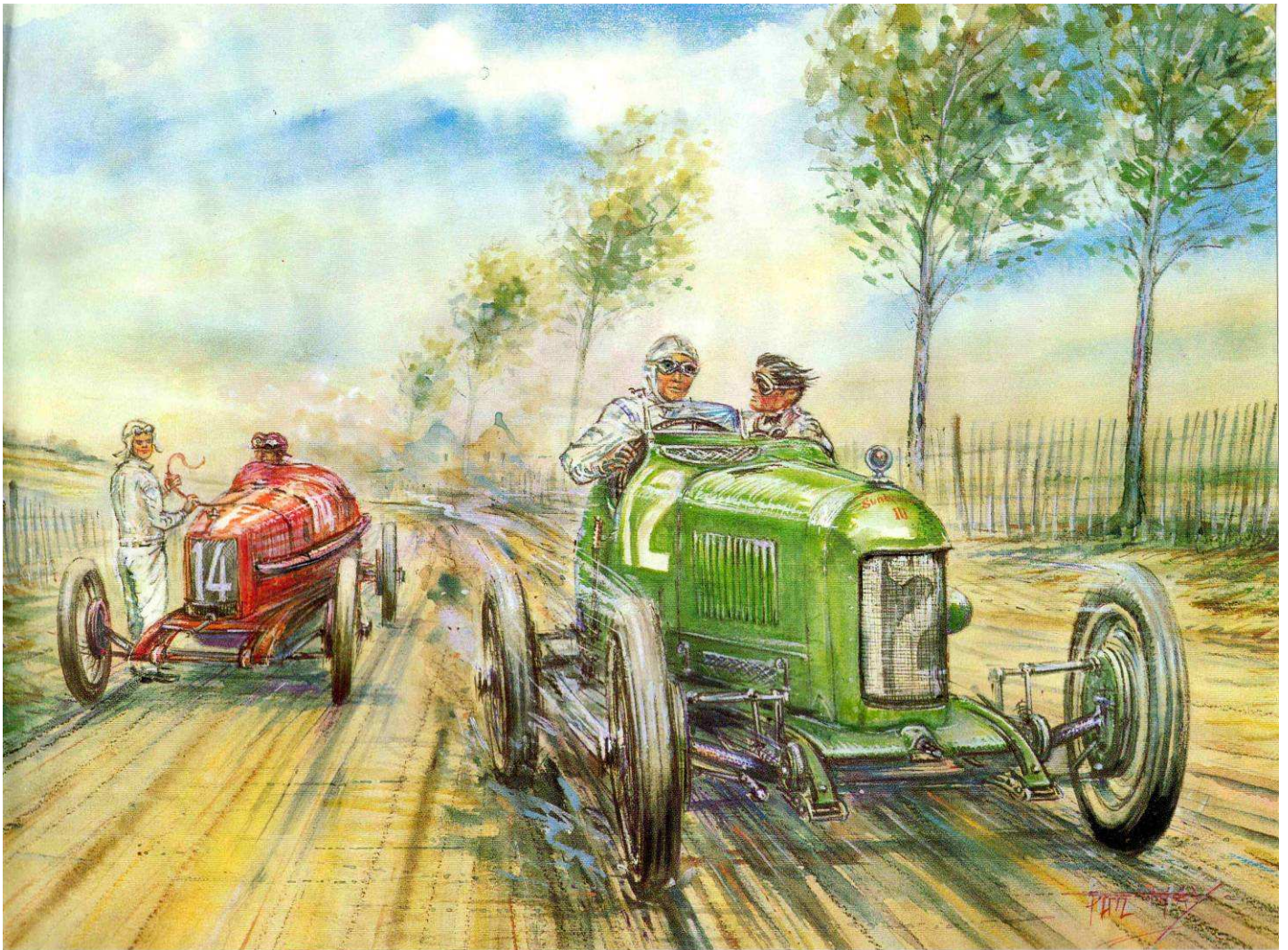


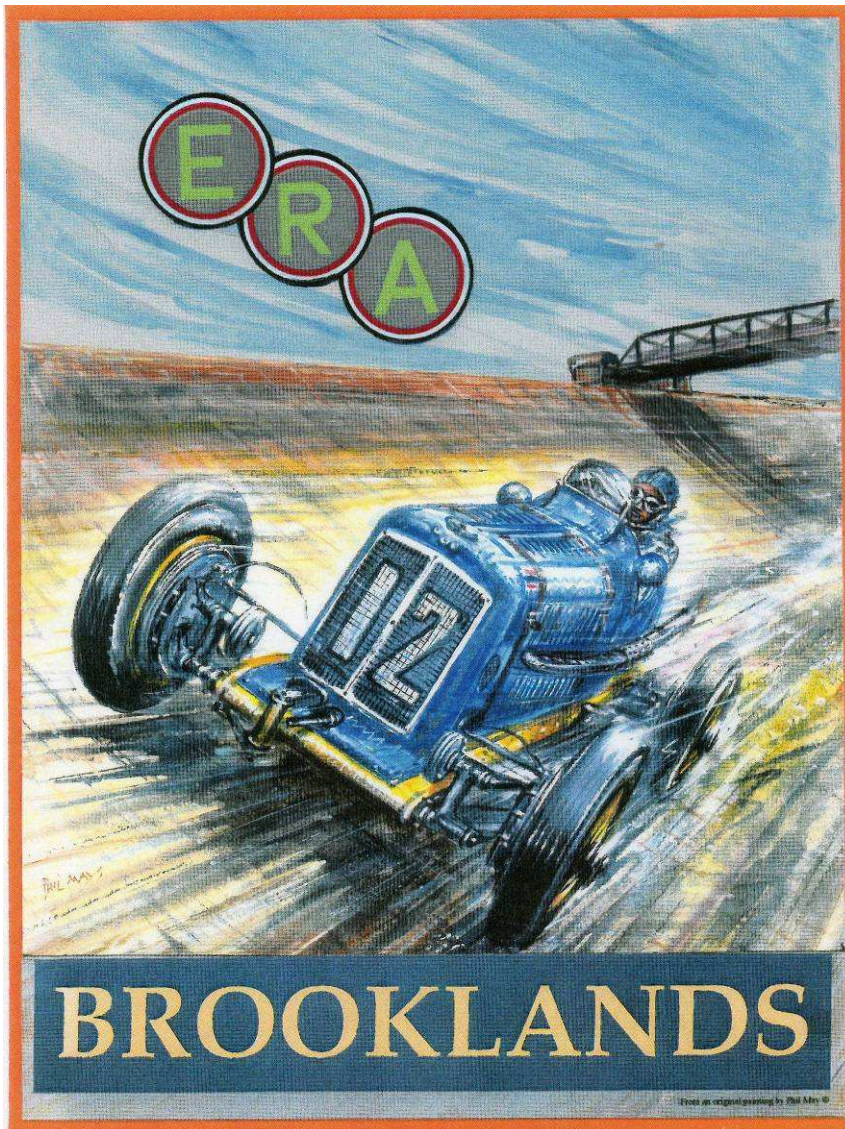
PHIL MAY

1925 -

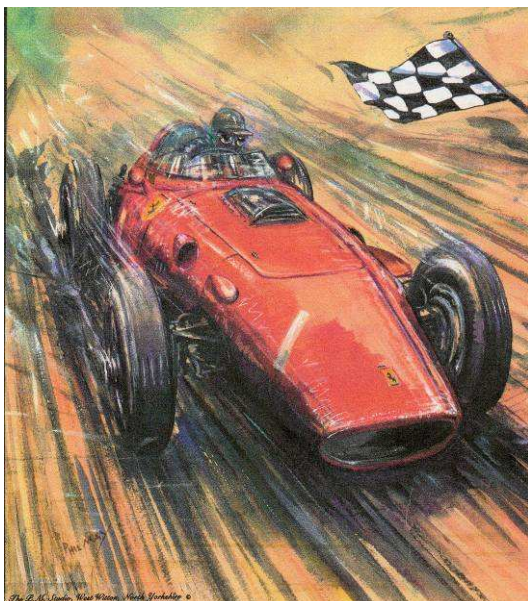


Cover artwork for Anthony Heal's book 'Sunbeam Racing Cars'. Image courtesy of Phil May

Popular artist whose work often appears in auctions both in original and print form in recent years. Phil May is not related to the other earlier Phil May who is recognised particularly for his cartoons and postcard designs. Phil is in fact the son of Fred May, the well known caricature artist who principally made his name with Tatler magazine, (see details of Fred May in the Artists Listing). Phil remembers from his childhood before the War being taken along to Brooklands track by his father. Phil May studied Fine Art at Reading University followed by service in the Army during World War 2 and later in the RAF. He has always worked as a freelance artist having a lifelong interest in motoring and aviation and has concentrated mainly on pre 1960 subjects.



Retrospective poster design – Image courtesy of Phil May

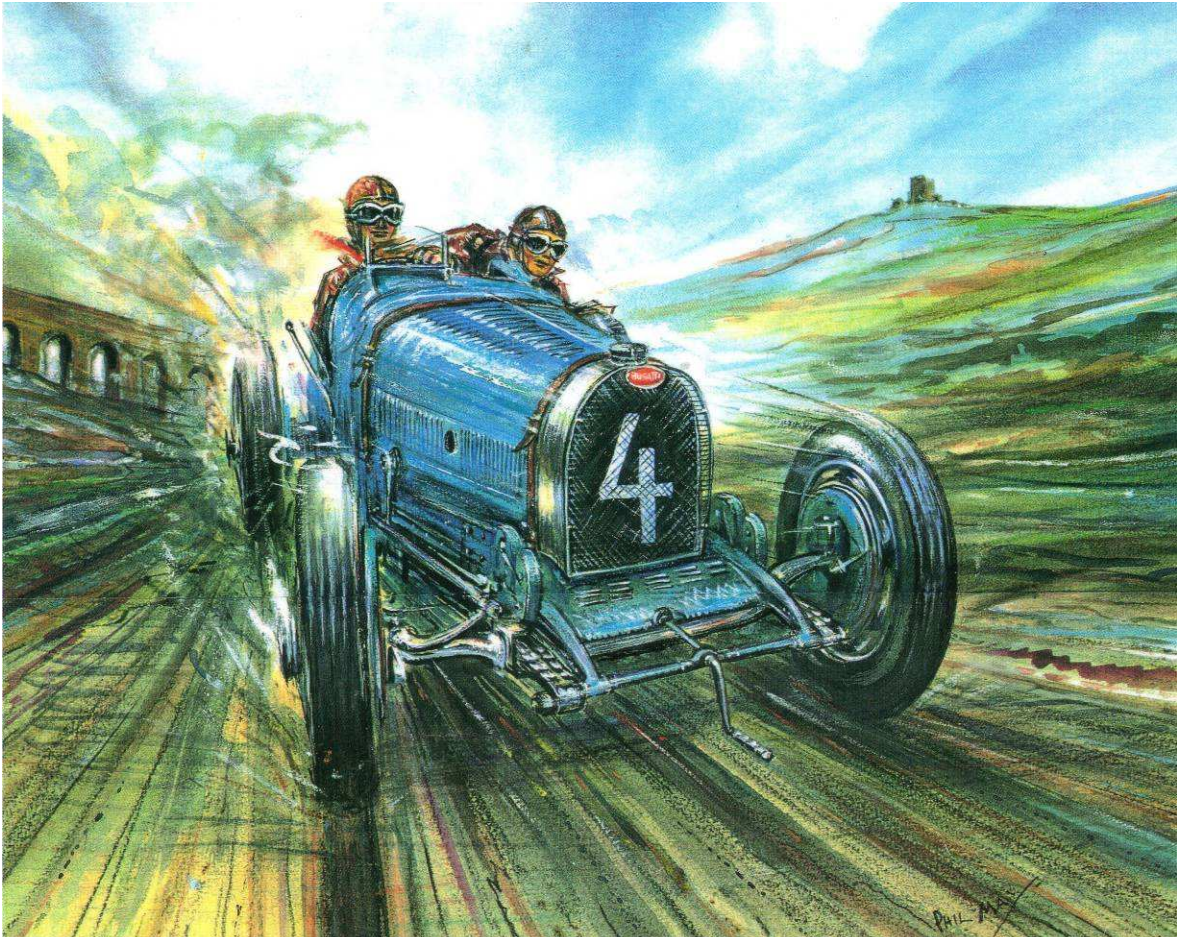


Scarf and Goggles pub sign - Image courtesy of Phil May

The medium of his work is normally watercolour with Chinese white over a pen and ink drawing. Sometimes there is a light pastel overlay. Charcoal sometimes with monotone grey or sepia wash is also used. He has never worked with oils or acrylic paints and most of the work is at a smaller size. The style is a very recognisable 'busy' art with lots of speed lines and blur. Some of his art can look very similar to the work of Gordon Crosby, particularly the monotone wash paintings. (Phil May greatly admires the work of Gordon Crosby and also the other great pre-war artist HJ Moser). However, there should not be any confusion as all Phil May's finished work is signed by the artist.

His art has been used in various publications; some of them are listed below.

Paintings have been commissioned by many private collectors including members of the Vintage Sports Car Club. He has exhibited at the Colonnade Gallery, Bond St and the Royal Exchange Gallery, both in London, plus the Donington Collection. An example of his art can also be seen at Silverstone race track where the Scarf and Goggles pub sign is one of his paintings.



T51 Bugatti at Le Madonie Circuit 1931 – Image courtesy of Phil May

FURTHER REFERENCES

Historic Racing Cars 1923 – 1958 by Phil May privately published by the author 1997 (edition of 175) and small A4 size edition in 2006.

Battle of Britain Fighter Command by Phil May published by the Yorkshire Air Museum

WW1 Fighting Scouts by Phil May published by the Yorkshire Air Museum

Sunbeam Cars 1910 – 1930 by Anthony S Heal published by Haynes 1989

Maserati 3011 The story of a Racing Car by Denis Jenkinson published by Aries 1987

