley Festival

Henley was very successful for the RBA show and we had many visitors, and more work was sold than by any of the other galleries during the show. In the following week another £10,000 worth was sold. It was an excellent week of good publicity and the RBA has been the first to be invited back for next year. Many thanks to Anthony Southwell for all his hard work in arranging this wonderful venue every year.

'The Studios' Ashley Hall showed a selection of work by RBAs from 21st to 29th October 2006. As a new venue it is hoped that we can show there again.

DATES for your DIARY

RBA Exhibition 2007

Paintings by Members to be delivered on Friday 23rd or Saturday 24th March between 10am and 5pm.

RBA Private View will be on Wednesday 16th May and the exhibition will run until Sunday 27th May closing at 1 pm for the **AGM** to which it is hoped that every member who can will come as it's an excellent opportunity to gather together, collect work that may not have sold and vote for those put forward as **Candidates** for election to the Society.

Candlelit Supper will be on the last Saturday of the exhibition, 26th May.

Collection of unsold work if not collected on the Sunday, Thursday 31st May.

Badges

Badges will be found at the entrance to the gallery at the time of our exhibition and it would be much appreciated if members would wear them.

Debate

There will be no debate this year.

Post Cards for sale

Once again we would like to display and sell **POST CARDS** of Members work during our exhibition and would be grateful if you could send 30 (a selection of images) and a list to accompany them to:-

Hon Secretary Judith Gardner:
72 Gladstone Road,
Broadstairs,
Kent, CT10 2JD.

Members Information folders

Members Information folders created a considerable amount of interest amongst visitors when displayed on our stewarding desk during the 2006 exhibition. However, there are still a few gaps. Could those who have yet to provide an A4 sheet with a shortened CV on the left and four illustrations down the right, with if possible the first being a photograph of the artist and the other three of work, please send to the **Hon Secretary, Judith Gardner at the address above**, who will if requested, be able to give an example. It would be wonderful to get the folders up to date before our next exhibition in May.



Many thanks for all the items received for this newsletter. I should be most grateful for any news you may have for the autumn issue which is planned for **September**.
Please note that items should be received before the last day of August 2007.

Please contact me:

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Telephone: 020 8870 9605 Email: barbara.richardson@btconnect.com

