

## Great British Pals...

What do you get when you put together one of Britain's most influential watercolourists and a British Oscar winning cinematographer? An historically interesting friendship between Sir William Russell Flint, or affectionately known as "Willie", and Jack Cardiff known to his friends as "Jack O'Lantern".



**Left: Sir William Russell Flint and Right: Jack Cardiff**

Cardiff was 35 years junior to Flint, but they shared a common passion and love... Women! This bond kept Flint and Cardiff together for many years. Through these years they met, wrote and indulged each other either in painting and drawings in Flint's case, or through a lens in Cardiff's situation. Coming up at auction in July will be a collection from Jack Cardiff and his family of some very interesting items.

Sir William Russell Flint (1880-1969) was an extremely prolific artist, most famed for his images of Spanish dancers and nude and semi-nude females. His works sell for thousands and are highly sought after.



**Three Studies of Jennifer estimate £3,000 to £4,000**

He apprenticed as a lithograph draughtsman and took classes at the RA in Edinburgh. From 1900–02 he worked as a medical illustrator in London while studying part-time at Heatherley's Art School. This started his career and he produced works for various publication and several books.

Through his career Flint had many accolades and was president of Britain's Royal Society of Painters in Watercolours and was knighted in 1947. Sir William Russell Flint passed away on 30 December 1969 in London and was extremely active until his death.

Jack Cardiff OBE BSC (1914-2009), was an early pioneer in the film industry and started working in the silent movies and revolutionised the colour films we know today. Like Flint he was also extremely prolific with his work behind the camera, and won two Oscars for his achievements in film production.

The man who went by the nickname "Jack O'Lantern" shot films for Alfred Hitchcock and John Huston and was once hailed as "the best in the world" by Marilyn Monroe.

Born to a family of hall entertainers, he began his career as a clapper-boy and production runner in the 1920s, before finding fame as a cinematographer for Michael Powell and Emeric Pressburger. He brought a sensual, otherworldly glow to *A Matter of Life and Death* and *The Red Shoes*, and won an Oscar for his work on *Black Narcissus*. His other films include *The Vikings*, *The Barefoot Contessa* and *The African Queen*.

Cardiff branched into directing in the late 1950s and scored a global hit with his adaptation of *Sons and Lovers*. In 1968 he rustled up a cult, counter-culture road movie with *Girl on a Motorcycle*, featuring Marianne Faithfull.

He continued to work until well into his 80s and 90s, with his last credit as a cinematographer coming on the 2007 miniseries *The Other Side of the Street*. He was awarded an honorary Oscar for his services to film in 2001. "Simplicity," he once reflected, "that's the secret of good lighting and good cinematography. Always keep it simple."



**Left: Ballerina estimated £600-£800 and Right: Spanish Dancer estimated £600-£800**

At Special Auction Services on Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> July 2012, a unique collection of items acquired by Jack Cardiff and his family will be going under the hammer. This testimonial will be a celebration of their friendship and a snippet of their interesting lives and love of women.

The collection contains an array of original vintage photographs taken by Cardiff including Audrey Hepburn, Marilyn Monroe, Janet Lee, Sophia Loren, which will also be reproduced and display

around the world, together with three original drawings by Sir William Russell Flint and a collection of letters between the two of them, signed books and other memorabilia. Also as part of the collection SAS will be selling a 16mm cine camera used by Cardiff, signed 78 records by Frank Sinatra and Marlene Dietrich, a portable gramophone, and other fascinating paintings, pictures, works of art and memorabilia.

Written by Neil Shuttleworth – Special Auction Services

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