

# The book *Old Motor Cars* by André Loubser

In last month's Letters to the Editor, I mentioned how thrilled I was to have discovered the book *Old Motor Cars*, for which I've been searching for years, at the annual book sale.

To briefly recap, the book was published by John Roberts, owner of Ariel Press in St Martin's Lane, London. He commissioned well-known German artist and motorcycle designer (BMW and Suzuki Katana) to produce paintings of 24 veteran and vintage cars. In addition to being in book format the prints were sold loose.

I met John in 1964 and we became good friends. At the time Ariel Press was the largest print distributor in the UK and was a veritable treasure trove with a wide range of subjects, eg historic buildings, animals, horses, stage coaches, Redouté roses, cartoon golf prints, and so much more.

One day, after the book had gone to print, John asked me what he should do with the 24 original paintings. I said I could try selling them for him. The originals were about 1 000mm wide, which provided Hans Muth the opportunity for fine detail. Please have a close look at the detail in the paintings, the spokes, louvres, rivets, soft tops, brass, tyre patterns, etc. Exquisite!

My first call was on Whitney Straight, whom I knew, winner of the 1934 SA Grand Prix in a Maserati and chairman of Rolls Royce Motors. I called at 15 Conduit Street and suggested the paintings of the Rolls Royce Silver Ghost and the Cricklewood Bentley would look great on the walls of his boardroom. Lovely paintings, old boy, but no thanks. Pity! Cheeky sod I was but can't win 'em all!

If anyone would like framed prints or cotton canvas prints I would be happy to oblige through my framing business, art@tokai.

*Pictured (right) is a selection of prints depicting historic London buildings from the Ariel Press collection, framed in our dining room in Tokai!*



This is a random selection of 00 of the 24 prints in the book. These photos have been cropped to fit the page, but the prints themselves measure 300 x 400mm and include a good surround for framing purposes.

